

Katie Subra

I agree with MPCA about the vital importance of reducing runoff and mitigating the impact of nitrates in the soil. However, I do not feel that the national (NPDES) and state (SDS) permit standards are rigorous enough. We have limited opportunities to ensure the future of our safe waters in Minnesota and without stricter regulations for spreading solid manure, we are missing our chance to ensure the health and safety of our waters for future generations. Other states have full bans on manure application during the months of December-March, which would be wise to adopt with the extensive karst regions and interconnected waterways in Minnesota. There should not be variance opportunities to bypass these regulations and storage regulations should be better monitored and tested to ensure that no farm is able to skirt the responsibility of keeping our waters safe. Not only should we be discussing stricter limits on manure application, we should be focusing our attention on limiting the size of CAFOs in general, as their operations do not benefit but a small number of farmers.