Jill Crafton

Thank you for expanding the visual inspections for down gradient field edges, tile intakes, water features, and any other potential point of discharge from the fields. I hope you will compile and use this information for effective decision-making. The State of Minnesota has done an inadequate job of factoring in geology, land use practices and hydrology to identify vulnerable areas of the state where water quality is at risk. The state needs to use an ecological lens through which to reassess impacts for the drinking water of future generations and the diverse wildlife of the state. Additionally, there needs to be a deeper understanding of the water cycle at the micro level as one of the environmental functions of soil health principles and ecosystems. It provides a needed context to assess the effectiveness of best management practices if there is any hope of reversing Minnesota's contributions to the deadzone in the Gulf and restoring healthy river systems.