

Paul Burck

I am interested in the Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategies draft report.

I encourage MPCA to:

- o Strengthen data collection and reporting requirements for fertilizer retailers by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and documentation of nitrogen fertilizer application rates by responsible parties (e.g. crop retailers).

- o Build a Small Grain Initiative and a safety net for farmers who want to reduce their nitrogen fertilizer applications by transitioning into more diverse cropping systems.

- o Grow farmer power, farmer networks, and locally led, flexible and outcome-based approaches like the Olmsted County Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Program.

Minnesota needs family farmers who will use regenerative agriculture practices and we need to stop so heavily subsidizing corporate farm corporations who are not supporting agricultural communities so that our small towns are dying and families are being forced off the farm.