



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
210 Walnut Street, Room 693  
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

February 11, 2013

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA-210-13-1

SUBJECT: ENG – DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT (DWM) AWARENESS TRAINING

**ACTION REQUIRED BY AUGUST 30, 2013**

PURPOSE. To provide background information on required AgLearn DWM Training.

EXPIRATION DATE. September 30, 2014

Unrestricted agricultural drainage systems contribute to increased loss of nitrates and other soluble constituents that end up in nearby water bodies. This creates economic, environmental, and human health concerns downstream. A prime example is evident in the Mississippi River Basin, within which the nitrate carried in drainage water is contributing to hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

Drainage water management (DWM) or controlled drainage is an effective practice for reducing nitrate losses from subsurface drainage systems, yet its adoption has not been widespread. This AgLearn training presentation explores the importance of DWM via water control structures and its impact on drainage water quantity and quality. Basic DWM planning and implementation information is presented so NRCS conservation planners can begin to add DWM to their toolbox of practices for water quality improvement.

Iowa NRCS Leadership has determined that employees in the Job Series 401, 457, 458, 470, 471, 802, 810, 819, and 890 shall complete the AgLearn training course, Drainage Water Management Awareness – Basic Principles and Practices, NRCS-NEDC-000289, by August 30, 2013. This course has been added to the AgLearn “to-do list” for above-listed job series employees.

This course is a recording of a webinar conducted on August 18, 2011, and is approximately 1.5 hours long. Although you can pause the recording for breaks, it appears you cannot exit the recording and restart it from where you left off, so allow enough time to finish the recording. A short exam must be completed following the viewing of the course in order to receive credit.

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Tom Christensen, Regional Conservationist - Midwest  
Paul Sweeney, Senior Project Coordinator, Regional Conservationist Staff  
Jim Gillespie, Division Director, IDALS – DSC, Des Moines, IA  
Vince Sitzmann, Field Services Bureau Chief, IDALS – DSC, Des Moines, IA  
Chuck Gipp, Director, DNR, Des Moines, IA

Early in the webinar, a presenter states that DWM is required, if feasible, for anyone implementing Nutrient Management, code 590. This is no longer true. The DWM practice was de-linked from Nutrient Management in FY2012.

If you have any questions, please contact your area resource conservationist, or Bruce Atherton, Agricultural Engineer, at (515) 964-1883 or (515) 577-0598.



Jay T. Mar  
State Conservationist