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# ADMC NEWSLETTER

Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition

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ADMC has a new address--  
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ADMC Members and Friends---

A wet spring across much of the Midwest has further enhanced interest in drainage, and drainage water management (DWM). In fact DWM continues to be a "front page story" in a lot of meetings and discussions. It is a high priority for USDA-NRCS programs for the near future, and ADMC is in a lead position to help implement DWM systems.

ADMC has been approved by USDA-NRCS to provide training and certification to Technical Service Providers (TSPs) for the design and implementation of drainage water management systems. We plan to have final training materials and certification procedures in place for the summer training program at Rochester, Minnesota, on July 14. This will be in

conjunction with the National LICA Summer Meeting. Contractors who are ADMC members can get a reduced registration rate for their employees who register for this training. Participants who complete the training will be certified to begin working with customers to design DWM plans. In Illinois, farmers can get cost sharing up to \$1400 for preparing a DWM plan, plus other cost sharing is available for installation and management to the producer. Rates in other states are being determined, so check with your local NRCS office for the rates in your area, but this is a significant income opportunity for those who become certified.

If you have not renewed your ADMC membership for 2011, please do so now so you can take advantage of the cost savings on training. Also, if you know of others who should join, please en-

# Technical Service Provider (TSP)

## What is it and why is it important.

*continued from page 1*

courage them to do so. The training opportunities this year will be limited, so don't miss out. Remember, a *contractor who is a State LICA member can join ADMC for half price, if his State LICA is an ADMC member.*

ADMC has also completed an on-line training module for Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs) to learn more about DWM. We hope that getting more people who advise farmers trained in the basics of DWM, they will be more likely to promote it among their clients. For \$25, a CCA can get an hour of Soil & Water Management continuing education credit and learn the basics of DWM. By encouraging local CCAs to take this class, you can help increase awareness of DWM and build business opportunities to implement these systems. The course is on-line at [www.AgronomyU.com](http://www.AgronomyU.com). Click on the Soil & Water Management icon to get to the course.

ADMC continues to look for ways to demonstrate the value of DWM in water management and in helping improve drainage water quality. We are seeking funding to support demonstration and education practices that improve water quality. Let me know if you see an opportunity to present the DWM story at meetings or field days. Don't hesitate to call me at 217-762-2074 if I can assist you in promoting use of DWM in your area.

The 2002 Farm Bill expanded the capacity of USDA conservation programs to protect the nation's natural resources on private and tribal lands. In order to better serve agricultural producers, the 2002 Farm Bill also encouraged USDA to use technical service providers to increase the technical assistance available to help landowners meet their conservation goals.

Technical service providers can be individuals, private businesses, non profit organization and public agencies who can become a part of a group of certified professions to help meet the technical assistance needs of America's farmers and ranchers.

Because of cuts to USDA budgets, many local NRCS offices that offer technical assistance are understaffed and unable to provide assistance to landowners on a timely basis or do not have the technical training to provide the services. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, provisions were implemented to compensate TSP's providing technical assistance to landowners. Compensation is only paid for technical assistance that involves a landowners request for assistance on a conservation cost-share practice.

So, what does this mean to ADMC and its members? ADMC is signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NRCS to train and certify individuals to be competent to provide technical services to

landowners. ADMC will be holding training classes and assisting individuals in becoming certified TSP's. A class will be held in Rochester, MN on July 14<sup>th</sup>, contact Jeanne at 507-451-0073 for more information on registration,

The first training session will involve training on planning and designing a drainage water management system, (NRCS practice standard 554) As more and more landowners and producers look to improve water quality, conserve valuable in-season water reserves, and increase yields, trained and certified people will be needed to fill that need.

Currently under EQIP state program funding, compensation is available by unit to landowners for planning & design (\$1597 in Indiana down to \$860 in Iowa & MN), cost-share funding on control structures and installation, and once the systems are in and managed, producers are eligible for a per acre management fee.

Contractors, designers and planners that are trained to provide the technical assistance will be able to increase their business and provide an additional services to existing clients. Just remember, if you are not willing to serve your business clients on a professional and timely basis, your competition will.

Respectfully,  
Leonard Binstock

## *~Latest News*

ADMC has recently signed an MOU with NRCS. Look for a copy of the official press release in our next newsletter.

***Register now***

for the

**DWM Training  
and  
NRCS/TSP Certification**

*Space is limited and the course is filling up quickly.*

# ADMC

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Coalition

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***A Public / Private Partnership  
Improving America's Water  
Quality, Wildlife Habitat and  
Agronomics Through Drainage  
Water Management***

July 13-16th, 2011

**National LICA Summer Meeting**

Kahler Grand- Rochester, MN

*ADMC to host*

July 14th, 2011

**Drainage Water Management  
(DWM) Training Workshop**

Kahler Grand- Rochester, MN

July 15th, 2011

**TSP Certification**

Kahler Grand- Rochester, MN