Community Education

MINNESOTA AGRIPOWER PROJECT
TASK V RESEARCH REPORT

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The objectives of the community education task were to:

- Inform the community about Minnesota Agri-Power Project and Minnesota Valley Alfalfa Producers Respond to community questions and concerns
- Disseminate alfalfa management information to growers and potential growers
- Make research results available to the growers

A number of approaches were used to reach a wide audience. These included:

- University of MN regents, legislators, and other policy makers:
- Environmental groups
- Community groups and leaders
- Educators
- Ag professionals
- Research Scientists
- MnVAP producers
- Other farmers and alfalfa producers
- Urban groups
- Farm Organizations

**Workshops for Producers**

Minnesota Forage and Grassland Conference on Biomass Energy Production - Three conference day with two days for Ag professionals and the third day for producers
Getting Started with Alfalfa Workshops at two locations - Designed for new producers

**Professional Conferences**

27th National Alfalfa Symposium - "Generating Electricity from Alfalfa Biomass" Neal P. Martin and Ervin A. Oelke
American Dairy science Association Meetings - Presentation on Feeding Trials by Jean-Marie V Akayezu

**Field Days and Informational Meetings for Producers, Educators, and Ag Professionals**

MAP & MnVAP Research Update at West Central Experiment Station in Morris, MN
Industry & Extension Field Day - Winter Injury, Biomass Varieties, & MnVAP Update
Minnesota Valley Alfalfa Producers Research Field Day at West Central Experiment Station in Morris, MN - Emphasis on field research, special harvesting demos
Morris Ag Professional Day (July 9) - Alfalfa Water Quality studies
Morris Field Crop Day (July 10) - Alfalfa Water Quality studies
Alfalfa and Forage Expo (August 12 & 13 at Little Falls) - Two days of forage information, demonstrations, exhibits, and research updates
Lamberton Field Day - Biomass Varieties and Alfalfa Management
Lamberton Field Day (September 10) - Rain fall simulation

**Demonstrations**
Special harvest equipment demonstration at Morris
  Several Types of Equipment were represented and participants could also see
  harvest loss measurements
Demonstration at Scanlon Farm
  Agronomic - Research and varieties
  Economic - Comparison of cropping systems
  Environmental - Water quality demonstration
Demonstration of quality testing equipment and a chance for forage samples to be tested
  Scheduled for Fall '97
Demonstrations at field days and Forage Expo - equipment and forage management
Demonstrations at Farm Fest of water quality research

**Community Meetings and Information Dissemination**
Meeting with Community Leaders
Meeting with local organization
Article for MnVAP newsletter
Brochure on MAP - Draft stage
MAP information sheets - Three now available
State Fair Booth (August 21)
MFGC Clippings devoted to MAP - Planned for fall 1997
Minnesota River Basin Conference (July 30 and August 1) - Emphasis on environmental
  projects related to water quality
Presentation on MAP at MnVAP annual meeting

**Fact Sheets and Management Guide**
Six to eight alfalfa production fact sheets - available on Internet
  - Winter Survival
  - Establishment
  - Fall cutting
  - Storage
  - Production (2 fact sheets)
  - Economics
Alfalfa Management Guide - Planned for completion in February 1998

**Internet Information**
Fact sheets on the Agronomy Home Page
MnVAP and MAP on MFGC Home Page - planned
Separate Home Page for MnVAP is being developed

**Press Release, Publications, and Publicity**
Press release on water quality research
Articles in local papers
Radio interview - distributed nationally on USDA network
Press release on Morris Field Day
Radio interviews at Farm Fest and Forage Expo - Several radio stations
Radio interview with KFAI on biomass project (July 7) - distributed to Great Lakes
Radio Consortium
Radio interview on WNTM in Mobile, AL on biomass project (July 10)