

WSF 2023 Status Report #5322

Project: UBBNRD – Vadose Zone Nitrate Accumulation

Date: March 28, 2024

WSF Application # 5322

Project Progress up to April 2024

In the fall of 2023, the Upper Big Blue NRD worked with the University of Nebraska to take soil samples. We took a total of 10 deep samples which could go anywhere from 60 feet to 100 feet just depending on where the water table was at. We also took four shallow samples around each deep sample location to get a better understanding of what is going on in the first 15 feet of that field. That fall we also took one shallow sample of the 35 that we needed before the weather turned on us. We then went out in late winter early spring and got the rest of the shallow samples of 15 feet in 35 different locations, we still had 3 more deep samples to grab so we grabbed them of 90 feet. Then the university takes the samples cores back and tests it for Nitrates throughout the samples. One of the tests that they do at the lab takes anywhere from 4 to 6 months to get information back on.

Anticipated Activities for The Following Year.

We plan on coring in Polk, Hamilton, Clay and Adams County within the UBBNRD District this year. We have a total of 36 shallow samples and 9 deep samples that will be collected in different fields. We will also be taking four shallow samples around the deep cores. We plan to take those samples in the fall after the farmer has harvested his/her crops for the year. The university will still be taking them back to their lab and running the cores that we pull.

Delays or Push Back

Our Project has had some setbacks since we started it. Back when we first got going with the project the University had to stop sending the drillers out because of the covid outbreak. So that pushed our project back a little bit. Right now, we are still a year behind in the project. We are trying our hardest to get back on track with the original project, but it is getting harder to achieve that goal. Besides the covid outbreak there have just been your normal setbacks to a project like this one with weather being a big factor or the rigs that we use break down and need fixed some times that can take a week or more to get parts to fix them.