



News release

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AG RETAILERS REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Ankeny, Iowa — With more than a decade focused on reduced nutrient loss and proper nutrient applications, Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance's (ACWA) 12 agriculture retailer members have reaffirmed their agreement to the Environmental Code of Practice for 2017.

"The code was one of the very first things adopted by this group when it was formed in 1999 and it's the first thing we do at the annual meeting," said Harry Ahrenholtz, ACWA chairman. "ACWA is self-governing and every member is a peer to others. We pledge as individual entities to uphold it and it's been very effective."

Part of the code includes staying in line with the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, ACWA members agree to delay fall anhydrous applications without a nitrification inhibitor until soil temperatures are 50 degrees Fahrenheit and trending lower. Members use the county soil temperature and forecast maps compiled by Iowa State University as a decision-tool for beginning fall fertilizer applications.

In addition to the upcoming fall applications, ACWA supports year-round nutrient stewardship including the adoption of nutrient management technologies to maximize nutrient use efficiency and help protect water quality. These technologies include nitrogen stabilizers, slow release fertilizers, incorporation or injection, soil nitrate testing and other tools that minimize loss of nitrogen to water sources.

"We know that farmers rely on their certified crop advisors and ag retailers for products and services," said Roger Wolf, ACWA executive director. "These retailers are using the best tools and science to help farmers make decisions. It is fundamental that all acres need good nutrient management and soil stewardship either with the latest technology and also at the edge of the field."

ACWA also encourages farmers to implement additional conservation and edge-of field practices to reduce nitrate flow from tile systems including bioreactors, constructed wetlands, conservation stream buffers and fall cover crops.

"We continue to believe that going toward the same goal we can accomplish more as a group than individually," said Dan Dix, ACWA president and NEW Cooperative CEO. "As an industry, doing the right thing for the environment and our customers will bring long-term benefits to all the stakeholders involved."

For more information about the ACWA, visit www.acwa-rrws.org/.

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The ACWA is an association consisting of 12 ag retailers and three associate members operating in the Des Moines and Raccoon River basins. ACWA focuses on creating a better understanding how water, weather, landscape and farm management interrelate. Their work on direct, targeted watershed projects create a baseline for current conditions and enable measured evaluation of new or change practice implementation. Since 1999, ACWA members have invested more than \$1.5 million in funding for water quality monitoring in the Raccoon River and, since 2008, in the Des Moines River and their largest tributaries.