**ATTACHMENT A – AGRONOMY OUTREACH SPECIALIST DETAILS & MILESTONES**

Activity 5: Agronomy Outreach Specialist

**eLINK Activity Category:** Project Development

**Match Source(s):** N/A

**Lead Agency(ies):** Washington Conservation District (partnership with UMN Extension)

**Staff qualifications:** Jennifer Hahn (see staff qualifications section of WBIF work plan)

**Priority areas:** Agronomy outreach specialist will focus on priority areas described in Structural Ag BMP Implementation and Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation

**CWMP Reference:** Page 61

**Activity Description:** Facilitate a shared agronomy outreach program across the basin to provide education and technical assistance to agricultural producers; and support implementation of economical farming practices that have water quality and soil health benefits.

WBIF funded education and outreach will include:

* 80% = working directly with agricultural producers in the LSC Watershed to identify economical farming practices with water quality benefits to make them a routine part of farm operations.
* 20% = supporting implementation of BMPs led by others.

High priority and secondary priority actions that will be accomplished include (pg. 40 of CWMP):

* Provide agronomy, outreach, and technical assistance to agricultural producers including conservation planning and support to develop nutrient management plans.

**AGRONOMY OUTREACH**

**Audience:** Agricultural producers and land owners

**Activity description:** Provide education and technical assistance to agricultural producers and landowners to support implementation of economical farming practices that have water quality and soil health benefits. This may include:

* Conducting site visits and assessing crop production on farms;
* Helping farmers to set up test-plots; develop conservation plans and nutrient management plans; evaluate and improve seed quality;
* Planning field days and creating farmer-led councils or similar learning networks;
* Promoting implementation of cover crops and alternative crops;
* Providing outreach support for implementation of structural and non-structural BMPs;
* Working in partnership with Discovery Farms and performing agronomy research including: laboratory tests of soil, seed, and crop samples; quality control for seed caliber and soil standards; keeping records of research, testing, and results; presenting results of data and analysis.

**2-year program goals** (Table 5-1, Part A)

1. Conduct outreach to 200 operators of large and small farms, with a cumulative total of at least 3000 acres.
2. Provide technical support to help 20 farmers set up test plots on their land in order to evaluate the performance of practices such as cover crops, reduced tillage, and nutrient management.
3. Host six fields days.
4. Provide outreach support for installation or implementation of structural and nonstructural BMPs:
	* 2,000 acres of non-structural best management practices, or enough to achieve a 400 lb/yr phosphorus reduction to target water bodies
	* 300 acres of structural or non-structural BMPs that improve soil health and/or reduce nitrogen and pesticide pollution to groundwater in locations where 1) DWSMA vulnerability is moderate, high, or very high; 2) Pollution sensitivity to wells is high or very high; 3) Pollution sensitivity to near surface materials is karst or high; or 4) Well testing show ≥ 5 mg/L nitrate
	* 300 acres of structural or non-structural BMPs near sensitive lakes or in direct lake catchments for significant lakes to reduce TP by 150 lbs
	* Structural or non-structural BMPs that reduce total phosphorus by 450 lbs/year to regionally significant rivers and streams
5. Create at least one farmer-led council or similar learning network