



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Jim VandenBrook
608-438-3502
Jimmyvb52@gmail.com

Wisconsin's Green Fire Releases Report on Nitrates in Wisconsin Waters Rhineland, WI –

Wisconsin's Green Fire (WGF) announces the release of a new Policy Analysis - Nitrates in Wisconsin Waters, which lays out comprehensive recommendations for addressing the growing crisis resulting from drinking water contaminated by nitrates. The primary source of nitrate contamination is from nitrogen fertilizer and field applied manure which can leach into groundwater and contaminate water supplies. Key conclusions of the report include:

“End-of-pipe” water supply treatment and well replacement are expensive short-term fixes for households and communities with nitrate contaminated water, but they do nothing to address the source of the nitrate problem. **We need to tackle nitrates at the source.**

Farmers who are committed to protecting soil and water by adopting better practices incur costs and risks that their competitors do not. **Farmers should not be alone in carrying the costs of protecting the water we all rely on.**

Wisconsin farm producers, conservationists, and community leaders have the skills and willingness to help solve one of our most challenging environmental problems. **Stakeholders throughout our agricultural value chain need to be invested in solutions that share responsibility for protecting clean water while helping improve farm profitability.**

According to Paul La Liberte, Chair of Wisconsin's Green Fire Crop Management and Water Quality Team, *“We have the tools and knowledge to solve the current nitrate crisis, but farmers cannot do all this alone. We need to bring other stakeholders to the table to share the effort needed to reduce water contamination in farm country.”*

Wisconsin's Green Fire is a statewide membership organization dedicated to science-based management of natural resources. WGF Crop Management and Water Quality work group members include career natural resource professionals with expertise in water quality and agriculture.

The report and videos are available on our web site: <https://wigreenfire.org>

The full document can be downloaded at: <https://wigreenfire.org/2019/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/WGF-Nitrates-in-Wisconsin-Waters-Final-07-16-2019-.pdf>

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PO Box 1206, Rhineland, Wisconsin 54501 | Info@wigreenfire.org | 715.203.0384