

Iowa to Mississippi

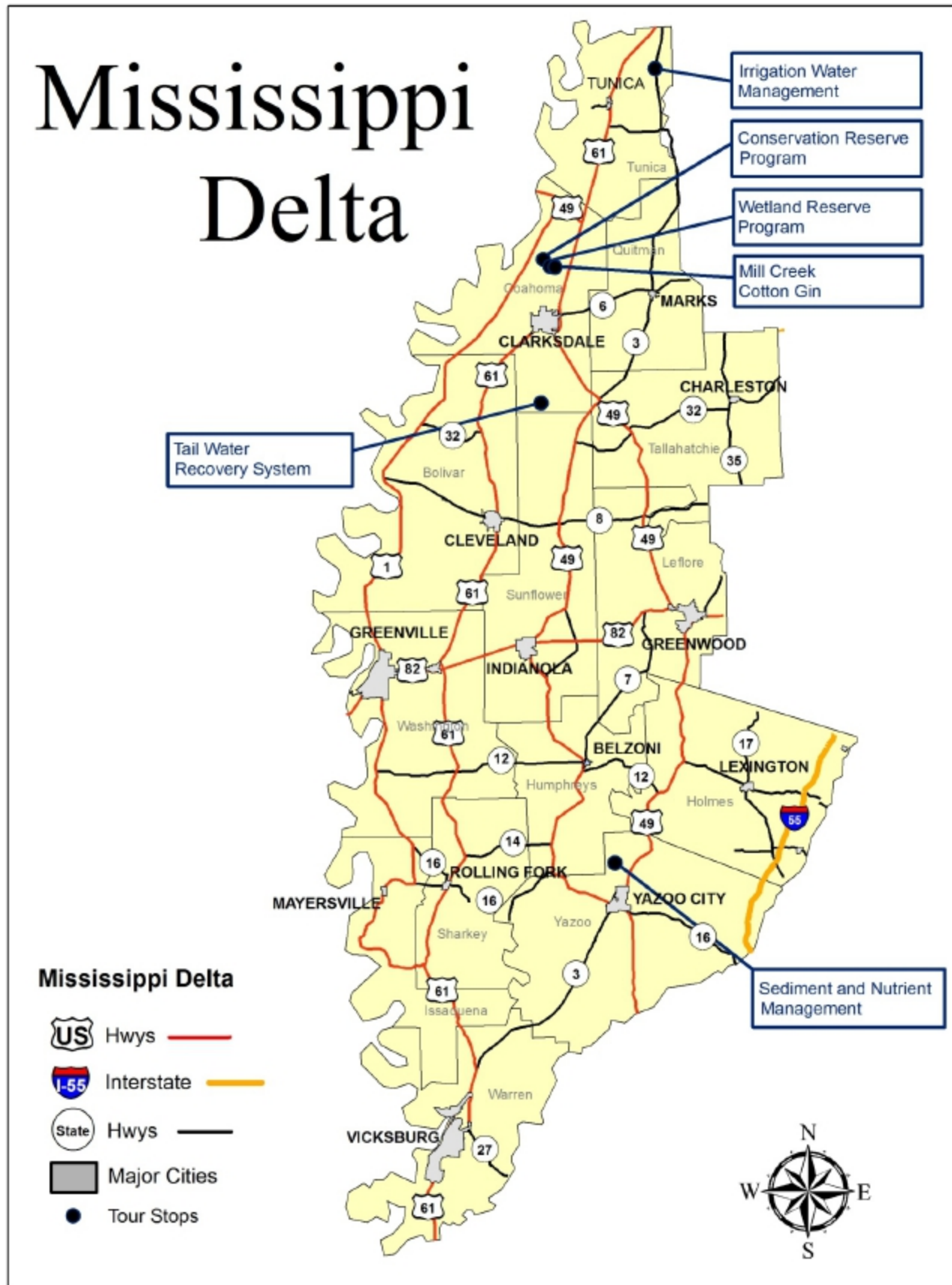
Farmer to Farmer Exchange



27 – 30 May 2010

TOUR STOPS

Mississippi Delta



PARTICIPANTS

(See Biographical Sketches at the end)

Iowa:

1. Bill Northey
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
2. Bill Tentinger
Producer
3. Dean Lemke
IA Water Resources Bureau
4. Don Elsbernd
Producer
5. Doug Gronau
Producer
6. Gene Lucht
IA Farmer for Today
7. Harlan Hansen
Producer
8. Joe Murphy
IA Farm Bureau Federation
9. Matt Helmers
Iowa State University
10. Steve Henry
Producer
11. Tracy Blackmer
On-Farm Network

Mississippi:

1. Bill Walker
MS Department of Marine Resources
2. Bowen Flowers
Producer
3. Bryon Griffith
Gulf of Mexico Program
4. Buddy Allen
Producer
5. Chat Phillips
Producer
6. Dan Prevost
Delta F.A.R.M.
7. Jerry Cain
Department of Environmental Quality
8. Jim Lipe
Department of Agriculture
9. Lester Spell
Department of Agriculture
10. Mattson Flowers
Producer
11. Paul Dees
Producer
12. Phil Bass
Gulf of Mexico Program
13. Richard Ingram
Department of Environmental Quality
14. Rob Coker
Producer
15. Trey Cooke
Delta F.A.R.M.

Follow-up with:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Hosts

Delta F.A.R.M.
EPA Gulf of Mexico Program
MS Department of Environmental Quality
MS Department of Marine Resources



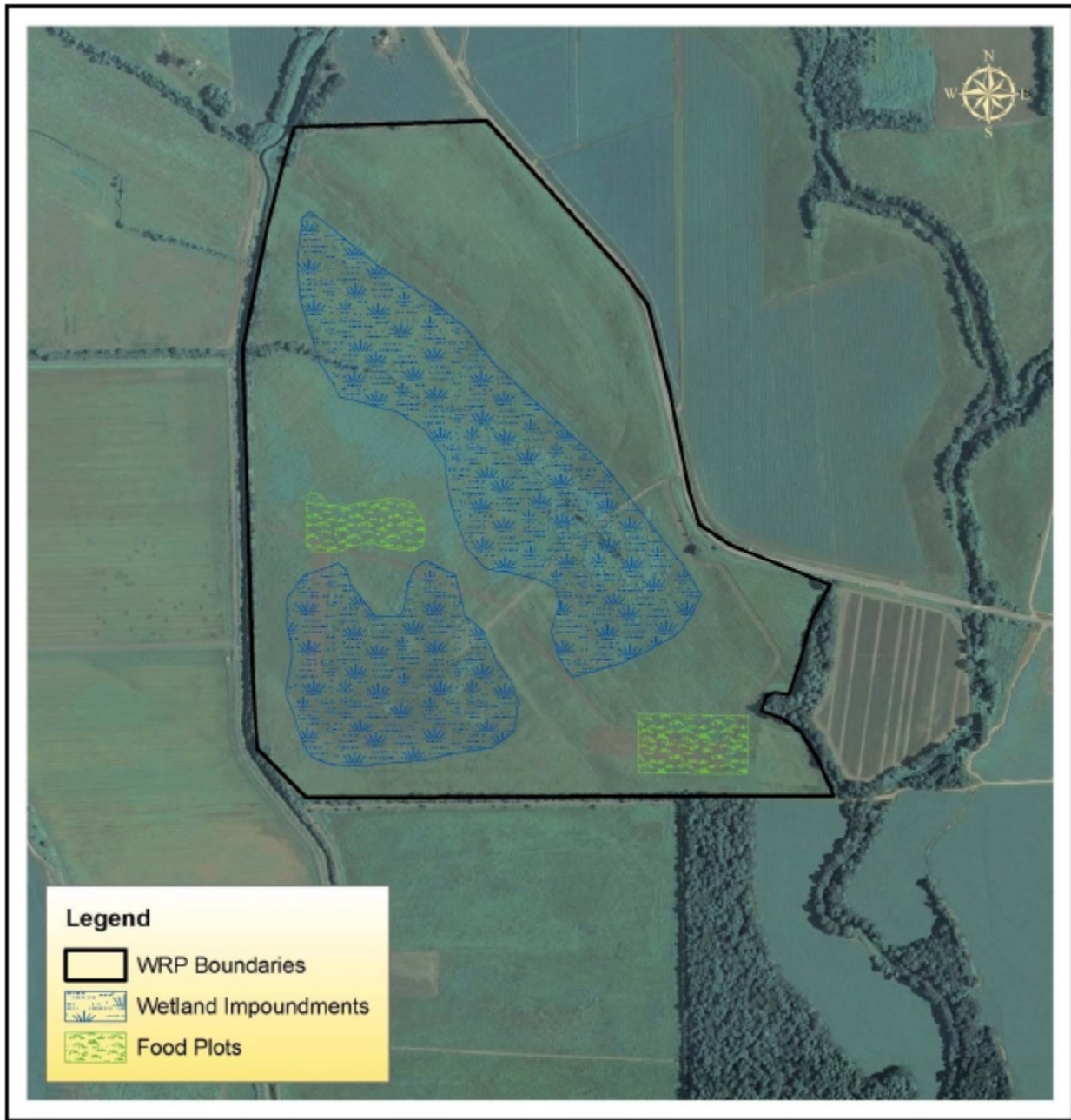
CONSERVATION STOP 1



Irrigation Water Management

- The increasing demand for irrigation water has placed a strain on the shallow alluvial aquifer. Portions of the Delta will begin to run out of water in 10-20 years at current use rates.
- Well timers, flow meters, and real time monitoring are all part of an efficient water use strategy, and provide financial savings to the producer.
- Zero grade rice production also uses approximately 50% less water than straight levee or contour levee rice production.

CONSERVATION STOP 2



Wetland Reserve Program

- The Wetland Reserve Program was developed to provide an opportunity for landowners to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.
- The program has been highly successful in Mississippi with over 150,000 acres enrolled.
- Planting of bottomland hardwood trees and wetland development are two key components of WRP in Mississippi.

CONSERVATION STOP 3



Conservation Reserve Program

- The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was established to provide incentives for landowners to take marginal agricultural lands out of production to benefit natural resource concerns and wildlife habitat.
- Native warm season grasses such as Indian grass, partridge pea, switchgrass, big bluestem and little bluestem were planted on this site to control soil erosion and provide habitat for upland birds, particularly bobwhite quail.
- CRP is often flexible enough to allow for an array of conservation practices to be implemented. Grassland, trees, and wetlands were all incorporated on this property.

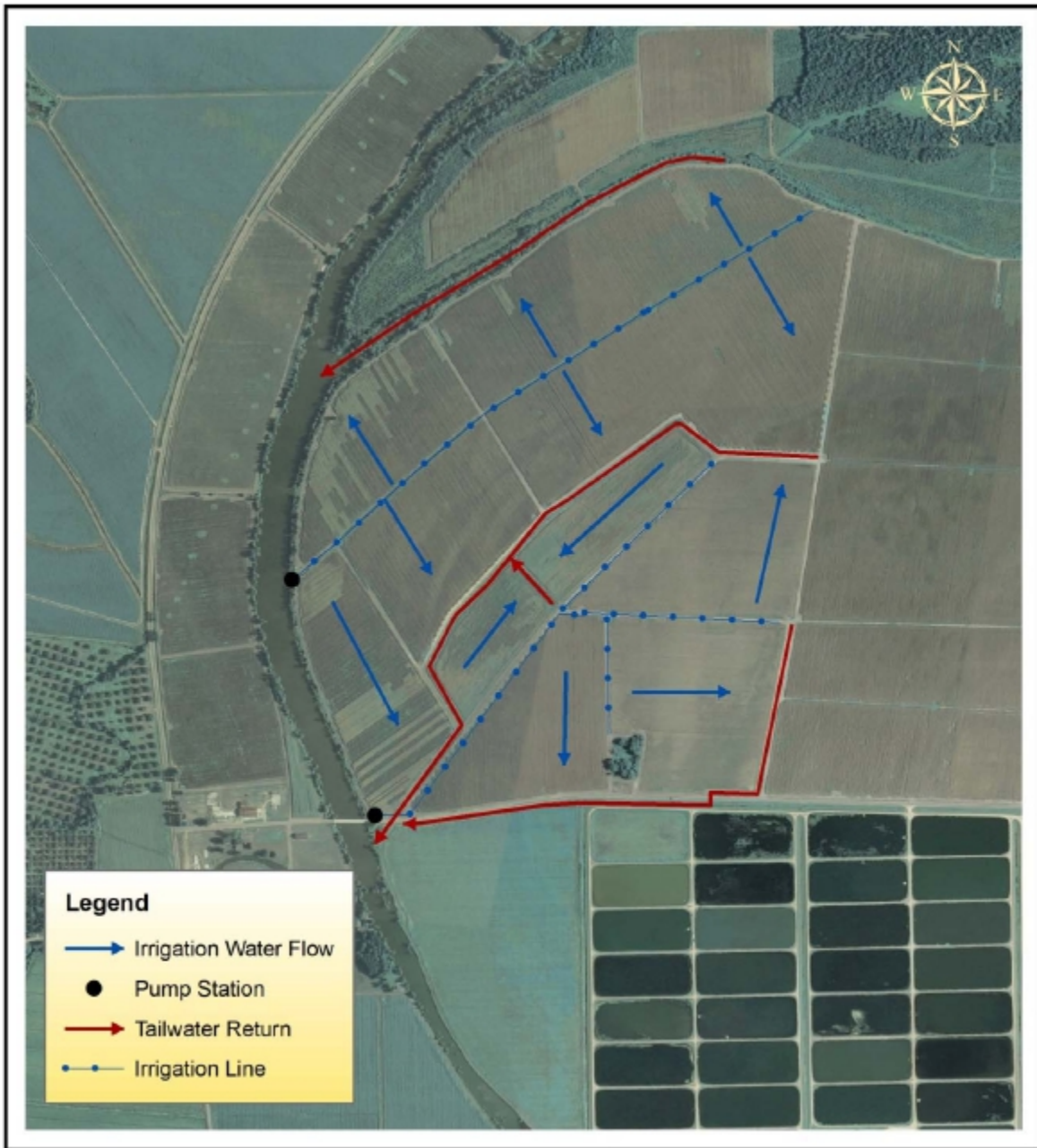
CONSERVATION STOP 4



Mill Creek Cotton Gin

- Increased acreage in corn and soybean production has resulted in a substantial reduction of the number of cotton acres planted every year.
- In 1930, approximately 4.2 million acres of cotton were planted in Mississippi. That number decreased to 1.2 million in 2006 and 300,000 in 2009.
- Consequently, the number of cotton gins has declined as well. Fewer than 70 gins are still operating in Mississippi.

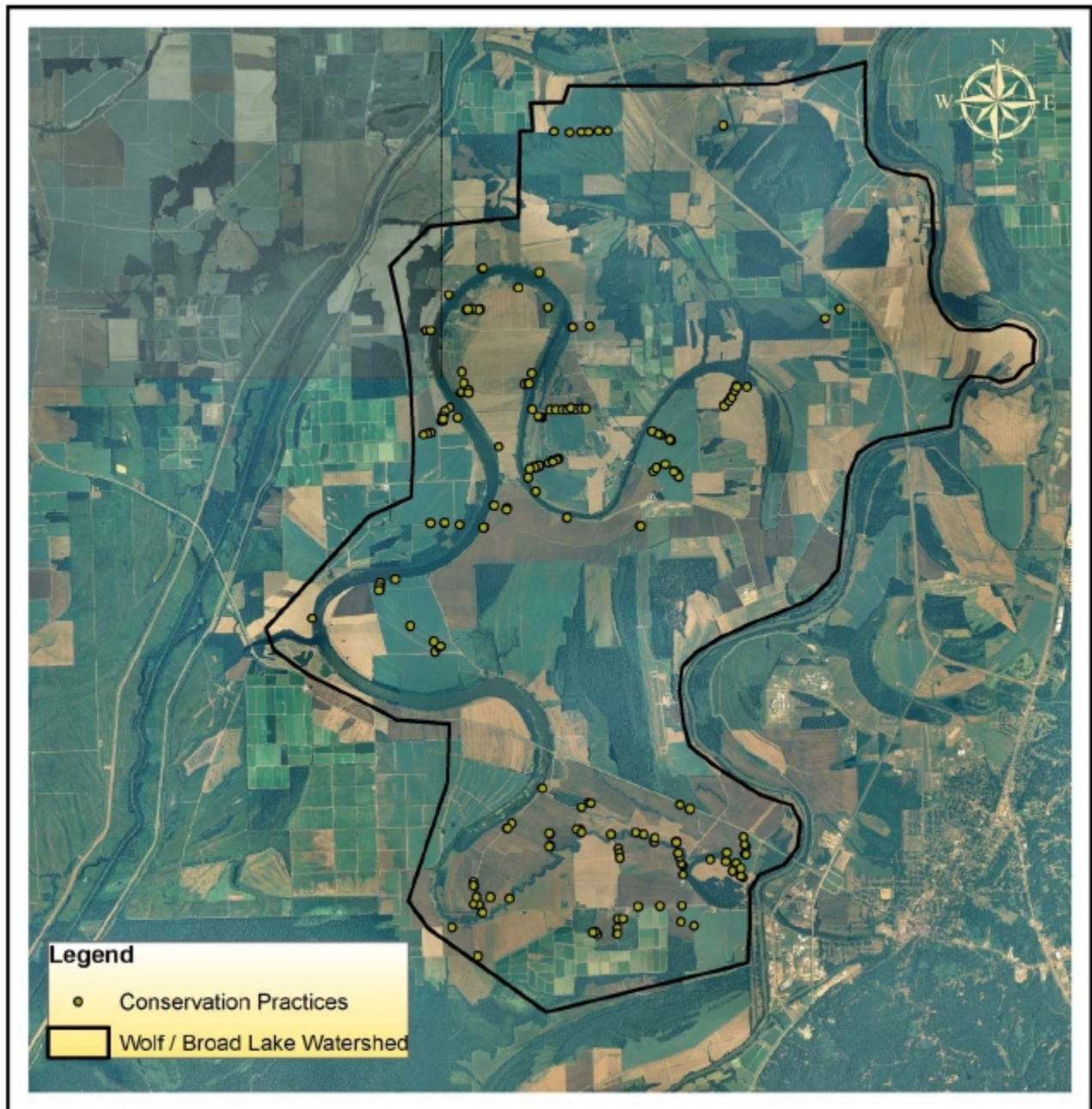
CONSERVATION STOP 5



Tailwater Recovery System

- Surface water irrigation using a tailwater recovery system is more efficient than traditional well irrigation while providing environmental benefits.
- Tailwater recovery systems pump nutrient and sediment rich runoff water back on to the field, reducing downstream sediment and nutrient loads.

CONSERVATION STOP



Wolf/Broad Lake Water Quality Improvement Project

- Delta F.A.R.M. secured a 319 grant with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to implement the project. These federal funds were matched with private contributions for a total project budget of approximately \$2.3 million dollars.
- Over 220 sediment and nutrient reducing conservation practices were implemented on agricultural lands throughout the watershed. Practices include pads and pipes, riparian buffers, low grade weirs, vegetated drainage channels, energy pools, and wetland development.
- In-lake and edge of field monitoring strategies have been implemented to document environmental benefits accrued by the project.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

IOWA



Bill Northey

Bill Northey is a fourth generation farmer who grows corn and soybeans. He is serving his first term as Secretary of Agriculture after being elected in November of 2006. As Secretary, Northey has committed to traveling to each of Iowa's 99 counties every year to hear from farmers and rural residents with a stake in the future of agriculture. These meetings allow him to listen to their needs and better lead the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship as it seeks to serve the people of the state. His priorities as Secretary of Agriculture are advancing the opportunities available through renewable energy, promoting conservation and stewardship, and telling the story of Iowa agriculture.



Bill Tentinger

Bill is a pork producer and grain farmer from Plymouth County. Bill's livestock consists of a 400 head sow farrow to finish operation with the farrowing done at his home farm. Bill is a member of the Plymouth County Pork Producers, the Iowa Soybean Association, American Soybean Association, Iowa Corn Growers and Farm Bureau. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Iowa Pork Producers Association Board of Directors and holds the position of Vice President of Resources, and previously held the position of Vice President of Operations. He serves on the Public Policy, Finance, Bylaws and Resolutions, Environmental and the Animal Well-Being committees for the Iowa Pork Producers Association. Bill also is a presenter with the Operation Main Street program for the National Pork Board.



Dean Lemke

Dean Lemke is part-owner and operator of a fifth-generation family farm operation in north-central Iowa producing corn and soybeans. He is chief of the Water Resources Bureau, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, is a graduate of Iowa State University and has an Iowa engineering license as an agricultural engineer. He has 38 years of experience in developing research towards new technologies and implementing programs which provide technical and financial assistance to Iowa farmers for installing conservation and environmental practices. He represents Iowa on the coordinating committee of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force, and he chairs the 5-state Upper Mississippi River team addressing Gulf hypoxia comprised of the states of Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin and Iowa.



Don Elsbernd

Allamakee County, has been farming for 28 years. The operation began as a dairy farm and evolved over time into a cash grain farm. In his current operation, he raises no-till corn and soybeans. He currently serves as president of the Iowa Corn Growers Association. In his previous terms on the ICGA board, he has served on several committees, including Grassroots Network, Membership & Checkoff; the Industrial Usage & Production Committee; and the Budget Committee. Elsbernd is active in the Winneshiek County Corn/Soybean Association. He also serves as chairman of Growers National Coop board. Other activities include Food Resources Bank growing projects in Winneshiek and Allamakee counties.



Doug Gronau

Doug Gronau of Vail is a member of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) board of directors. He represents District 4, which consists of 11 counties in west central Iowa. Prior to his election to the board in November 2001, Doug was vice chairman of the internal study committee that serves as a liaison between county Farm Bureau voting delegates and the Iowa Farm Bureau board of directors. Doug has served in numerous Crawford County Farm Bureau leadership capacities since becoming a member in 1974. He has served on the advisory board for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa State University.



Gene Lucht

Gene Lucht is the public affairs editor for Iowa Farmer Today, a weekly agricultural magazine. Gene grew up on a diversified farm near Garwin, Iowa where the family raised corn, soybeans and hogs, among other things. A graduate of Iowa State University, he worked on daily newspapers before joining Iowa Farmer Today, more than 20 years ago.



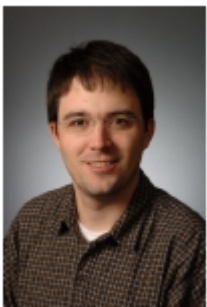
Harlen Hansen

Harlen Hansen has been a Humbolt County Supervisor since 1995. He has also been a member of the Iowa Drainage District Association since 2000, and became President of the association in 2008. He farmed from 1972 to 2005, raising hogs, corn, and soybeans.



Joe Murphy

Joe Murphy is a photographer and writer for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF). In this position, he is responsible for the photography assignments of the weekly *Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman* and the monthly *Family Living*. He also creates marketing photos and provides images for the Iowa Farm Bureau website. In addition to his photo responsibilities, Murphy writes news and feature stories and provides creative input and publication pagination. Prior to joining Farm Bureau, Murphy worked for several Iowa newspapers, as a managing editor, reporting and working as a photographer.



Matt Helmers

Dr. Matt Helmers is an Associate Professor and Extension Agricultural Engineer in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University. Dr. Helmers is an Iowa native from Sibley, Iowa and his family still farms in this area. His research and extension focus at Iowa State is in the areas of water quality and water resources management. In particular, he is studying water quality effects of agricultural best management practices including strategic placement and design of buffer systems and methods to improve water quality in tile drained landscapes.

**Steve Henry**

Steve Henry has been a grain farmer in central Iowa for over twenty years, growing corn and soybeans along with seed corn and seed beans on 4,800 acres. In addition, he provides a variety of custom farming and pesticide application services. He has been involved in the Iowa On-Farm Network since 2001.

**Tracy Blackmer**

Dr. Tracy Blackmer is the director of research at the Iowa Soybean Association. He directs the On-Farm Network® and has been the principal investigator on more than a dozen projects using advanced technologies to help improve grower profitability and reduce environmental impact. He has authored or co-authored a number of professional journal articles on precision ag application and methodology. Prior to joining the Iowa Soybean Association, Blackmer worked for the USDA-ARS at Lincoln, Nebraska and was a Technical Manager for Monsanto.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

MISSISSIPPI



Bowen Flowers

Bowen Flowers is a part-owner and operator of a cotton, corn, rice and soybean farm in Coahoma and Tunica counties. He serves on the Board of the Coahoma County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Board of Delta Wildlife and Co-Chairs the Delta Council Soil and Water Conservation Committee. Bowen has also served as a Commissioner of the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission and is a Past President of Delta Wildlife.



Bryon O. Griffith

Bryon Griffith is the Director of the Gulf of Mexico Program. The Gulf of Mexico Program, located at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, is a public and private partnership that includes state agencies, business representatives, broad environmental and public interests, and numerous Federal agencies working together to protect the natural resources and ensure the economic vitality of the Gulf region. He was appointed to serve as Federal co-lead for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance in 2004. The Alliance was initiated by the governors of the five Gulf States with the goal of significantly increasing regional collaboration at state, local, and federal levels to achieve actions in five priority issue areas.



Buddy Allen

Buddy is part-owner and operator of a cotton, corn, rice and soybean farm in Tunica and Coahoma counties. He serves on the Board of the Tunica County Soil and Water Conservation District and as Commissioner on the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission.



Chat Phillips

Chat is part-owner and operator of a catfish, cotton, corn, soybean, and rice farm in Yazoo, Holmes and Sharkey counties. He serves as a Commissioner for the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Yazoo-Mississippi Joint Water Management District and Co-Chairs the Delta Council Soil and Water Conservation Committee. Chat has also served as a Commissioner of the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission.



Dan Prevost

Dan is the Watershed Specialist with Delta F.A.R.M. and currently administers the Fellowship for a Healthier Gulf of Mexico Program. Dan is a Certified Forester, Associated Wildlife Biologist and serves on the Board of the Mississippi Chapter of the Wildlife Society.



Jerry Cain

Mr. Cain has been the Director of the Office of Pollution Control (OPC) since April of 2006. Prior to becoming Director of OPC, Mr. Cain has held various engineering positions in the Department of Environmental Quality since 1978. Mr. Cain has been intimately involved in environmental issues associated with agriculture and was instrumental in the development of many of the State's programs. Mr. Cain has had personal interest in farming, specifically cattle and timber, and has been very involved in the management and operation of the family farm in Choctaw Co. Mississippi.



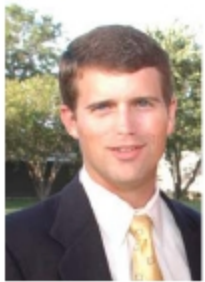
Lester Spell

In November 1995, Dr. Spell was elected as the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce and is now serving his fourth term in office. Commissioner Spell has served as President of the Southern United States Trade Association and the Southern Association of the State Departments of Agriculture. He is chairman of the Mississippi Fair Commission and Central Farmers' Market Board. Dr. Spell has served as president of the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce, the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association, the Mississippi Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association, and the Mississippi Municipal Association. He received his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 1968 from Auburn.



Mattson Flowers

Mattson is part-owner and operator of a cotton, corn, rice, and soybean farm in Coahoma and Tunica counties. He serves as a member of the Delta F.A.R.M. Executive Committee and is a Vice-President of Delta Council.



Paul Dees

Paul is a part-owner and operator of a corn, rice and soybeans farm in Washington County. He serves on the Board of Directors of Delta Wildlife, Farmers Grain Terminal and Delta Western.



Phil Bass

Phil Bass is the State Policy Coordinator with the Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico Program. His responsibilities include directly supporting the leadership on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, supporting nutrient reduction activities to reduce northern gulf hypoxia, and supporting innovative technology in the restoration and recovery of the Gulf of Mexico. Phil served for over 15 years as the Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's laboratory, and for 8 years as Chief of the Field Services Division. He was selected as Director of the Office of Pollution Control in March of 2000. Upon retirement, Phil began his service with the Gulf of Mexico Program. Phil operates and still lives on the family farm.



Richard Ingram

Richard Ingram is the Special Projects Director for the Office of Pollution Control of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. His job includes coordination of Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico activities for the agency. Richard previously implemented and managed Mississippi's Basin Management, Source Water Protection and Wellhead Protection Programs over a 17-year period. Prior to his state employment, Richard served as an oil & gas exploration and development consultant for 12 years.



Rob Coker

Rob Coker is a part-owner and operator of a corn and soybean farm in Yazoo County. Rob participated in the development of the Delta Nutrient Reduction Strategy and serves on the Board of the Mississippi Corn Producers Group and is the current Chairman of Delta F.A.R.M.



Trey Cooke

Trey is the Executive Director of Delta F.A.R.M. and Delta Wildlife. Both organizations represent farmers and help address natural resource concerns by finding solutions that provide for a more environmentally and economically sustainable future for agriculture.



Dr. William W. Walker

William W. Walker is the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. The DMR is responsible for Marine Fisheries Management, Coastal Ecology, Wetlands Permitting, Marine Patrol, Coastal Zone Management, Coastal Preserves, the National Estuarine Research Reserve, Seafood Plant Certification, Boat and Water Safety, Derelict Vessel Act Administration and Tidelands Act Administration. Since 2005, he has served as Chairman of the Gulf of Mexico Governors' Alliance Management Team.

MAP OF MISSISSIPPI

