

25th Annual Tri-State Drainage Research Forum features field tour and regional drainage research

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OWATONNA, MN. (09/11/2026)—The University of Minnesota Extension will host the 25th Annual Tri-State Drainage Research Forum featuring an optional pre-forum field tour and a full-day research conference this fall. The event, presented in partnership with South Dakota State University, Iowa State University, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, invites agricultural producers, drainage contractors, consultants, agency staff, and researchers to explore 25 years of drainage innovation and emerging water management practices.

The optional pre-forum field tour will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 30 at the UMN Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) in Waseca. The main research forum takes place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 1 at the Bass Pro Shop, 3900 Cabela Dr NW, Owatonna. Early registration is \$80 through Sept. 15 (\$99 after Sept. 15), and student registration is \$40 (\$20 for student poster presenters), payable online during registration.

"Over the past 25 years, agricultural drainage in the Upper Midwest has evolved from basic field water removal into sophisticated, precision water management," said Gary Sands, UMN Extension professor and water resources specialist. "This milestone forum offers a unique opportunity to inspect field-scale conservation practices firsthand at SROC and connect on emerging technologies like automated controls and drainage water recycling."

Pre-registration is required. University of Minnesota Extension provides full program schedules and registration details at z.umn.edu/drainageresearchforum.

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