

Getting R-E-R in the Right Order

By Dennis Frame,
Co-Director
UW-Discovery Farms

So, what the heck is R-E-R? It's my new acronym and it stands for research, education and regulation. Protecting water quality and insuring that Wisconsin maintains a viable agricultural industry requires all three of these steps, but they must be done in the correct order! Writing regulations and then doing the research to prove they are correct just doesn't seem right. Doing research and then writing regulations without educating the people affected by these regulations will only guarantee that the rules will fail. The only way we are going to make significant strides in protecting our surface and groundwater is by doing the research, developing a multi-faceted educational program and then regulating the few producers who don't adopt the changes necessary to protect the environment. Discovery Farms was developed to provide information and assistance to insure we get this right.