2017 Water Management Education

The Situation
Subsurface drainage systems (tile) are being installed in farm fields throughout the Red River Valley watershed as well as other parts of North Dakota. The general public and government officials may have heard of this technology but do not always understand the principles of tile or why farmers have so rapidly adopted this farming practice.

Extension Response
NDSU and the University of MN Extension organized a 2-day, tile-drainage design workshop in Grand Forks. Total attendance for the workshops was over 50.

Impacts
In 2017, when asked to place a dollar value on the information received when the knowledge obtained would be applied in the business, producer estimated $36.14 per acre. All growers who answered the survey collectively farmed a total of 52,200 acres, of which only 3.7% is tiled. If these participants tile 5% of their fields annually the first year benefit would be $94,325. In year 5, the annual benefit would be $472,000 and increasing by $94,325 in each following year.

Feedback
- One previous attendee stated: potato yield and quality has been good on tiled ground. However I lost 30% of my no-tiled acres due to excess rains.
- Another: Investing in tile drainage is a better investment than buying more land.

Public Value Statement
Efficient utilization of water resources will benefit growers, society, and the environment.

Evaluation
Of the participants, 36% stated that they learned something new and useful and 64% gained important insight in tile drainage and received information, which can be use on the farm. Most mentioned an increase in knowledge about how to design a tile system.

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Non-Extension Collaborators
Tile drainage contractors and tile manufacturing companies.