
From: Leslie Everett <evere003@umn.edu>

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To: OW-Hypoxia

Subject: Comment for Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force

I was disappointed that there was no agenda item on development of nutrient criteria for the near-shore Gulf of Mexico and for the states. States cannot be held accountable for the lack of progress in reducing the zone of hypoxia without nutrient criteria from the Gulf and up into the states. We know that most of the nitrate is coming from farm field subsurface drainage and that there will be no progress in nitrate reduction without treating a high proportion of that drainage water. Expansion of subsurface drainage is faster than adoption of drainage water treatment. Focus needs to shift to the drainage district level for required nitrate reductions.

I am a University of Minnesota retired agronomist who was involved in water quality improvement for over 20 years and represented the UM on the NRCS State Technical Committee.

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