CSREES National Water Quality Program

Title: Karst Campaign for Clean Water, Productive Soil and Profitable Farms

Name: Jim Anderson **Email:** ander045@umn.edu

Organization: University of Minnesota Extension Service

State: MN **Region:** Great Lakes **Year of Funding:** 2001

Theme: Watershed Management

Situation: The karst landscapes of southeastern Minnesota are extremely vulnerable to both surface and ground water pollution. Contaminated surface water rapidly infiltrates the thin sediment cover and can directly enter underlying aquifers through sinkholes and cracks in the limestone rock formations. Once in the aquifer, polluted waters can move rapidly to affect water quality in springs and wells.

Objectives: Improve the understanding of producers and others how agricultural practices can affect water quality (both surface and ground0. To do this as part of a broad coalition to address parts of ten counties in SE Minnesota.

Methods: Produce a CD summarizing aquifer water quality, conduct tillage and grazing demonstrations and field days, hold community meetings on proper septic system management, provide nutrient management workshops.

Partnerships: The project is run through a steering committee of the Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi River in Minnesota. It is an alliance of a wide range of state, local and federal agencies.

Research: Research plots established by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station scientists have been used as a part of the workshops, demonstrations and field days.

Resources: Funds have been leveraged through both state and local agencies.

Results: Educational CD, workshops attended by over 100 producers. The project continues through June 2004.