

# Joint efforts pay dividends

The Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition is made up of a group of individuals and organizations that promote drainage water management to producers and landowners with the aim of reducing the nutrient enrichment of water bodies near and far. Its major partner is the research and scientific based



Charlie Schafer (l) discusses a research installation in Illinois.

Agricultural Drainage Management Systems (ADMS) Task Force, but it is funded by industry suppliers, contractors and interested agencies and institutions (see *ADM Coalition members*). It has large and bold goals which are being met by the efforts, enthusiasm and passion of its members. Chaired by Agri Drain's Charlie Schafer, the coalition has successfully met with numerous representatives in the public and private sectors, representing local, regional and national interests.

The coalition members are excited: "This is something that has been overlooked for some years and it's a problem that we can do something about in the subsurface drainage industry," says Jamie Duinick of pipe producer Prinsco. "We have the component that can reduce nitrates in the Gulf of Mexico and increase yields. At the same time, we can supply more product and the contractors can install more systems."

He also looks forward to federal and state support in the US: he notes that the USDA has approved funding to the tune

of \$250 billion for buffer-strip projects to reduce phosphorus loading. Adding the drainage management component to reduce nitrate discharge to surface waters can enhance this program, the coalition believes. Coalition member, Steve Baker, of Springfield Plastics also notes that: "We've been told by senior officials that they like the practice and the science and they have verbally pledged their help."

Schafer, Duinick and their colleagues are grateful for the financial support and materials donated for demonstration projects already shown by ADMS coalition members. They are anxious that their lead will soon be followed by other major industry suppliers. "This initiative is only as strong as our members want it to be," Duinick adds. ■

## ADM Coalition members

### Founding members:

Agri Drain Corporation, Ellingson Companies, Francesville Drain Tile Corporation, Hancor Incorporated, Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Land Improvement Contractors of America, Minnesota Land Improvement Contractors Association, National Corn Growers Association, Northern Pipe Incorporated, Plastics Pipe Institute, Prinsco Incorporated, Schlatters Incorporated, Springfield Plastics, The Fertilizer Institute, The Nature Conservancy of Illinois, The Sand County Foundation, and Trademark Plastics.

### Partners:

Collinsons Incorporated, Day Drainage, D&L Drainage, Seevers Farm Drainage, and Streitmatter Land Improvement.

### For more information:

The ADMC can be found at [www.admcoalition.com](http://www.admcoalition.com) ■