

# Collaborating with Agricultural Stakeholders on Nutrient Reduction Strategies

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# Agricultural Nutrient Policy Council

## PART 131 - WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.

Source: 48 FR 51405, Nov. 8, 1983, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A - General Provisions

§ 131.1 Scope.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection



## Numeric Nutrient Criteria Development

Impaired Waters and TMDLs

## Alternative Restoration Plans

## Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)



## A Source for Information and Advocacy Resources

*The ANPC's goal is to bring together the expertise needed for agriculture to effectively address the wide range of complex issues involving agricultural nutrients and the environment.*





# Some of ANPC's work this year

American Agriculture's  
State, Regional, and  
National Initiatives to

Related Topics: [Nutrient Policy and Data](#)

## 2022 EPA Nutrient Reduction Memorandum

NACWA  
THE VOICE FOR A CLEAN WATER FUTURE

Mississippi River  
Gulf of Mexico  
Watershed Nutrient  
Task Force

## Study helps quantify importance of eroding streambanks to Iowa's nutrient reduction efforts

August 23rd, 2021



Natural Resources Conservation Service

United States Department of Agriculture

EQIP

Environmental  
Quality Incentives  
Program

## State-Specific Water Quality Standards Effective under the Clean Water Act (CWA)

Prepared by the  
Agricultural Nutrient Policy Council  
December 2021





# Collaboration at Federal and State Levels

- ▶ EPA's Hypoxia Task Force: 13 states in the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico. Consists of Federal, State, Tribal government representatives. Engagement with private sector.
- ▶ 2022 Nutrient Framework Memo: Overall, a positive reaction from the agricultural community.
  - Reaffirms the commitment to work with the agriculture community, USDA and others
  - Continues to support state led approaches to nutrient loss strategies
  - Encouragement of states to set NNCs
  - Encourage and build on the innovation and collaboration that is already taking place.



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**MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN  
HEALTHY WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE**

**USDA** Natural Resources Conservation Service  
United States Department of Agriculture



## Illinois

### Goals and Targets

The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS), calls for a 45% reduction in both total phosphorus and total nitrogen to the Gulf of Mexico. This includes interim milestones of 15% for total nitrogen and 25% for total phosphorus by 2025. The NLRS was developed by the Illinois EPA, Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), the University of Illinois, and a multi-stakeholder Policy Work Group.

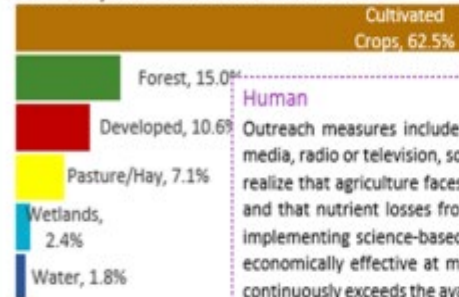
### Inputs

The NLRS implementation is supported by a mixture of public funds at the federal and state level, and private funds. USDA conservation program funding provides the bulk of the public funds. State level funding also comes from the Partners for Conservation Program, wherein the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), with assistance from Illinois SWCDs, administers a cost-share program. State level funding also is provided at the watershed level through Illinois EPA's Section 319 program. Private (NGO, farmer group, etc) investment ranges from approximately \$4.5 to 7 million on an annual basis. The amounts do not include the private dollars spent by farmers on the farm scale.



### Predominant Land Use

As calculated from the 2016 National Land Cover Dataset



According to 2012 SPARROW Mapper for the Midwest, Illinois delivers 17% of the agricultural nitrogen and 12% of the agricultural phosphorus from 56,2001 square miles to the Gulf of Mexico.

### Human

Outreach measures include field days, presentations, conferences, meetings, print or media, radio or television, social media, newsletters, awards and surveys. Illinois farmers realize that agriculture faces significant criticisms about nutrient losses from farm fields and that nutrient losses from some farm fields are occurring. Many are interested in implementing science-based practices that can be agronomically, environmentally and economically effective at minimizing losses. The demand for cost-share opportunities continuously exceeds the available cost share. Outreach efforts as part of the Illinois NLRS are succeeding in providing farmers additional information and resources.

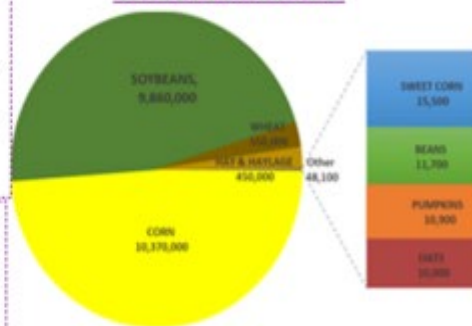
### Land

Voluntary implementation of agricultural best management practices on the land will ultimately lead to a change in water quality. Efforts are in place in Illinois to attempt to track activity on the land and include state and federal conservation program expenditures and USDA NASS survey data for a NLRS specific survey.

### Water

Data from all the major river systems in Illinois is collected to estimate the loads of nitrogen and phosphorus every two years. The 2013 to 2017 data show increases in flow (13%), nitrogen (7%), and total phosphorus (26%) from the 1980 to 1986 baseline period.

### Harvested Acres



Estimated from 2019 USDA State Agriculture Overview  
quickstats.nass.usda.gov, accessed 08/31/2020

# Illinois Example

- ▶ Illinois Nutrient Research & Education Council (Illinois NREC)
- ▶ Precision Conservation Management (PCM)
- ▶ Keep it 4R Crop
- ▶ “Fall Covers for Spring Savings” Cover Crop Premium Discount
- ▶ Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership (ISAP)
- ▶ Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) Nutrient Stewardship Efforts



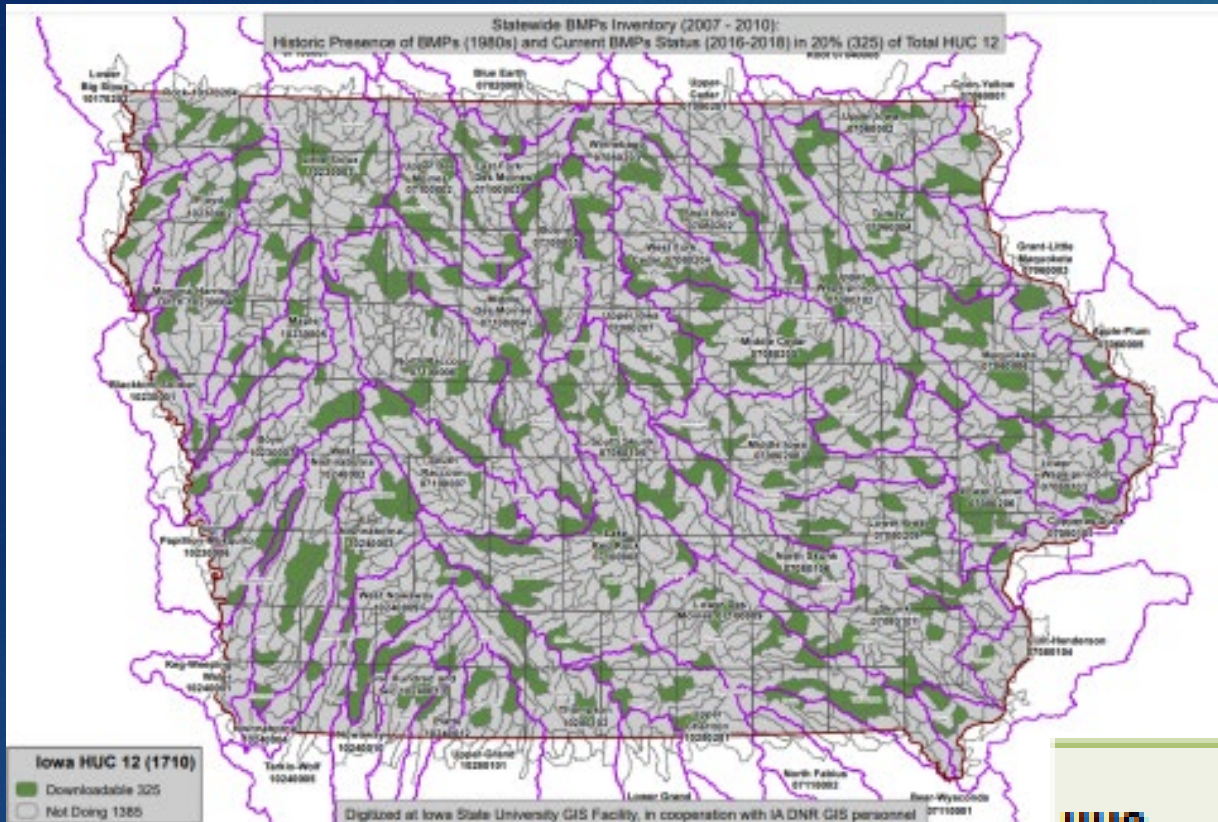


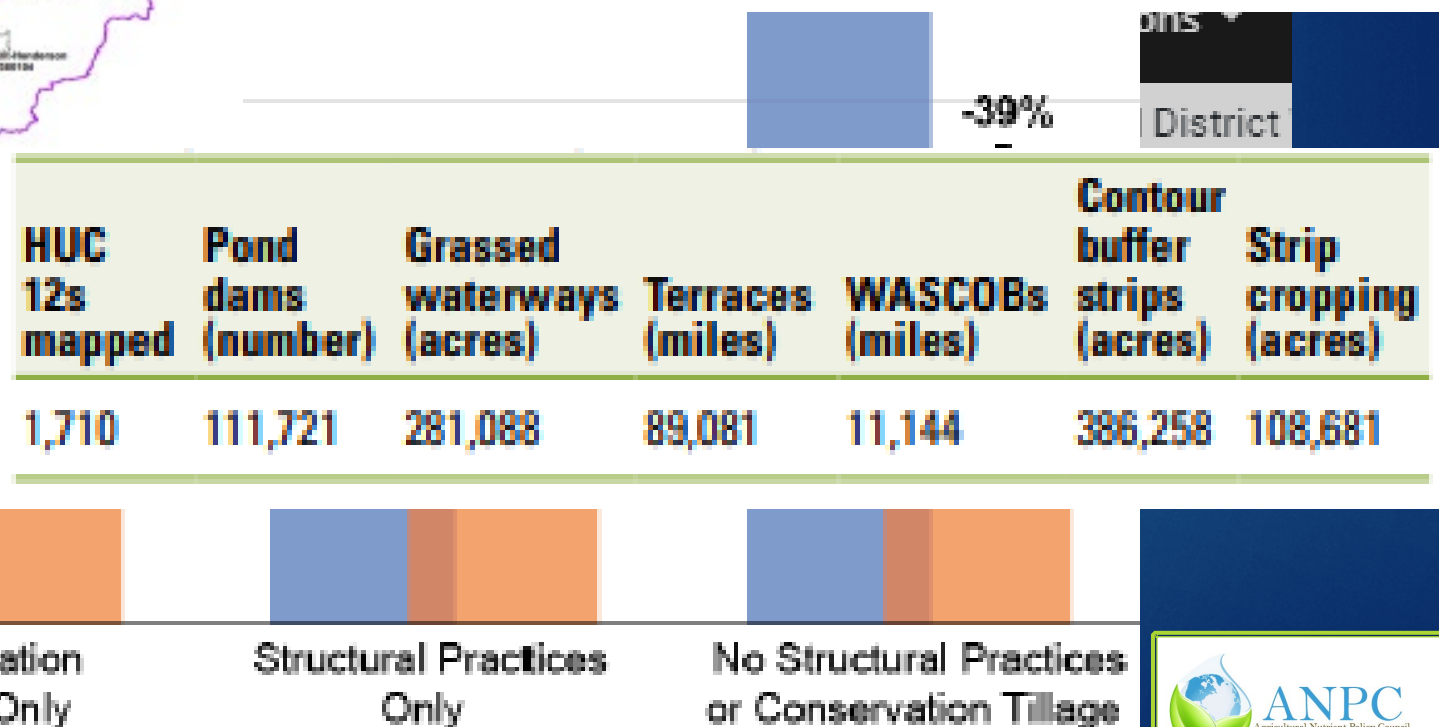
Table 3. Estimates of P loss reductions by BMP type<sup>a</sup>

| Scenario   | Pond Dams | Terraces | WASCOBs |
|------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| Minimum    | 45%       | 50%      | 25%     |
| Midpoint   | 65%       | 65%      | 55%     |
| Maximum    | 85%       | 80%      | 75%     |
| INRS Value | 85%       | 77%      | 85%     |

<sup>a</sup> Table reproduced from memorandum by Geosyntec Consultants (2020). Minimum, midpoint, and maximum values were estimated as part of this project. The INRS value is quoted from IDALS, IDNR, and ISU (2017).

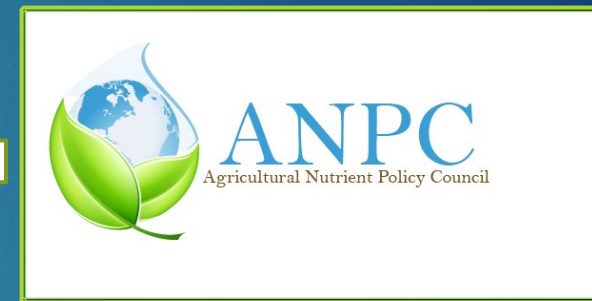
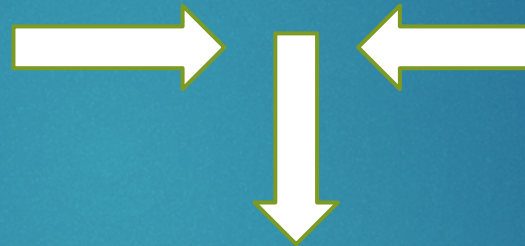
Table 4. Statewide Counts of BMPs in the 319 HUC12 Watersheds Included in this Study

| BMP Type              | 1980s   | 2016-2018 |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Pond Dams             | 14,884  | 20,429    |
| Terraces              | 63,815  | 102,867   |
| WASCOBs               | 16,213  | 53,835    |
| Contour Buffer Strips | 618     | 2,264     |
| Grassed Waterways     | 40,888  | 134,007   |
| Strip Cropping        | 258     | 527       |
| Total                 | 136,676 | 313,929   |

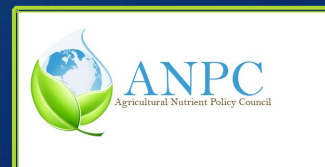




# Best Practices for Watershed Project Collaboration – Point & Non-Point Sources



**December Workshop – Lessons Learned, Challenges Faced and Possible Solutions**





# Some of the Biggest Hurdles to Nutrient Loss Reduction Success

- ▶ Each state is different and needs its own nutrient reductions strategy
- ▶ Dealing with the cost of practices – affordability
- ▶ Getting our public partners the resources they need
- ▶ Regulations unintended consequences – barriers to projects
- ▶ Don't take away key tools



# Elements Needed for Success

- ▶ Farmers are problem solvers. Make them an active part of the solution
- ▶ Partnerships
- ▶ Trust building
- ▶ Reframing the narrative (nutrient loss, soil health, carbon sequestration, etc.)
- ▶ Resources and funding
- ▶ Innovation (digital ag/precision ag)
- ▶ Outside the box thinking, vision and leadership
- ▶ Recognition



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