

Farmer-led Efforts to Improve Water Quality

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Fluid Fertilizer Foundation

December 11, 2019



www.iowaagwateralliance.com

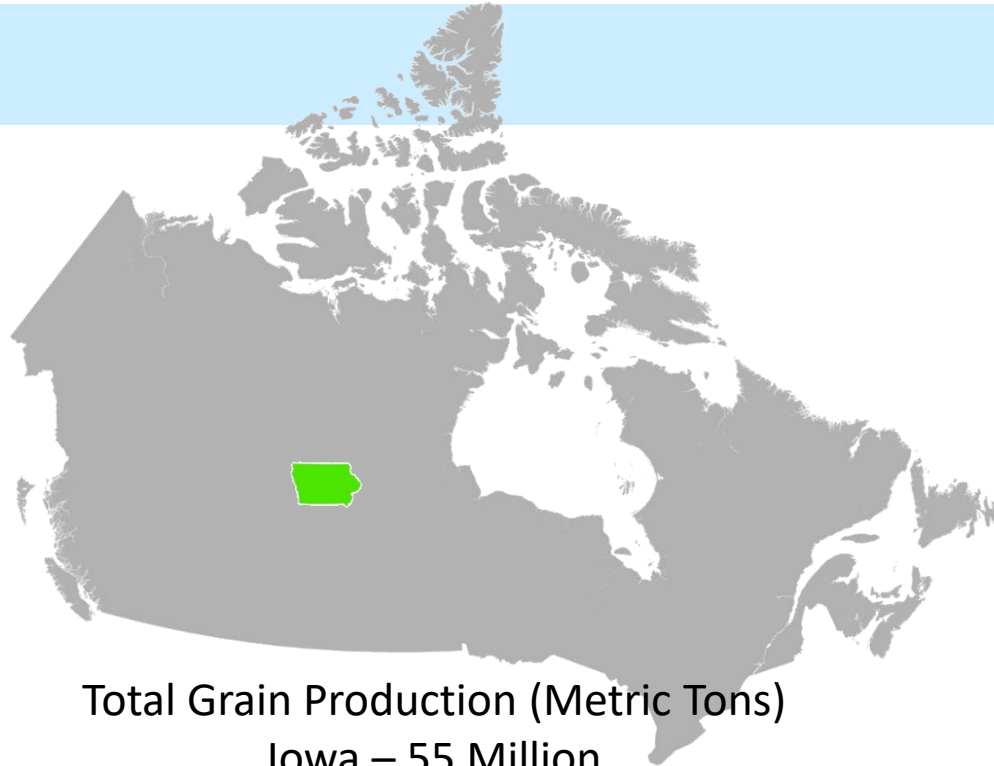
Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance

- Mission
 - Increase the pace and scale of farmer-led efforts to improve water quality
- Founding organizations
 - Iowa Corn Growers Association
 - Iowa Pork Producers Association
 - Iowa Soybean Association



Iowa Water Quality Initiative

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & LAND STEWARDSHIP



Total Grain Production (Metric Tons)

Iowa – 55 Million

Canada – 45 Million



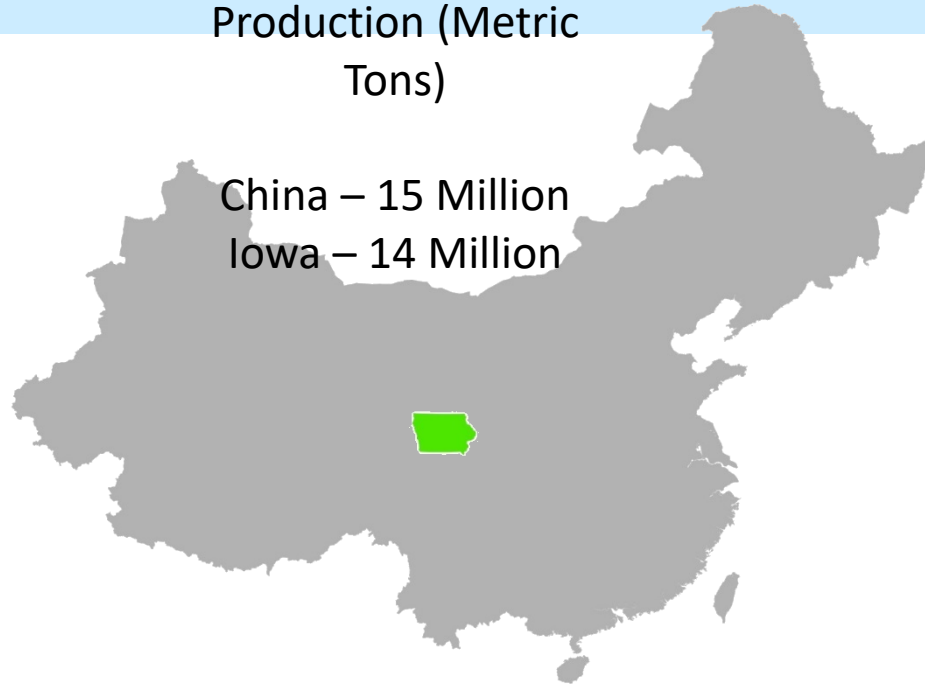
Iowa Water Quality Initiative

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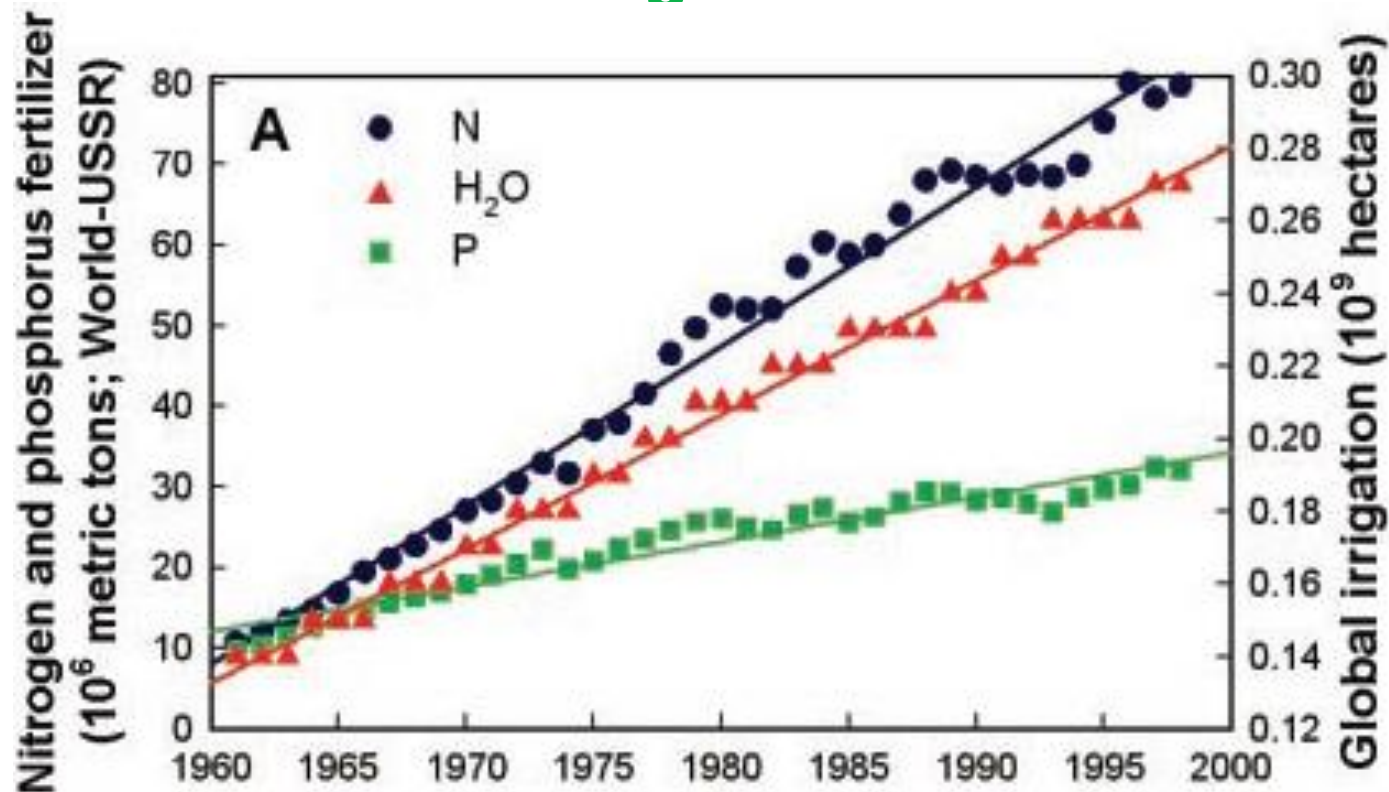


Total Soybean Production (Metric Tons)

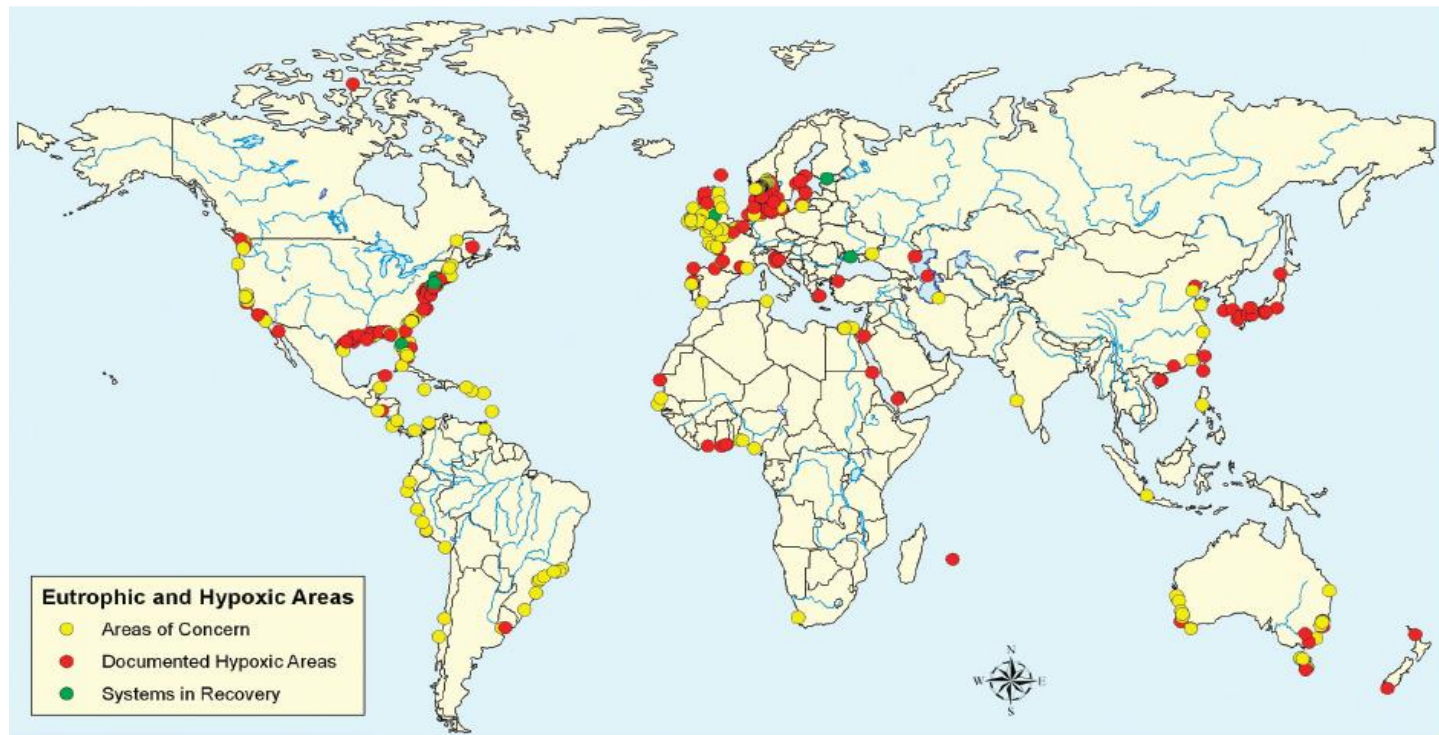
China – 15 Million
Iowa – 14 Million



Global Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Irrigation Use

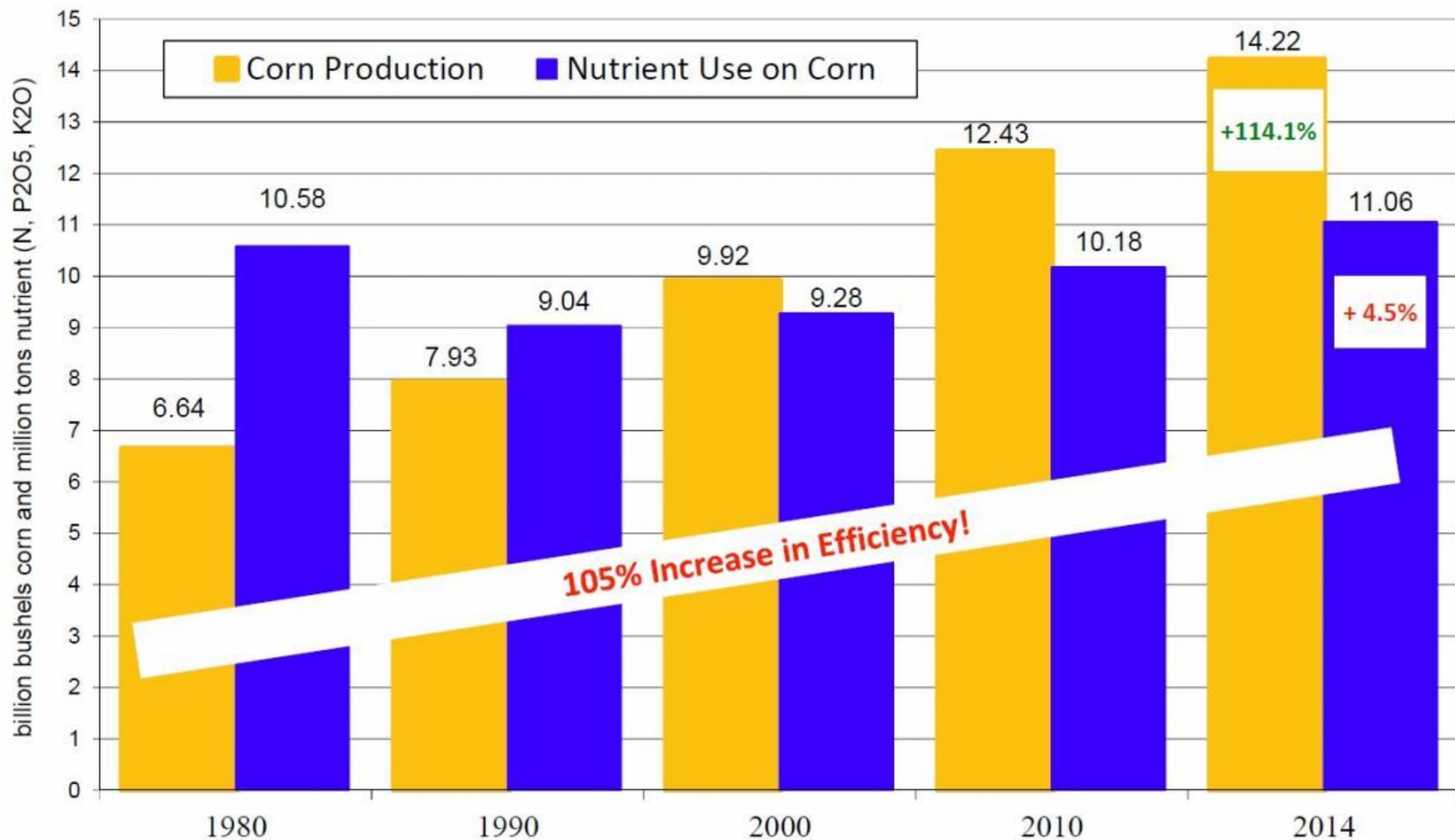


Hypoxic Zones of the World



Major known eutrophic and hypoxic areas. Reprinted from Selman et al

U.S. Corn Production and Nutrient Use on Corn



Source: Computed by The Fertilizer Institute from data reported by NASS, USDA.

Corn Nitrogen Cycling & Budget

Corn Grain Harvest
(~100 lbs N/acre/year)

Corn Nitrate Use
(~165 lb N/acre)

Gaseous Loss
(~10 lbs N/acre/year)

Corn Residue Return
(~65 lbs N/acre/year)

Fertilizer to Corn
(~150 lbs N/acre/year)

Native Soil Organic Matter
Nitrogen ~ **10,000 lb N/acre**

Microbial production of
nitrate from native soil
(100-400 lbs N /acre/year)

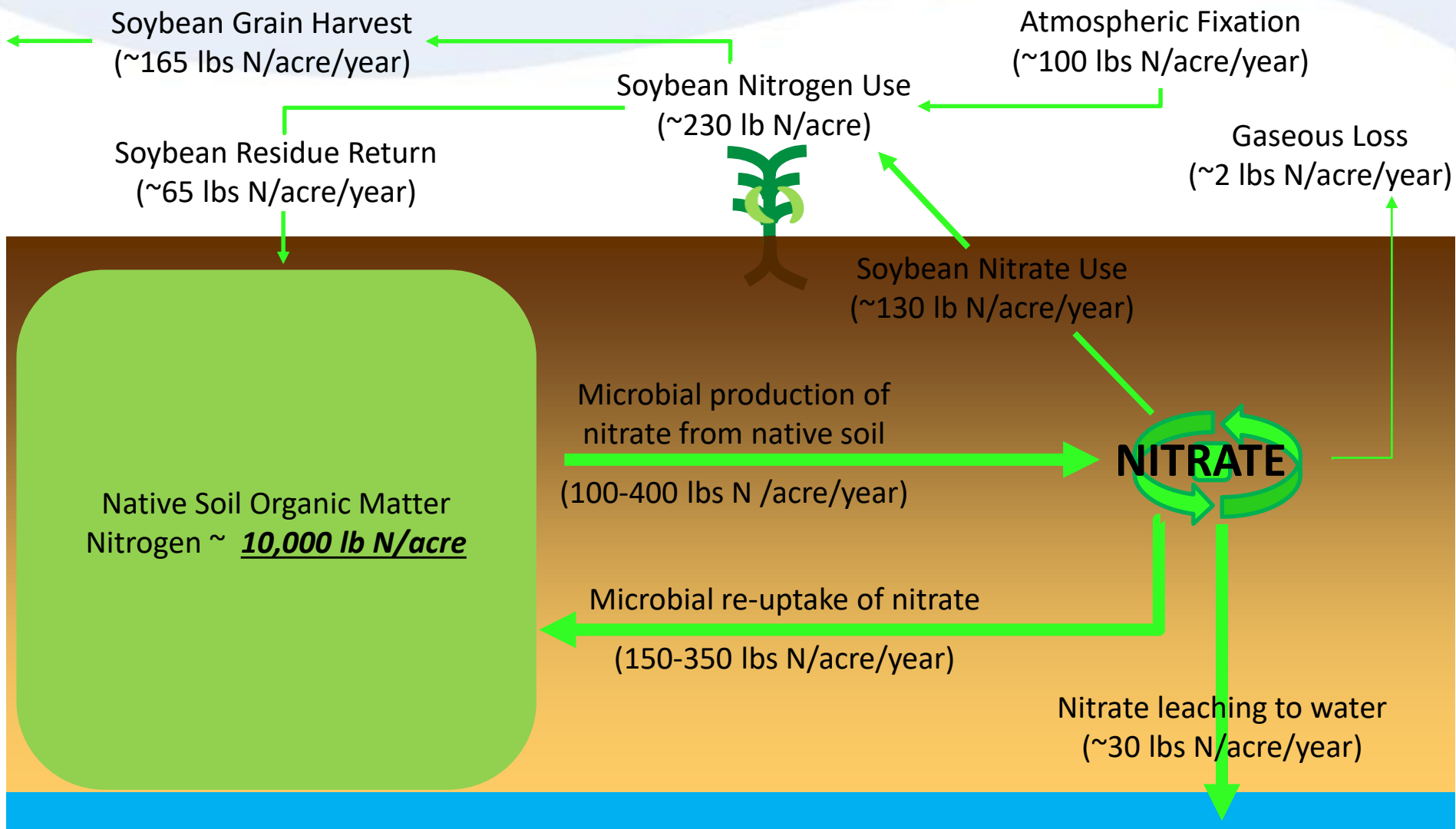
NITRATE

Microbial re-uptake of nitrate
(150-350 lbs N/acre/year)

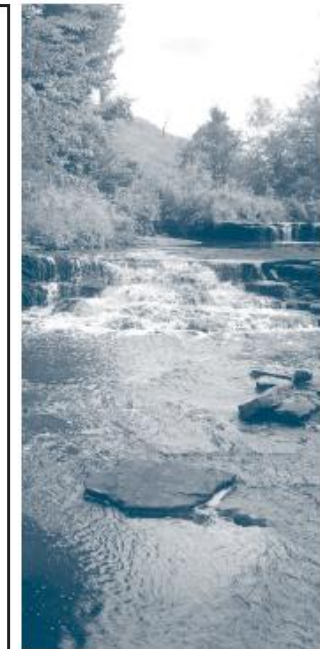
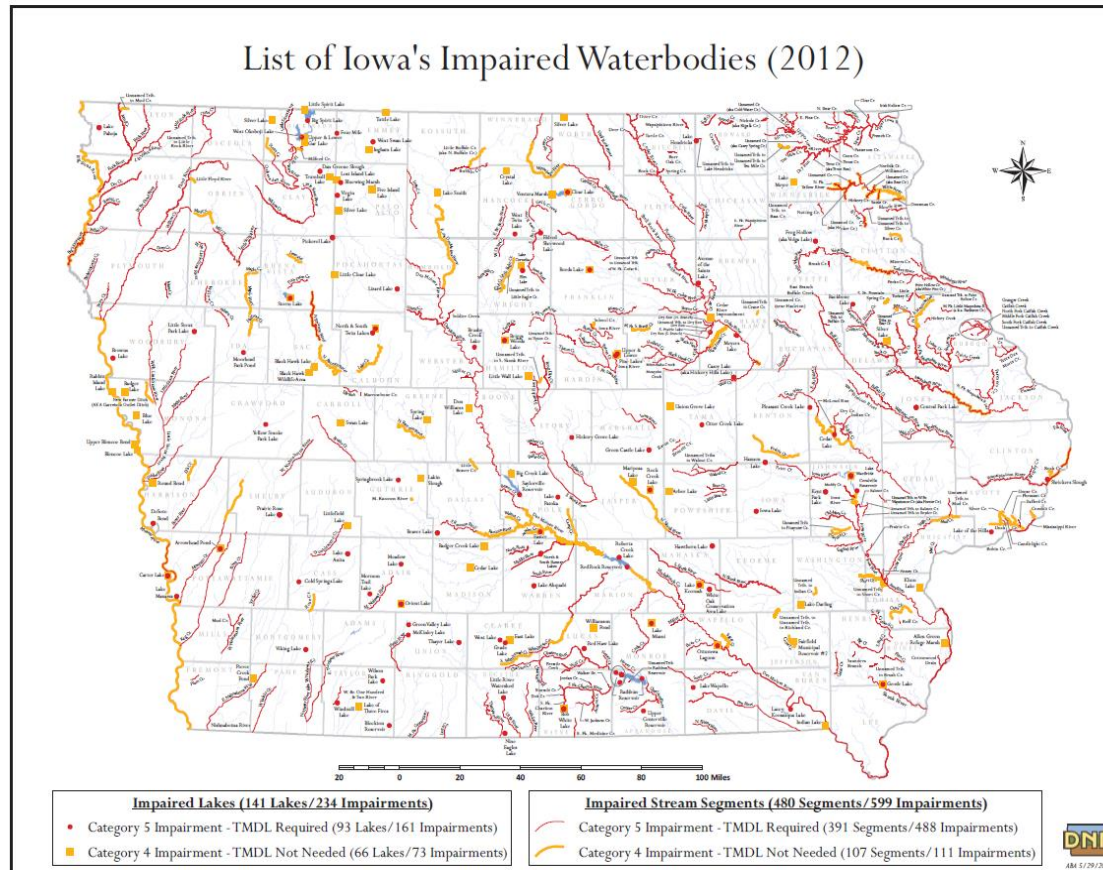
Nitrate leaching to water
(~30 lbs N/acre/year)



Soybean Nitrogen Cycling & Budget



Iowa Water Challenges and Opportunities



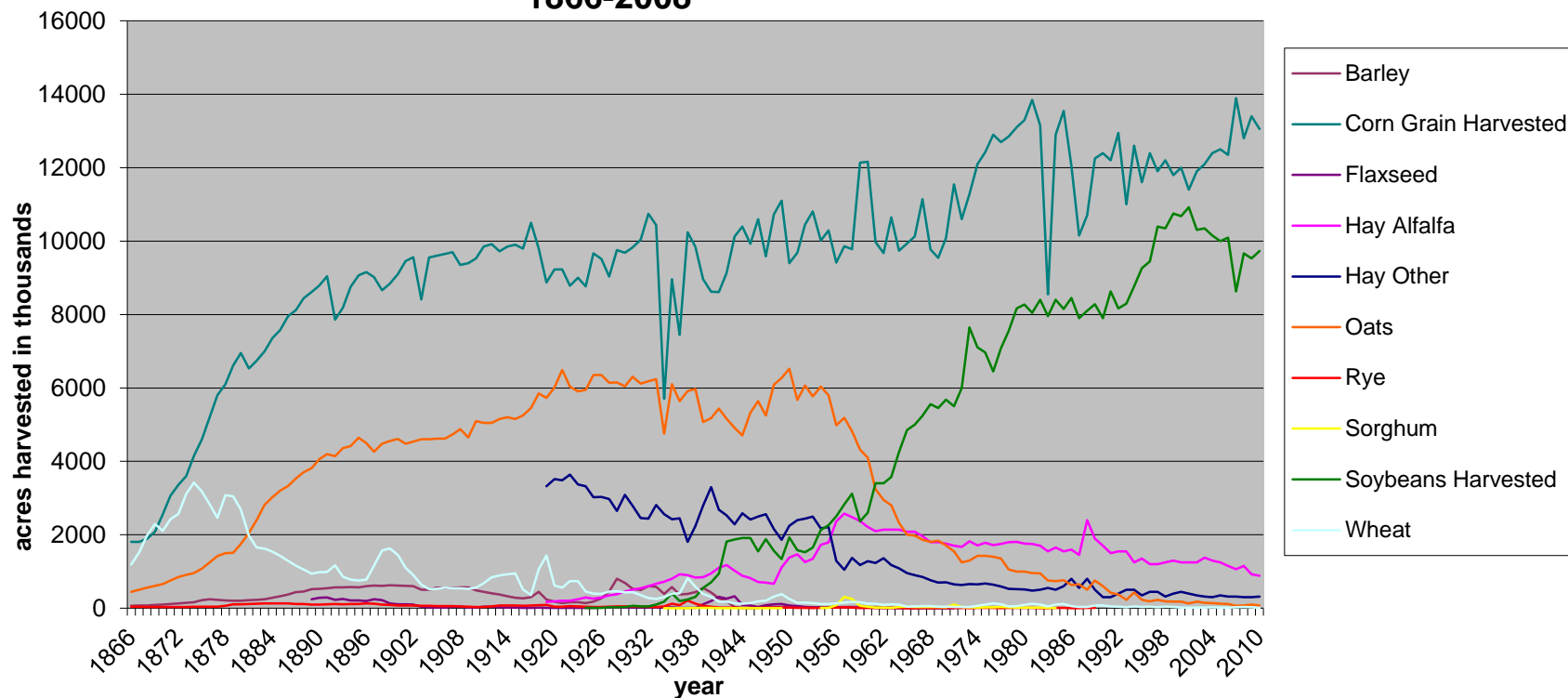
PLANNING FOR
**WATER
QUALITY**

2013
IOWA'S
NONPOINT SOURCE
MANAGEMENT PLAN

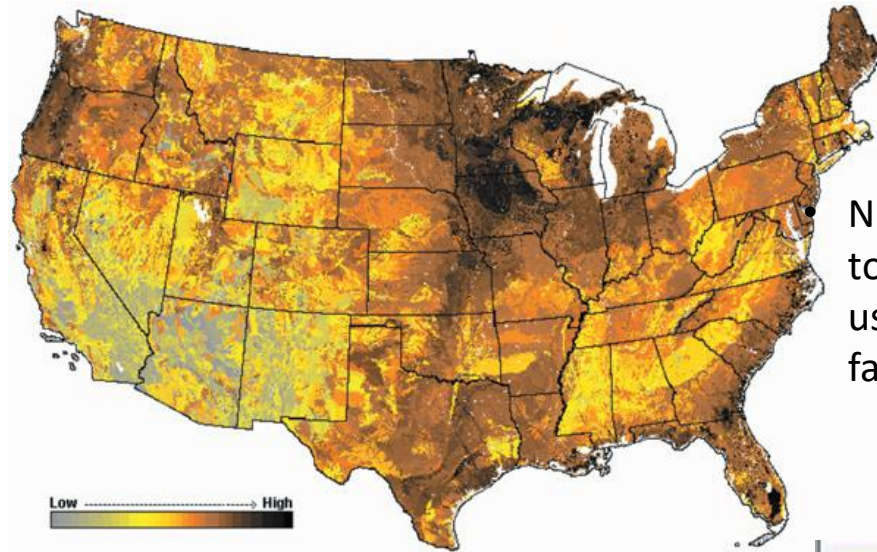


Changes in Land Use

Corn, Hay, Small Grains, & Soybeans Harvested Trends
1866-2008

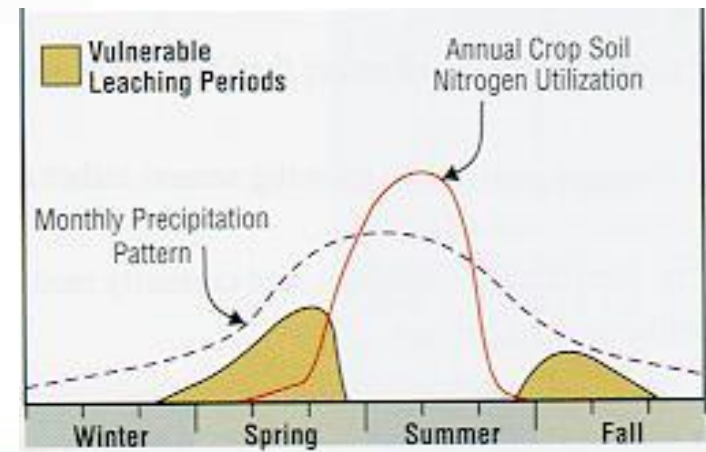


Soils Vulnerable to Leaching



Nutrient content of water has more to do with historic changes in land use and hydrology than inputs by farmers.

Current major cropping system leaves soil vulnerable to erosion and nutrient leaching, especially in Spring and Fall.



Iowa Water Quality Initiative

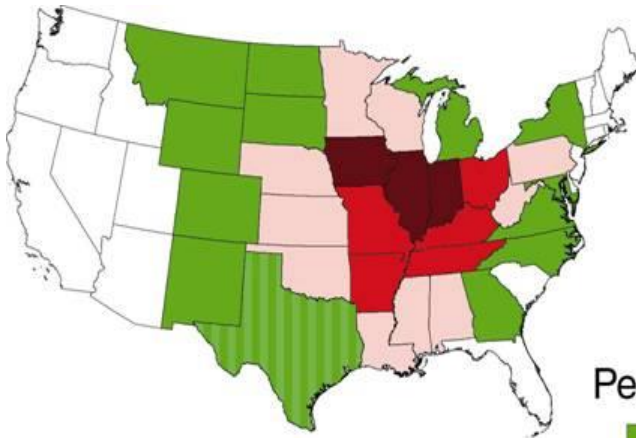
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NUTRIENT DELIVERY TO THE GULF OF MEXICO

State shares of the total annual nutrient flux

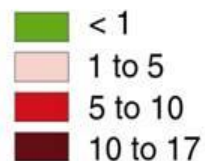
Nitrogen



Phosphorus



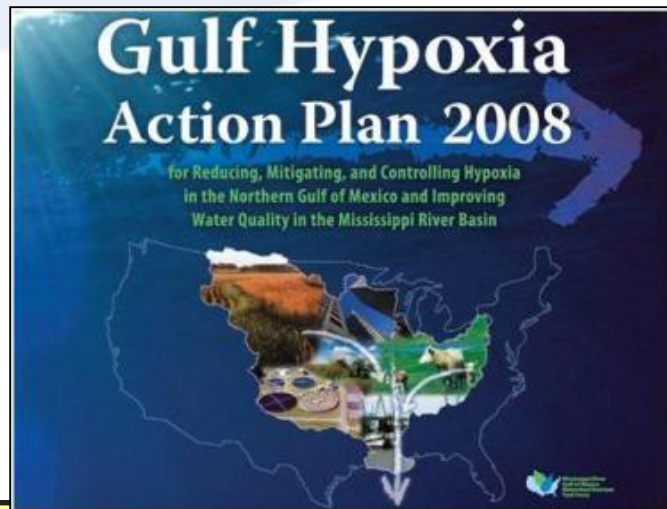
Percent Share



Alexander et al,

Environ. Sci. Technol., in press

13



**EPA Hypoxia SAB report
suggested
45% less total N
AND
45% less total P
discharge to the Gulf to reduce
hypoxia**

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy: 45% N and P Reduction Goals



Nitrogen Practices



Phosphorus Practices



Nitrogen moves primarily as nitrate-N with water

	Practice	Comments	% Nitrate-N Reduction ^a	% Corn Yield Change ^b
Nitrogen Management	Timing	Moving from fall to spring pre-plant application	6 (25)	4 (16)
		Spring pre-plant/sidedress 40-60 split Compared to fall-applied	5 (28)	10 (7)
		Sidedress – Compared to pre-plant application	7 (37)	0 (3)
		Sidedress – Soil test based compared to pre-plant	4 (20)	13 (22)**
	Source	Liquid swine manure compared to spring-applied fertilizer	4 (11)	0 (13)
		Poultry manure compared to spring-applied fertilizer	-3 (20)	-2 (14)
	Nitrogen Application Rate	Nitrogen rate at the MRTN (0.10 N:corn price ratio) compared to current estimated application rate. (ISU Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator – http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/nrate.aspx can be used to estimate MRTN but this would change Nitrate-N concentration reduction)	10	-1
	Nitrification Inhibitor	Nitrapyrin in fall – Compared to fall-applied without Nitrapyrin	9 (19)	6 (22)
	Cover Crops	Rye	31 (29)	-6 (7)
		Oat	28 (2)	-5 (1)
	Living Mulches	e.g. Kura clover – Nitrate-N reduction from one site	41 (16)	-9 (32)
Land Use	Perennial	Energy Crops – Compared to spring-applied fertilizer	72 (23)	
		Land Retirement (CRP) – Compared to spring-applied fertilizer	85 (9)	
	Extended Rotations	At least 2 years of alfalfa in a 4 or 5 year rotation	42 (12)	7 (7)
	Grazed Pastures	No pertinent information from Iowa – assume similar to CRP	85	
Edge-of-Field	Drainage Water Mgmt.	No impact on concentration	33 (32)	
	Shallow Drainage	No impact on concentration	32 (15)	
	Wetlands	Targeted water quality	52	
	Bioreactors		43 (21)	
	Buffers	Only for water that interacts with the active zone below the buffer. This would only be a fraction of all	91 (20)	
	Saturated Buffers	Divert fraction of tile drainage into riparian buffer to remove Nitrate-N by denitrification.	50 (13)	

Phosphorus moves primarily with eroded soil

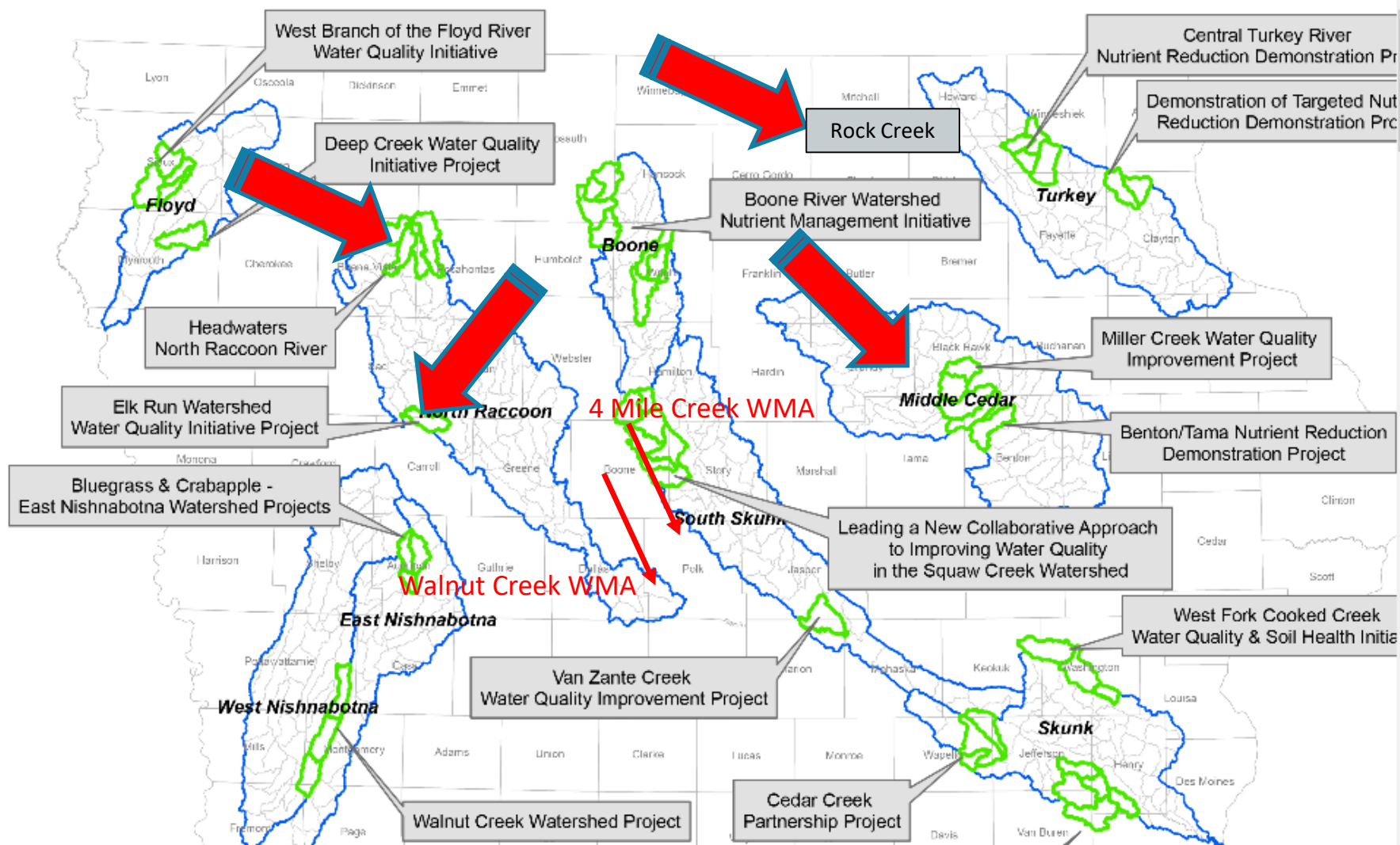
	Practice	Comments	% P Load Reduction ^a	% Corn Yield Change ^b
Phosphorus Management Practices	Phosphorus Application	Applying P based on crop removal – Assuming optimal STP level and P incorporation	0.6 ^d	0
		Soil-Test P – No P applied until STP drops to optimum	17 ^e	0
	Source of Phosphorus	Liquid swine, dairy, and poultry manure compared to commercial fertilizer – Runoff shortly after application	46 (45)	-1 (13)
		Beef manure compared to commercial fertilizer – Runoff shortly after application	46 (96)	
	Placement of Phosphorus	Broadcast incorporated within 1 week compared to no incorporation, same tillage	36 (27)	0
		With seed or knifed bands compared to surface application, no incorporation	24 (46)	0
	Cover Crops	Winter rye	29 (37)	-6 (7)
	Tillage	Conservation till – chisel plowing compared to moldboard plowing	33 (49)	0 (6)
		No till compared to chisel plowing	90 (17)	-6 (8)
Land Use Change	Perennial Vegetation	Energy Crops	34 (34)	
		Land Retirement (CRP)	75	
		Grazed pastures	59 (42)	
Erosion Control and Edge-of-Field Practices	Terraces		77 (19)	
	Buffers		58 (32)	
	Control	Sedimentation basins or ponds	85	

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

- *Transformational change* will be required to meet these targets, cost upwards of \$4B
- No single practice will meet these reductions
- Current rate of adoption and investment – centuries; best case – decades



Watershed Approach



Conservation Infrastructure



Opportunity for Economic Growth and Innovation



Cover Crops

- Now: ~880K-1.5M acres
- Need: 12-17 Million acres



Future Opportunities

- 300,000 acres of seed production
- 300 aerial seed applicators
- 1000's drills
- 100's-1000's seed cleaners
- 17,000 semis to transport seed
- and people...

Opportunity for Economic Growth and Innovation



Bioreactors / Saturated Buffers

- Now: ~85 installed
- Need: 1000's more

Future Opportunities

- Engineering design
- Materials
- Construction
- Monitoring
- Maintenance



CI Vision and Definition of Success



Economic
development

Water
Quality



VISION: We envision a prosperous, sustainable and resilient Iowa with **HEALTHY SOIL AND WATER** and **ECONOMICALLY VIBRANT COMMUNITIES** that is recognized as **THE** national leader in both agriculture and conservation.

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS: Conservation practices are economically compelling and easier for farmers and landowners to implement. Increased investments in conservation practices that lead to healthy soil and improved water quality for the benefits of all Iowans and downstream communities.

CI Update



LEADING THE CONSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE

In the first two years, more than 100 representatives from the public and private sectors have been engaged in defining and developing the initiative.

The overall Co-Chairs of the Conservation Infrastructure (CI) Initiative are: Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Napp and former leader Ray Goette.

Use the filters below to see the Co-Leads and Core Team Members in each of the three Working Groups: Strategy, Cover Crops, and Conservation Drainage. You can also see who is involved from academia, associations, conservation groups, federal agencies, private companies, state agencies, and urban and rural groups by selecting an organization type.

To see the complete listing of all Working Group members, [continue reading here.](#)

SORT BY WORKING GROUP

Select Category

SORT BY ORGANIZATION TYPE

Select Category



Steve Grooms
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture
Co-Lead, Conservation Drainage Working Group



Brent Stangen
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture
Co-Lead, Cover Crop Working Group



Bill Hawley
USDA Under Secretary for Farm and Conservation
Past Co-Chair, Conservation Infrastructure Initiative



Brian Salinger
Iowa Conservation Development Authority
Co-Lead, Strategy



Clayton Kuchler
Agri Drain
Co-Lead, Conservation Drainage Planning Group



Chris Napp
Iowa Farm Bureau Association
Co-Lead, Conservation Drainage Planning Group



ABOUT THE CONSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE

The 2017 Iowa NRS Progress Report sets the vision by saying, "While many programs are in place to further the NRS, **there is great need for developing other opportunities and investments that will support the enormous level of scaling-up that is required.**" Leaders in Iowa recognized the public and private infrastructure issues (i.e., physical, financial, human, community, and technical) required to increase the pace and scale of conservation practice adoption and other barriers. Conservation Infrastructure (CI) Initiative to address these and other infrastructure gaps and barriers.

[Learn more about our leadership.](#)

How can I get involved?
Are you a...

Business or Organization

Farmer

Landowner

Other

LEAVING A LAND LEGACY

As a landowner, you have the ability to leave behind a legacy through your land. The Conservation Infrastructure (CI) Initiative will help connect you with the right resources and partners, so you can take the next steps towards improving your land and building your legacy through conservation practices – all while maintaining or increasing your Return on Investment (ROI).

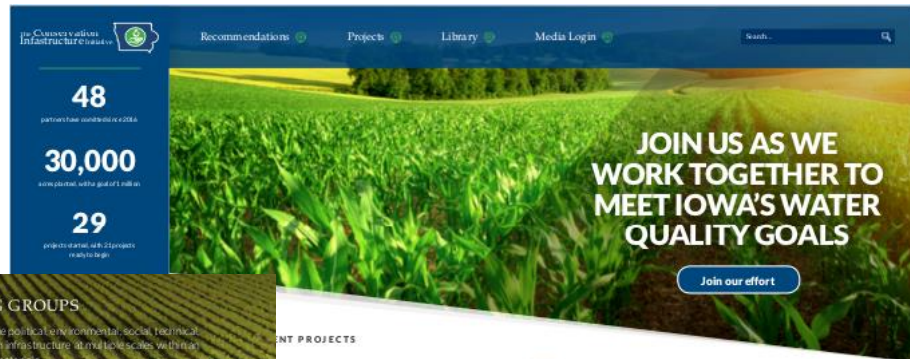
To get involved, please leave your name and email address in the form to the right. Use the Message box to tell us more information about how you would like to get involved and if you are interested in helping with one or more of the CI Working Groups.

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Message



PROJECTS



Taylor Family Farm
Diagonal, Iowa



Henderson Initiative
Decatur, Iowa



Ringgold County Drainage
Mt. Airy, Iowa

[View more projects.](#)

The Conservation Infrastructure Initiative



www.iowaCI.org

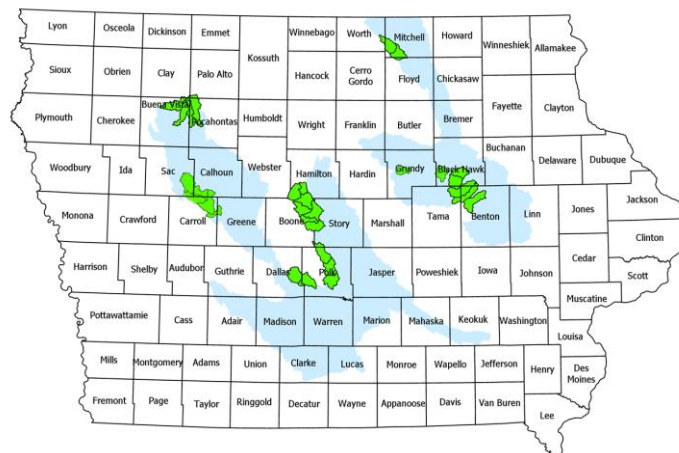


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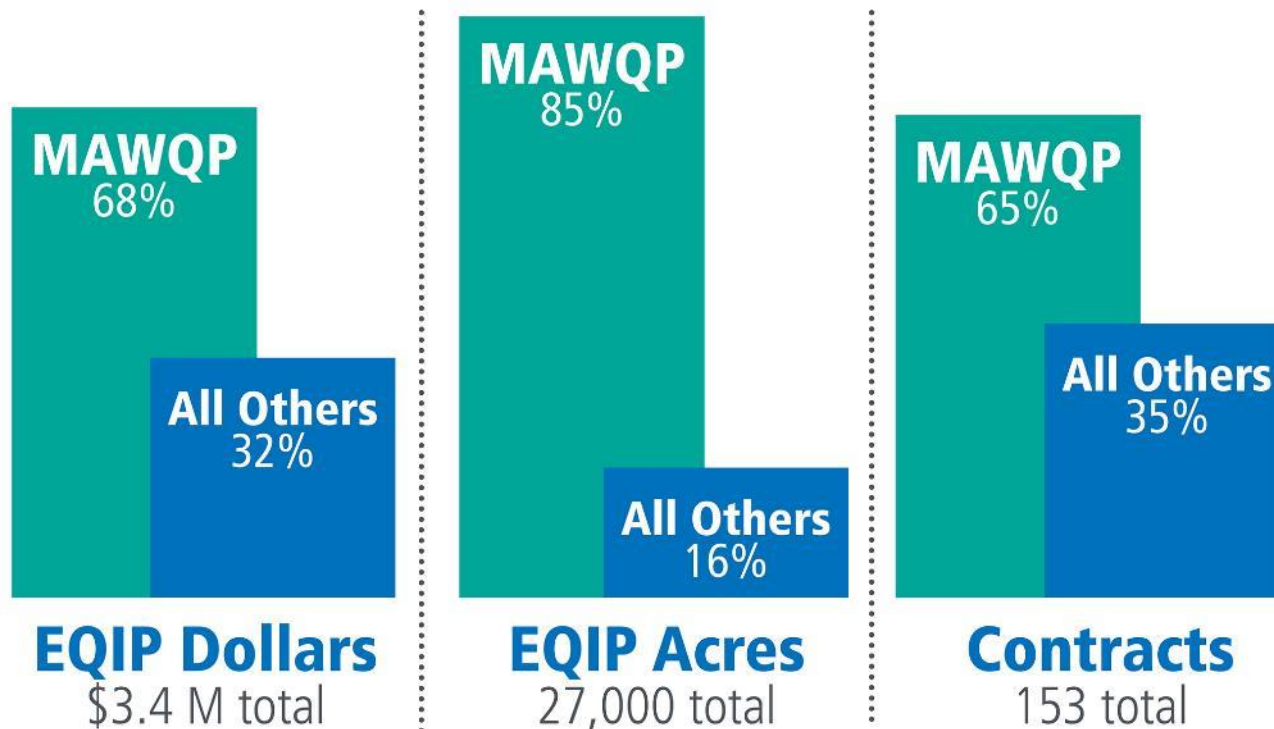
Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership RCPP

\$50M, 47 Partners

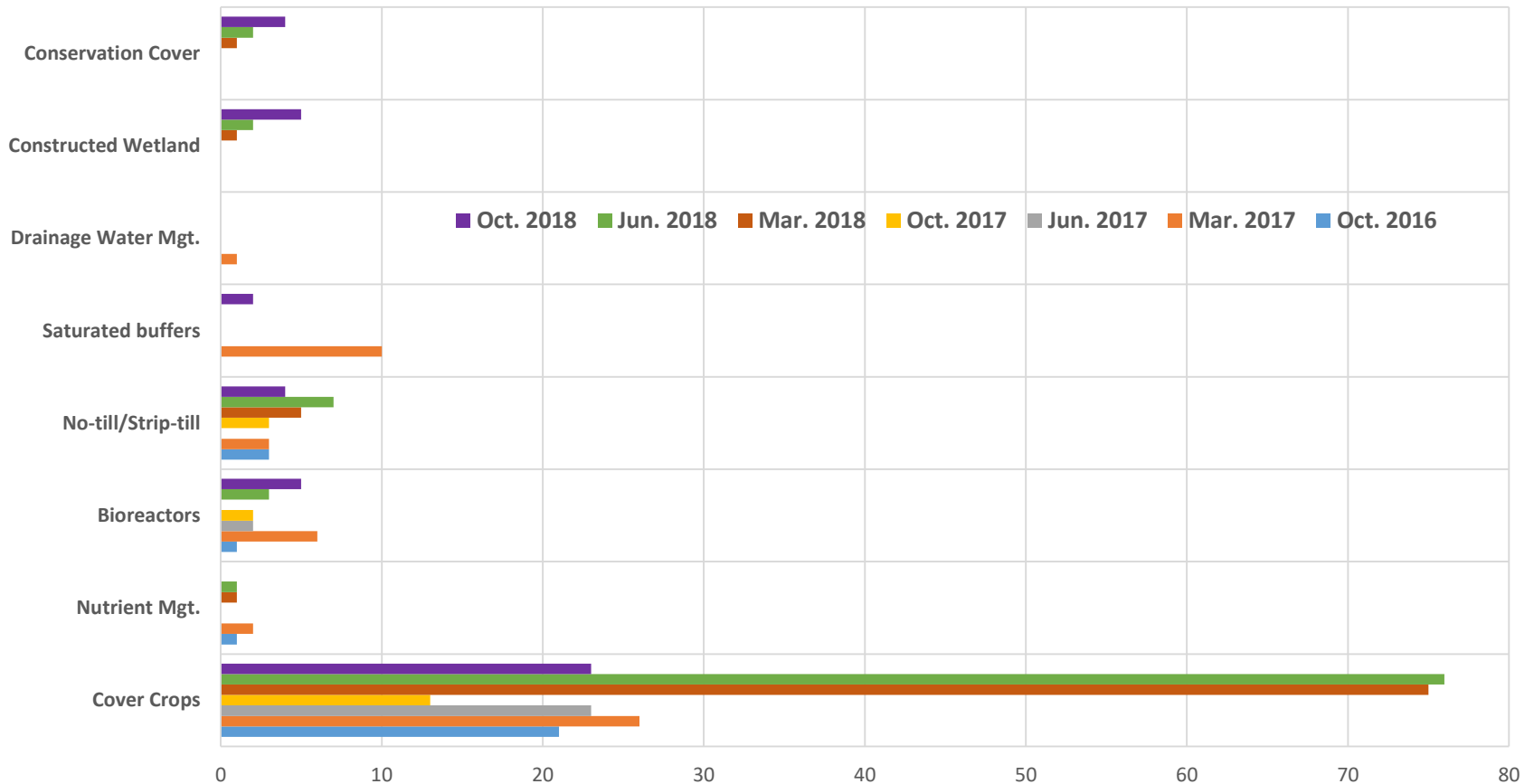
- 3.5M ac improved conservation in 3 years
- >90% original funding obligated
- ~99% of original 4:1 match requirement has been met



Eight RCPP Programs in Iowa



RCPP Practices by Signup

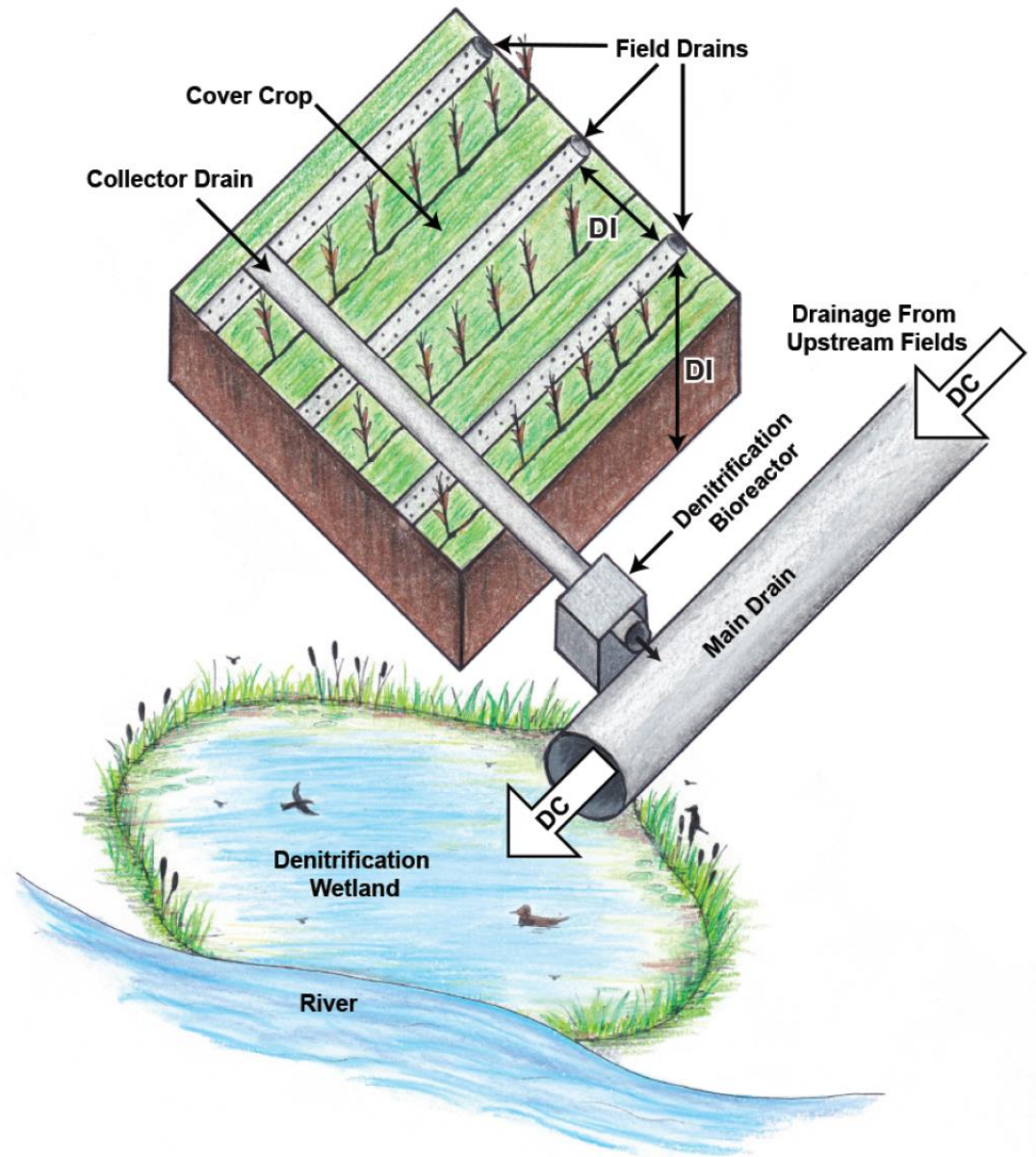


Future Fertilizer Management Sustainability Projects:

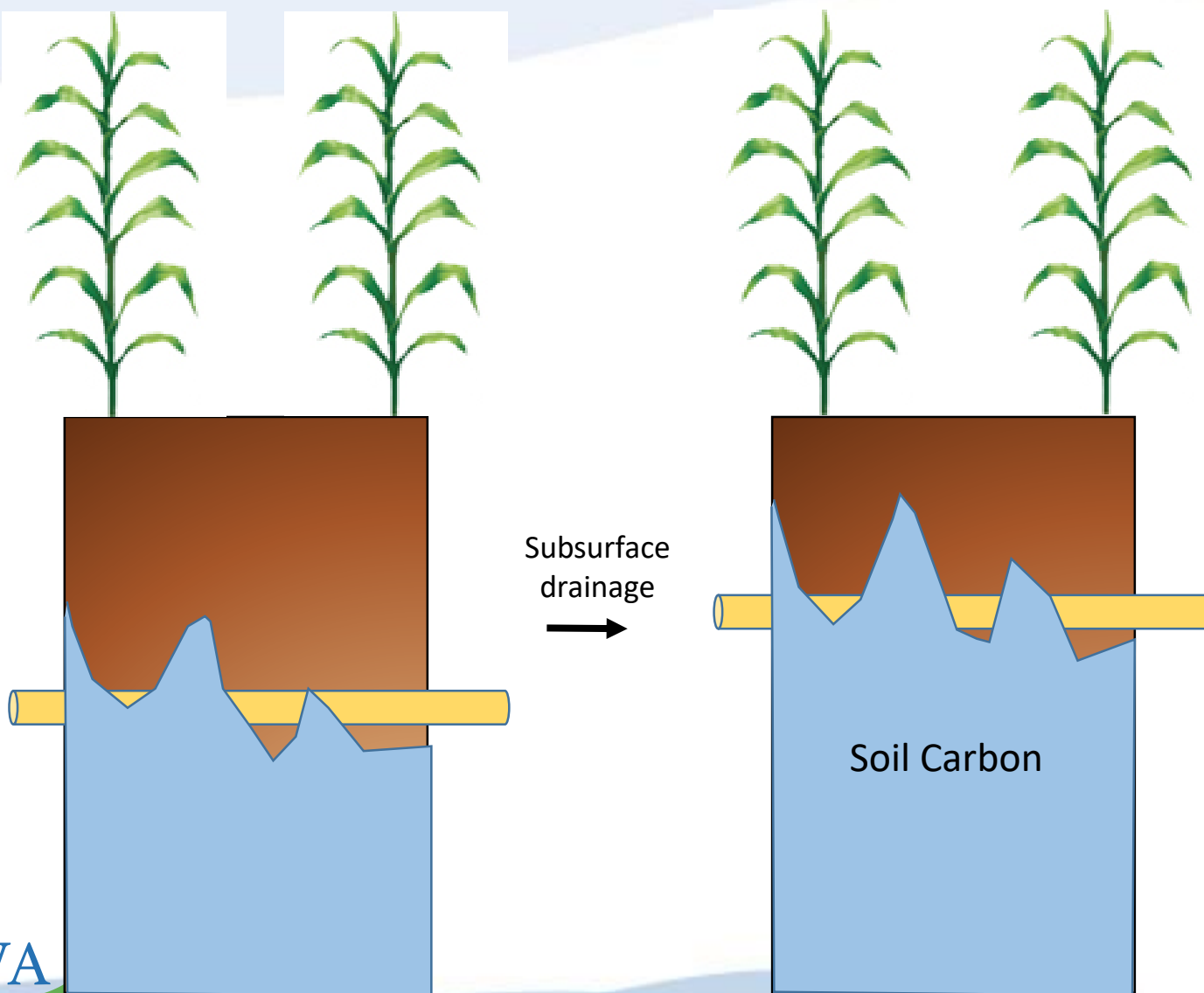
- Fertilizer Management payment flexibility in RCPP in exchange for new practices.
- Payments to Ag Retail for EQIP Contracts
- Supply Chain partnerships driven by consumers
- Payments for Ecosystem Services
- Systems Approach to Sustainable Intensification of ag drainage

Alternatives

- Wetlands
- Saturated buffers
- Shallow drainage
- Controlled drainage



Shallow drainage: robust soil carbon sequestration



IAWA

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WATER ALLIANCE

www.iowaagwateralliance.com

NASDA National Public Private Partnerships Award – IAWA Business Council



IA

ce.com

Questions?

Get involved!

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