



# MWRD & Farm Bureau's Collaboration to Advance Nutrient Loss Goals



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# Agenda

- \*Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (IL NLRs)
- \*Farm Bureau's commitment to the IL NLRs
- \*Fulton County
- \*Cook County
- \*Future collaborations

# Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (IL NLRs)

## NLRs

- \* Science-based framework
- \* Research, technology & industry experience to assess & reduce nutrient loss to IL waters & to the Gulf of Mexico
- \* Released in July of 2015
- \* Multiple years of stakeholder discussion

## By year 2025 from established baselines, we will have

- \* Reduced total nitrogen losses by 15%
- \* Reduced total phosphorus losses by 25%

Long-term goal of a 45-percent reduction in the loss of these nutrients to the Mississippi River



# Farm Bureau's Commitment to the IL NLRs

## Overview

\* Farm Bureau has committed nearly \$2.4 million to build & maintain its stewardship programs

## NLRs priority areas

1. Education & research to farmers, landowners & public
2. Supporting research of BMPs to reduce loss from agricultural fields
3. Supporting farmer implementation efforts across the state
4. Demonstrating progress towards the long-term goals of IL NLRs

# Farm Bureau's Commitment to the IL NLRs

## Nutrient Stewardship Initiatives

- \*In-person learning- field days, workshops, webinars, conferences & presentations
- \*Media- articles, earned media, social media
- \*Media- radio & television





# Fulton County Site

MWRD voluntarily established a program at its Fulton County test site to foster collaboration with the agricultural sector to develop & expedite nutrient reduction practices

## Project description

- \* Originally purchased in 1970's to restore strip-mined land
- \* 13,500-acres
- \* 4,000-acres were converted to productive farmland
- \* Located between Canton & Cuba, IL
- \* 190 miles southwest of Chicago & 40 miles southwest of Peoria



# Fulton County Site

## Project description

- \*Developing & demonstrating the effectiveness of in-field & edge-of-field BMPs
- \*Disseminating BMPs to farmers via field days & various media
- \*Establishing the Fulton County site as a model to foster collaboration between point sources & ag sectors





# Fulton County Site

## Research & demonstration projects

- \* Interseeded cover cropping
- \* Riparian grass buffer
- \* Denitrifying bioreactors
- \* Runoff irrigation
- \* Subirrigation
- \* Drainage water management
- \* Designer biochar
- \* Watershed-scale nutrient reduction demonstration





## Fulton County Site

The research & demonstration projects have spurred increased collaboration among partners in new & exciting ways, sharing their work to regional agricultural communities, through annual field days, workshops & publications

### Partners

- \* University of IL at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Crop Science Department
- \* UIUC Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering
- \* IL Sustainable Technology Center
- \* IL Central College
- \* Ecosystem Exchange
- \* IL Farm Bureau
- \* Fulton County Farm Bureau
- \* Cook County Farm Bureau



# Fulton County Field Days

## Field Days

- \* 2018 & 2019
- \* Internal-facing virtual focus group with stakeholders (2020)
- \* 2021 & 2022
- \* Plans are underway for 2023

<https://vimeo.com/569134054/a67ad0cc1b>





## Cook County Efforts

### 2021

- \*Leader & staff attendance at field days
- \*MWRD tour & partnership discussion

### 2022

- \*Leader & staff attendance at field days
- \*MWRD tour & partnership discussion
- \*Compost & biosolid promotions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTsxSbJom8s>



# Cook County Efforts

## 2023 plans

- \*Leader & staff attendance at field days
- \*Stakeholders discussion
- \*White paper on NLRs efforts to date
- \*Struvite research support
- \*Struvite webinar

## Struvite research support

- \*Margenot research group at the University of IL
- \*Struvite is a viable P source for corn, soybean & wheat
- \*Research site in Cook County
- \*Row crop farm
- \*Specialty crop farm





# Questions

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*Any Questions?*

