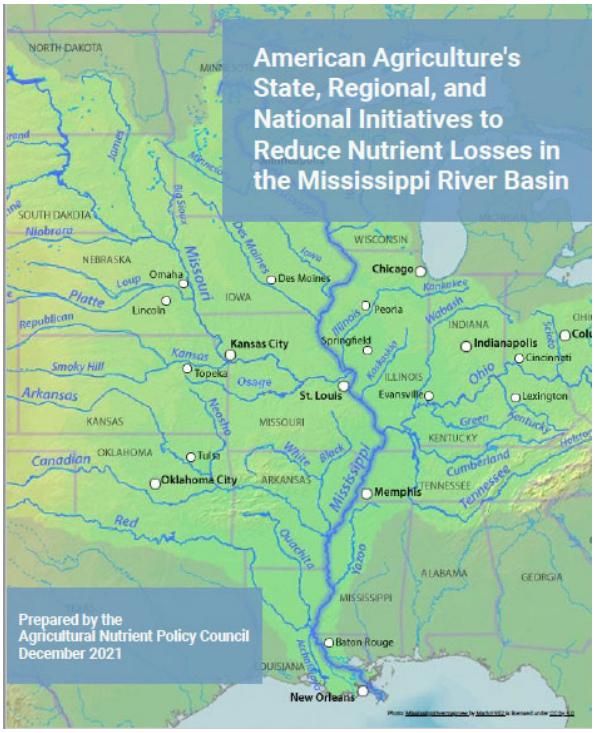
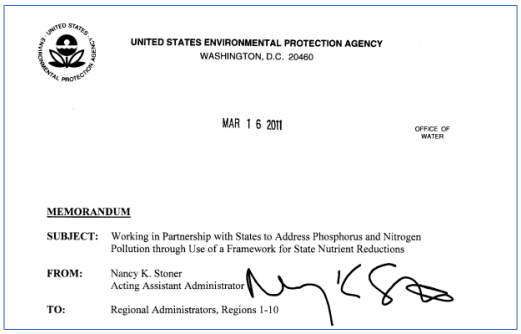


Agriculture's Nutrient Loss Reduction Efforts in the MRB

A Presentation to the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force
Agricultural Nutrient Policy Council

Ms. Lauren Lurkins, President
Mr. Tom Hebert, Senior Advisor

December 14, 2021



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 16 2011

OFFICE OF WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Working in Partnership with States to Address Phosphorus and Nitrogen Pollution through Use of a Framework for State Nutrient Reductions

FROM: Nancy K. Stoner
Acting Assistant Administrator

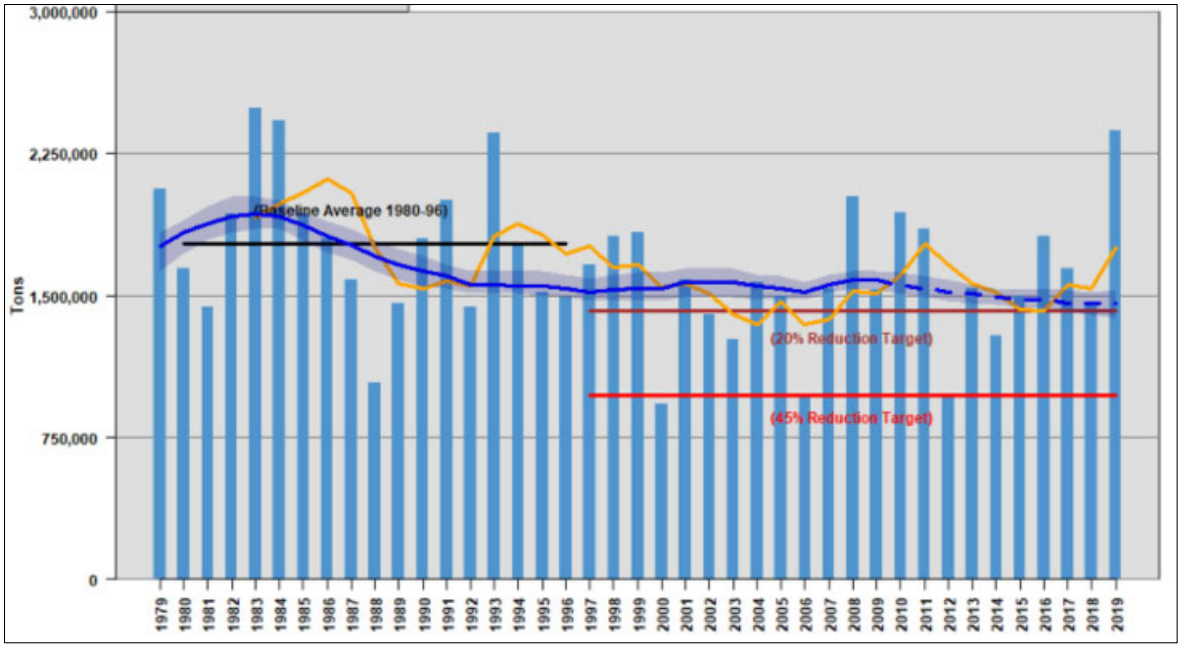
TO: Regional Administrators, Regions 1-10

Recommended Elements of a State Framework for Managing Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution

1. Prioritize watersheds on a statewide basis for nitrogen and phosphorus loading reductions
2. Set watershed load reduction goals based upon best available information
3. Ensure effectiveness of point source permits in targeted/priority sub-watersheds
4. In partnership with state agricultural partners target the most effective practices where they are needed most.
5. Identify how the State will use its tools assure nutrient reductions from unpermitted communities and systems
6. Identify where and how each of the tools identified above will be used within targeted/priority sub-watersheds
7. Conduct annual public reporting of implementation activities and biannual reporting of load reductions and environmental impacts
8. Develop work plan and schedule for numeric criteria development

"We hope that the framework will encourage development and implementation of effective state strategies for managing nitrogen and phosphorus pollution. "

USGS reported trends in annual total nitrogen loads to the Gulf of Mexico – 16% reduction of 16% from baseline



Farmer-Led Partner Alliances

IAWA
IOWA AGRICULTURE WATER ALLIANCE

MAWRC
MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCE CENTER

KANSAS Soil Health ALLIANCE

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.
Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program

INDIANA AGRICULTURE NUTRIENT ALLIANCE

Arkansas Soil Health Alliance
@Arsoilhealth

OACI
Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative

PRECISION CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

ILLINOIS SUSTAINABLE AG PARTNERSHIP

South Dakota Soil Health Coalition

Farmer-led or supported research, education & practice implementation programs

IowaNREC.org
Agriculture. Science. Environment.

ARKANSAS DISCOVERY FARMS PROGRAM

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Farmers Investing in their Future
MinnesotaCorn GROWERS ASSOCIATION

DISCOVERY FARMS MINNESOTA

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.
Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program

ILLINOIS NREC

Minnesota
Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC)

Indiana Science Assessment

PRECISION CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

SHOW ME NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP
Missouri FERTILIZER CONTROL BOARD

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH & EDUCATION TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION & HABITAT

Agricultural Water Quality Monitoring Program

MissouriCorn PLANTING OPPORTUNITY

MISSOURI SOYBEANS

MAWRC
MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCE CENTER

DISCOVERY FARMS WISCONSIN

4R Certification or Promotion Programs

Wisconsin nutrient stewardship Sustainable 4RWI

Minnesota

SHOW ME NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP Missouri FERTILIZER CONTROL BOARD

Indiana

KEEP IT 4R CROP nutrient stewardship Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association IFCA

Ohio

Active Farmer Participation in Federal, State and NGO Practice-Adoption Programs

EPA National Nonpoint Source Program
—a catalyst for water quality improvements

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Soil and Water Conservation Cost-Share Practices

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & LAND STEWARDSHIP
Plant cover crops, get crop insurance discount
cleanwater IOWA

MAEAP Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

H2Ohio

Illinois Department of Agriculture
Cover Crops Premium Discount Program

KANSAS COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

TN Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund

RCPP Regional Conservation Partnership Program
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts www.nrdnet.org
Protecting Lives • Protecting Property • Protecting the Future

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN HEALTHY WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Farmers Own Private fforts

Iowa BMP Mapping Project

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

HUC 12s mapped	Pond dams (number)	Grassed waterways (acres)	Terraces (miles)	WASCOBs (miles)	Contour buffer strips (acres)	Strip cropping (acres)
1,710	111,721	281,088	89,081	11,144	386,258	108,681

Our Requests

- Give strong, ongoing and clear support for the core principles of the Obama 2011 Framework Memo, and carry these policies forward
- Federal partners engage directly and meaningfully with state stakeholders responsible for the success of the state strategies
- Fund the practices called for in the strategies, and do so in a way that is practical for farmers
- Help us develop a farmer-led practice data collection effort
- Foster strong collaborative efforts between agriculture and our municipal neighbors and partners

Thanks!