

ILLINOIS NUTRIENT LOSS REDUCTION STRATEGY SURVEY

OMB No.0535-0273
Approval Expires: XX/XX/XXXX
Project Code: 483
Survey ID: 3879
FIPS: 17



United States
Department of
Agriculture



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA/NASS - Illinois
Heartland Region
9700 Page Ave, #400
St. Louis, MO 63132-1547
Phone: 1-800-551-1014
Fax: 1-855-270-2717
E-mail: NASSRFOHLR@usda.gov

Please make corrections to name, address, and ZIP Code, if necessary.

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. Your response will be kept confidential and any person who willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you or your operation is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both. This survey is conducted in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2018, Title III of Pub. L. No. 115-435, codified in 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35 and other applicable Federal laws. For more information on how we protect your information please visit: <https://www.nass.usda.gov/confidentiality>. Response is voluntary.

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SECTION 1 - CROPLAND ACRES

Please report your total cropland acres on all the land you operated in 2025. Also, provide a breakdown of acres with tiling and without tiling. **NOTE: TILE DRAINED** acres refers to acres drained by clay tiles, perforated plastic pipes, and pattern tile systems.

Please report your operation's total cropland acres on all the land you operated including a breakdown of acres with tile drained and non-tile drained in 2025.

Note: TILE DRAINED acres refers to acres drained by clay tiles, perforated plastic pipes, and pattern tile systems.

1. Of all land operated in 2025, how many acres were:	Tile Drained	Non-tile Drained	TOTAL
a. Acres planted to corn?	115	116	114
b. Acres planted to soybeans?	125	126	124
c. Other acres of cropland?	135	136	134
d. Total cropland?	105	106	104

SECTION 2 - NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Please consider your nutrient applications in preparation for the 2025 crop season. Review the enclosed map of Illinois and the table of Nitrogen application rates. The goal is to gather the number of CORN acres your operation fertilized AT or BELOW the Maximum Return to Nitrogen (MRTN) rate for the area.

Consider the total CORN acres in 2025 and all the Nitrogen applications to those acres:

2021 ACRES

1. On how many CORN acres did your operation use the University of Illinois Recommended total Nitrogen rate (also known as Maximum Return to Nitrogen - MRTN) or LESS than that rate?
(refer to the attached map and chart)

202

- a. What influenced your operation's decision in determining the total Nitrogen rate (e.g. fertilizer provider, crop consultant, farm management software, etc.) List all that apply.

210

2. Of the total CORN ACRES in 2025, please record the acres fertilized with the strategies listed below.

EXCLUDE manure applications.

Please consider all the acres of CORN your operation planted in 2023, and all the fertilizer your operation applied for that crop.

CORN ACRES

- a. How many CORN acres were fertilized with dry fertilizer blends containing Nitrogen in the fall and winter preceding 2025?
- b. How many CORN acres were fertilized with Anhydrous Ammonia during the fall and winter preceding 2025?
- i. Of those acres fertilized with Anhydrous Ammonia in the fall and winter, on how many acres did your operation fertilize using a nitrification or urease inhibitor?
- c. Of the operation's total CORN acres, how many acres were part of a split-application, where some of the Nitrogen was applied in the spring and some in fall or winter (split application acres)?
- d. How many CORN acres were fertilized with 100% of your operation's needs during the spring of 2025 (spring only Nitrogen applications)?
- e. Of all the acres your operation fertilized in the spring with Nitrogen, including split application acres and spring only acres, on how many acres did your operation fertilize using a nitrification or urease inhibitor?

215

216

217

218

219

220

SECTION 3 - PHOSPHORUS APPLICATIONS and REASONS for REDUCING

1. Did your operation reduce PHOSPHORUS applications since 2013?

1 ☐ Yes - Continue 3 ☐ No - Go to Section 4

ACRES

- a. On how many acres has your operation reduced phosphorus applications since 2013?

350

2. What influenced your operation's decision in reducing phosphorus applications:

- a. The Illinois Agronomy Handbook removal rates for phosphorus were updated in 2019?

Yes ☐ - Continue 3 No ☐ - Go to page 3, question 2b

ACRES

- i. On how many acres did your operation reduce phosphorus applications because of the Illinois Agronomy Handbook?

701

SECTION 3 - PHOSPHORUS APPLICATIONS and REASONS for REDUCING, Continued

2b. Soil test Information?

1 ☐ Yes - Continue 3 ☐ No - Go to question 2c

i. On how many acres did your operation reduce phosphorus applications because of the soil test results?

ACRES

702

2c. Other reasons, including cost: Please list below.

710

ACRES

i. If other reasons, on how many acres did your operation reduce phosphorus applications?.....

703

3. Has your operation changed the placement of phosphorus to move from broadcast to subsurface application or banding application?

1 ☐ Yes - Continue 3 ☐ No - Go to Section 4

ACRES

a. On how many acres did your operation change placement of phosphorus from broadcast to subsurface or banding?

351

SECTION 4 - COVER CROPS

COVER CROPS refers to crops including grasses, legumes and forbs planted for conservation purposes, including erosion control, improving soil structure, moisture, and nutrient content, increasing beneficial soil biota, or providing habitat for insects, pollinators and wildlife.

2021 ACRES

1. On how many acres did your operation plant cover crops preceding the 2023 crop?

400

a. Of those acres, how many acres utilized cover crops prior to CORN?

401

b. Of those acres, how many acres utilized cover crops prior to SOYBEANS?
EXCLUDE double-crop soybeans planted after winter wheat cash crop.

402

SECTION 5 - GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

For these next questions please enter the code that best describes your level of knowledge.

1. What is your level of knowledge of:

CODES

ENTER CODE

a. The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy?

1 - Not at all
knowledgeable

517

b. Maximum Return to Nitrogen (MRTN) strategy?

2 - Slightly knowledgeable

506

c. Wood chip bioreactors?

3 - Somewhat
knowledgeable

508

d. Constructed Wetlands?

4 - Knowledgeable

518

e. Cover crop management (species selection, planting dates, termination strategy, etc.)?

5 - Very knowledgeable

519

f. Saturated buffers?

520

SECTION 6 - OTHER TECHNIQUES

1. Does this operation use any other practices to reduce nutrient losses from your fields?

1 ☐ Yes - Continue

3 ☐ No - Go to Survey Results

2. What practices are you using? Please list/explain below

**ACRES
PRACTICES USED**

810

a. Specify:

801

811

b. Specify:

802

812

c. Specify:

803

Survey Results: To receive the complete results of this survey on the release date, go to: nass.usda.gov/results

To have a brief summary emailed to you, please enter your email address:

1095

Comments related to the information you reported:

Contact Information

Operation Email: (if different from above)

Operation Phone:

9937

9936

check if
cell phone
☐

Respondent Name:

Respondent Phone: (if different from above)

9912

9911

check if
cell phone
☐

9910 MM DD YY
Date: _ _ _ _ _

This completes the survey. Thank you for your help.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Response	Respondent	Mode	Enum.	Eval.	Change	Office Use for POID								
1-Comp	9901	1-Op/Mgr	9902	1-PASI (Mail)	9903	9998	9900	9985	9989	_ _ _ - _ _ - _ _ _				
2-R		2-Spouse		2-PATI (Tel)										
3-Inac		3-Acct/Bkpr		3-PAPI (Face-to-Face)										
4-Office Hold		4-Partner		6-Email										
5-R - Est		9-Other		7-Fax										
6-Inac - Est				19-Other						9921	9907	9908	9906	9916
7-Off Hold - Est														
S/E Name														