

Nutrient Research and Education Council  
Final Grant Report

Title: Finding Today's Baseline for Agriculture in Champaign County

Grantee: Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District

Grant Award: \$5,000

Grant Objective: Objective of the grant was to create a survey to collect data in order to form a baseline of current farming operations in Champaign County that reduce the loss of crop nutrients.

Summary: A survey instrument was developed with collected data to fulfill the project objective. The final survey instrument was developed by utilizing focus groups at several public meetings that included the Conservation Cropping Seminar and the Nutrient Management Conference. Additional input for the development survey was obtained from related committees of the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Champaign County Farm Service Agency office collected survey data as farmers report their corn and soybean acreage to the county FSA office. Data collection was completed on October 1.

Survey provided information addressing various cropping and fertilizer application practices by watersheds found within Champaign County. Collected survey data included tillage, cropping rotations, timing of nitrogen and phosphorus applications, usage of site specific cropping technologies and the use of covercrops.

Survey Results: 116 total respondents

Embarras      \_\_\_10,909\_\_\_ acres                      Middle Fork & Salt Fork \_\_\_32,817\_\_\_ acres  
Kaskaskia      \_\_\_17,019\_\_\_ acres      Sangamon      \_\_\_16,545\_\_\_ acres  
Little Vermillion \_\_\_5,364\_\_\_ acres

Tillage Practices: Acreage and number of responses

Crop	→ 2016 Total <u>Acre</u> s by crop	→ 2015 Total <u>Acre</u> s by crop	No- Tillage	Strip – Tillage	Mulch-Till & Reduced Tillage (15% or greater crop residue)		Conventional-Till (0-15% crop residue)	
					Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Corn after Soybeans	40,844 acres	34,682 acres	11	11	43	16	26	30
Corn after Corn	2,199 acres	1,670 acres	0	1	4	3	5	5
Soybeans	36,755 acres	30,972 acres	44	0	26	16	19	27
Wheat	371 acres	410 acres	4	0	2	0	0	1
Forage or other crops	70 acres	4 acres	2	0	0	0	0	0

Nutrient Application Practices - Nitrogen Fertilizers: 2015 crop. Number of responses

Crop	Fall Only Applied	Split Applied Fall & Spring	Spring- Pre-plant Only Applied	Split Applied Pre-plant and In-Season	Side Dress Only	Late Season
Corn	17	35	31	40	20	2
Wheat	1	3	2	0	0	0

Nutrient Application Practices - Phosphorus Fertilizers: 2015 crop. Number of responses

Crop	Fall Applied		Winter Applied	Spring- Pre-plant Only Applied	Starter-Planter Applied
	Broadcast	Band			
Corn	70	12	7	26	11
Soybeans	28	2	3	15	5
Wheat	7			1	0

Nutrient Application Rate Practices: Number of responses

Respondents utilizing any of the following nitrogen and phosphorus management technologies. Number of responses

Variable rate application of nitrogen. 21

Variable rate application of phosphorus: 67

Maximum Return to Nitrogen (MRTN) Calculator: 33

Respondents currently use cover crops. 30 representing 5,623 acres

Submitted by:

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