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ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS TOWARDS ADDRESSING NUTRIENT EFFICIENCY THROUGH RESEARCH

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – With funding from Illinois farmers and retailers, the Illinois Nutrient Research & Education Council (NREC) has worked with both public and private research organizations to identify agricultural management practices that increase nutrient efficiency and lead to better productivity and reduced environmental impact.

Each year NREC publishes an Annual Report which highlights the research projects that were funded during the previous crop year. The 2015 report focuses on projects that seek to maximize nutrient efficiency, minimize nutrient loss and mitigate potential negative environmental impacts. The projects have been divided into five main topic areas which align with the Council's mission and seek to fund research into many of the issues outlined in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

Projects focus on: 1) Efficiency of nitrogen utilization as affected by rate, timing and source of N use, 2) Recovery, capture or treatment of N remaining in field after harvest, 3) Treatment of water after it leaves the field, 4) Education and outreach on nutrient management and NREC funded projects

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and 5) Fertility studies not directly related to water quality impacts. A total of \$2.4 million was invested into these projects during the 2015 crop year. The report is now available on the NREC website at www.illinoisnrec.org.

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The Illinois Nutrient Research & Education Council (NREC) was created by state statute in 2012. Funded by a 75-cent per ton assessment on bulk fertilizer sold in Illinois, NREC provides financial support for nutrient research and education programs to ensure the discovery and adoption of practices that address environmental concerns, optimize nutrient use efficiency, and ensure soil fertility.

A 13-member NREC Council annually solicits, reviews and funds projects that fulfill the organization's mission. More information can be found at www.illinoisnrec.org.