

## Summer 2018



### Shani Golovay joins NREC as new research manager

Shani Golovay, Ph.D. is NREC’s new research manager. In her new role, Shani is responsible for overseeing research projects and helping to surface new projects. She will work closely with producers and researchers to assure that NREC is meeting the needs of its farmer investors.

Shani brings an impressive background of working in research, crop science, and academics. She has taught in higher education, and is just as comfortable on the ground as she is in the classroom. Her professional experience spans from the Mississippi Delta, to Northern California, to central Illinois. Shani received her Bachelor’s degree in Agronomy from the University of Illinois and her Master’s and Doctorate from Mississippi State University, where she concentrated on biotechnology and biochemistry of soil and environmental fate of herbicides.

She has worked on both ends of grant management – as a research investigator and as a grant facilitator.

An Illinois and Bond County farm native, Shani is the daughter of Berry and Karen File of Poca. Farm Energy Project. He previously served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Ad-visor on environment, education and natural resources issues to Illinois Governor Jim Edgar.

### New board members and leadership named

NREC met in August in Springfield for its annual meeting and seated two new board members and elected leadership. Marshall, III. farmer, Don Guinnip joined the Council, replacing retiring Director Ted Mottaz to represent Illinois Corn Growers. Tom Kelley, Agronomist for

Syngenta Seeds, joined the Council to represent Certified Crop Advisors. He replaces Andy Knepp whose term expired. Allen Grosboll officially attended his first meeting and is one of two representatives of the environmental community. Grosboll is with the Environmental Law Policy Center.

As part of the annual meeting, officers were elected. Jeff Kirwan was re-elected to serve as Chairman. Ed Corrigan was re-elected as Vice Chairman and Chuck Cawley, Illinois Department of Agriculture representative, will again serve at Secretary. Jenny Mennenga, a representative for the Illinois Soybean Association, was elected as treasurer.

In other business, the Council voted to continue the assessment rate at seventy-five cents per ton of fertilizer sold in Illinois. Several reports were delivered regarding current research projects and Executive Direct Julie Armstrong provided an update on all NREC activities.



Don Guinnip



Allen Grosboll



Tom Kelley

## October 2 is deadline for Research Proposals

NREC is now accepting research proposals for the 2019 calendar year. Projects should address the overall objective of advancing the scientific knowledge associated with practices or products that impact efficiency of nutrient use while maintaining crop productivity and at the same time strive to protect natural resources. Proposals are due by October 2 with funding decisions announced in late December.

This list of priorities has been developed from a combination of feedback from NREC stakeholders and from questions that have been identified through previous research projects. In addition to the research priorities listed on the web site, the Council has issued a specific call to include economic analysis within each project or for a project specifically designed to evaluate the economic implications of practices outlined in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs). The Council recognizes that for wide-spread adoption of these practices they will need to be evaluated on both an agronomic and economic basis.

The research priorities can be found on the NREC web site under the FUNDED PROJECTS/CURRENT RFPS tab.



Terminated rye grass cover crop and early soybean plants.

## NREC gets Social

Part of our mission is to take what researchers learn and deliver that information to farmers for direct application in their operations. NREC uses social media extensively to share that information, including a YouTube channel and Instagram.

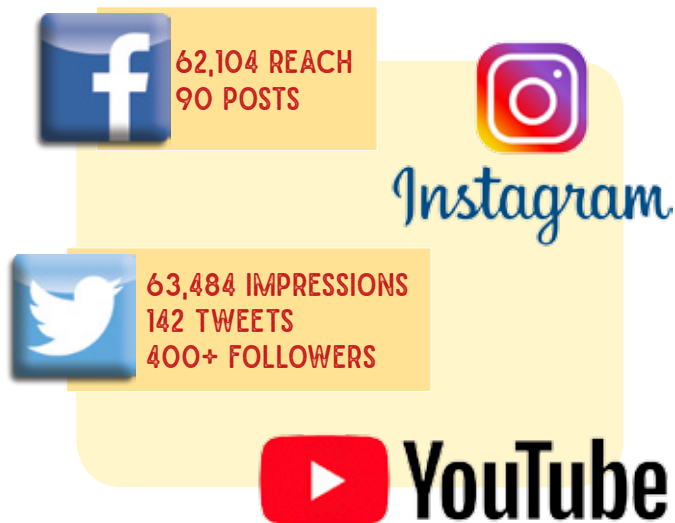
### How to find NREC through social media:

**Facebook:** IllinoisNREC/

**Instagram:** IL\_NREC

**Twitter:** @IllinoisNREC

**YouTube:** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPb0\\_oQzzj9IX-nDdV4Axw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPb0_oQzzj9IX-nDdV4Axw)



**Help us out.** Once we get 100 YouTube followers, we can apply for a custom url and make it easier for farmers and audiences to find our videos.



**Forrest, Illinois...** Farmers were invited to view and learn about multifunctional buffers on marginal farmland near Forrest plot. The research team has extracted microbial DNA from 120 soil samples since the plots were first established in 2016. The team uses the DNA extracts to learn about nitrogen-cycling microorganisms that respond to perennial systems.



## NREC after Five Years

This year NREC will mark five years since legislation was passed to create the organization and to assure that monies would be available for research funding. In those five years NREC has invested more than 12 million dollars in 54 unique projects.

Five committees are part of NREC's formal structure. Those committees are Executive, Research, Finance/Audit, Governance, and Outreach/Education. The Research Committee meets at least twice a year to review project research, set priorities, and recommend projects to the board for funding.

The NREC Council is comprised of industry professionals and includes nine voting individuals and four non-voting individuals. The Voting Council consists of three represen-

tatives of the fertilizer industry, three representing grower organizations with at least one coming from the State's largest farm organization (currently Illinois Farm Bureau), one representing the specialty fertilizer industry, one representing a certified agronomy organization and the Director of Agriculture of his or her designee. The non-voting members include two representing environmental organizations, one representing a state or federal agriculture research station, and the Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency or his or her designee.

The organizations designated in the bylaws nominate their representative and the Director of Ag selects the representatives from these nominations. Individuals can serve for two consecutive four-year terms

Council and committee members are listed on the NREC web site.



Throughout the years, the Research Committee and Council members assure that as much of the state as possible benefits from NREC-funded research. The counties in green indicate where research is currently being conducted.



**Flooding in Douglas County** – This photo shows what one study site in Douglas County looked like after heavy rains in April. The large circular pond in the center is a closed depression that has high soil P, which contributes to that specific tile under the pond.

Photo by Jason Solberg.



Farmers will easily recognize NREC-funded research with this flag and post stationed at a field in Piatt County.



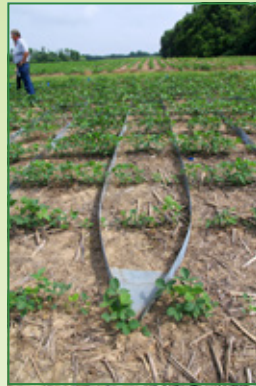
**JK Thacker** - Dr. Karl Rockne, University of Illinois Chicago, is taking samples in NREC's first constructed wetland for tile drainage treatment in Bureau County.

## On the Go

**June 12** Illinois NREC co-hosted the Southern Illinois University Field Day in Carbondale. More than 50 farmers and other participants attended to learn what NREC-funded research is being conducted at the SIU's agronomy fields. Five separate presentations were made with groups of farmers being transported by buses to the various field locations. One of the presentations included two research projects funded by NREC.



Dr. Jon Schoonover (left) and Dr. Karl Williard (right) present to one group of farmers and talked about their research on cover crops and saturated buffers effect on water quality.



Troughs were constructed around soybean plants to capture water for the purpose of measuring nitrates in runoff water.



A number of questions were asked of Dr. Schoonover and Dr. Williard as they ran through their presentations of research results.



## 2017 Annual Report on the Web

NREC's 18-page 2017 annual report is now on the NREC web site (under Resources). The report compiles the latest results of ongoing and new research, organized by five groups of focus areas.

1. Efficiency of nitrogen utilization as affected by rate, time and source of N used.
2. Recovering residual N inside field border.
3. Nutrient loss reduction strategies beyond field edge.
4. Evaluation of factors influencing dissolved reactive phosphate.
5. Evaluation of newly developed BMP's to insure they are not creating new environmental problems.

***Illinois agriculture's investment in the safe, efficient use of crop nutrients.***



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