

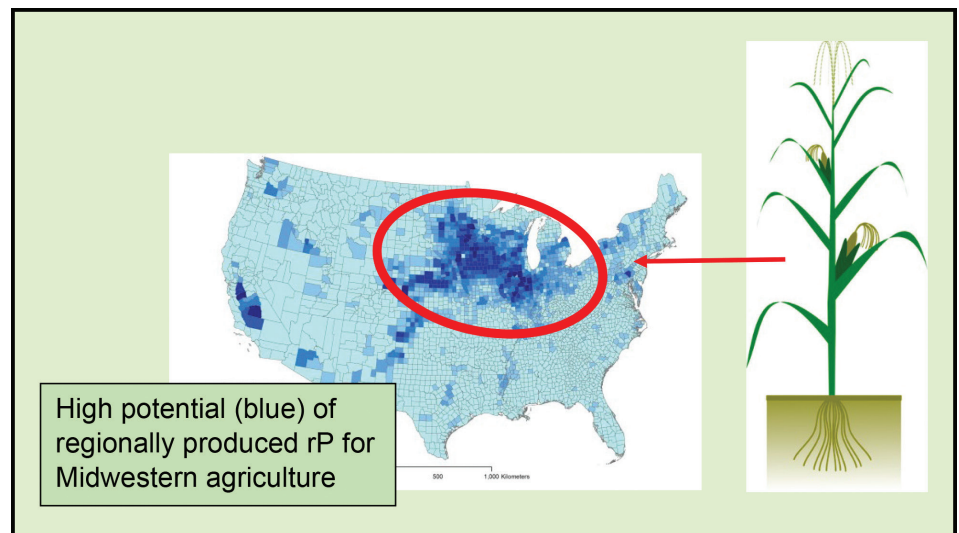
Investment Insight

Recent Research Results

Recycling Phosphorus Back to Agriculture – Can it work?

Dr. Andrew Margenot at the University of Illinois and his team are looking at the possibilities of recycling P for use on agricultural fields. This new research is an enhancement of research by Dr. Margenot where he is looking at slow-release P fertilizers to increase crop production and environmental quality.

With nearly half of all P used in agriculture eventually ending up in waste streams of municipalities and industry, Margenot reasons that there is a high potential to recover and re-use this P for agriculture. Specifically he is looking at struvite and phytin as potential P fertilizer sources and taking his research local to specific soil and climate regions of Illinois.



Preliminary findings have shown that P fertilizer (MAP) can be substituted by struvite by up to 50% for corn and 25% for soybeans without detrimental effects on crop growth and while decreasing P loss risk.

Margenot's research is also examining the regional and local economic benefits for industry, municipalities and ultimately agriculture. Additionally, his team is determining how re-using P

can help Illinois agriculture meet its production and stewardship goals. Field trials begin in 2019 on corn, soybean, and wheat acres in central and northern Illinois, with expansion to southern Illinois sites planned for 2020.

