




# Agricultural Practices in the Illinois River Watershed

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# 4 chapters in 20 minutes (or less)

- Ag practices recommendations
  - Success Stories (3/4 Full)
  - Challenges (1/4 Empty)
  - Summary
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# Integrated Management Plan adopted in 1997





## 7 Recommendations

14. Expand and revise voluntary cost share programs
15. Promote and implement cost effective efforts to treat non cropland erosion
16. Increase funding for C-Far
17. Expand voluntary farmer involvement with research teams



## 7 Recommendations (cont.)

18. Seek legislation to improve tax incentives for specific conservation activities
19. Expand existing programs to reach more producers with new technology
20. Investigate dedicated funding sources for soil erosion and water quality initiatives

# Success Stories 1

- × Public and Private Partnerships (many more than those listed)
  - × AISWCD and County Soil and Water Conservation Districts
  - × IDNR
  - × IDoA
  - × IEPA & USEPA
  - × US Army Corp of Engineers
  - × USDA – NRCS, FSA, RD, and Forest Service
  - × US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - × U of I Extension Service
  - × Non Government – TNC, PF, DU, FB, Watershed Groups, and many more

# Success Stories 2

## ■ Programs

- Working lands conservation = EQIP, CSP, WHIP, CPP, EPA-319, AWEP, FRPP
- Reserve programs = CRP, CREP, WRP, GRP, EWP-FPE, and land acquisition

# Success Stories 2a (Working Lands)

- EQIP Highlights (\$12 to \$17 million/yr Illinois)
  - Increased adoption of No-till, Strip Till, & Nutrient Management
  - Increased development and implementation of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans and Forestry Management Plans
  - Continued support for the installation of structural conservation practices
- CSP, CSP, WHIP, AWEP, CPP, EPA-319



# Success Stories 2b (Reserve programs)


- CREP Highlights (126,951 acres enrolled in watershed)
  - State enrollments totaling 81,995 acres
  - Removes sensitive agricultural land from production and establishes conservation cover
  - Promotes wildlife habitat, improves water quality, reduces soil erosion, and reduces flood damage
- CRP = 1,050,746 acres statewide
- WRP = 11,480 ac. in watershed, and GRP, EWP-FPE
- TNC, IDNR, and Forest Preserve acquisitions



# Success Stories 3

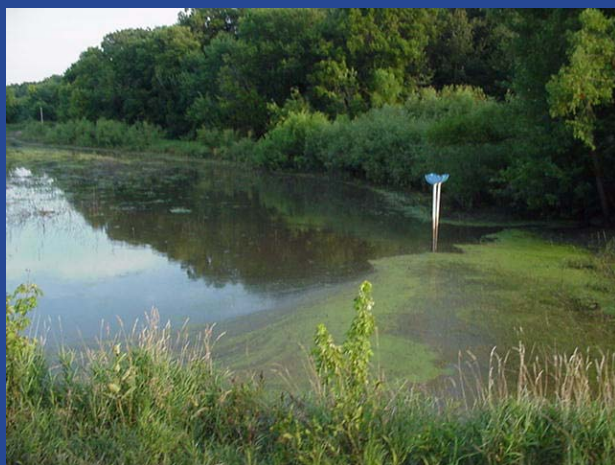
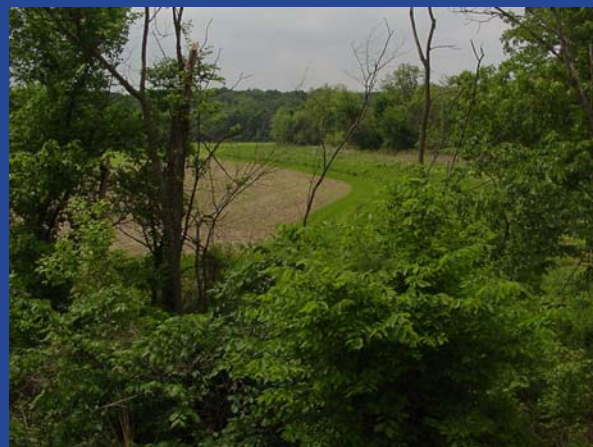
- People = Landowners and operators, land improvement contractors, agencies, special interest groups, and volunteers

# Success Stories 4

- Practices on the land
    - Soil quality (sediment & erosion reduction)
    - Surface and ground water quality and quantity
    - Air quality
    - Plant health
    - Wildlife habitat
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# United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service







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# Challenges

- *Financial:* Stable funding for programs and staff delivering programs and providing technical expertise.
- *Technical:* Cost effective measures to address erosion in bluff areas
- *Others:* Landowner Interest





# Summary

- $\frac{3}{4}$  full - Major progress has occurred in the implementation of conservation practices on agricultural land since 1997.
- $\frac{1}{4}$  empty – There is more to do and human and financial resources are stretched very thin.



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