

Protect Your Nutrient Investment and Protect Everyone's Water



No One Wants to Lose—or Can Afford to Lose—Nutrients Needed for Crop Production.

Help Illinois Agriculture Avoid Nutrient Regulations

Follow these Best Management Practices to KEEP IT FOR THE CROP:

1. If you fall apply anhydrous ammonia, protect your nitrogen investment and protect the environment: **USE A NITRIFICATION INHIBITOR.** Used at appropriate rates, inhibitors are proven to reduce nitrification and protect against nitrate leaching losses.
2. To further reduce the potential for nitrogen loss, **wait until the daily maximum soil temperature at 4 inches is 50°.** Measure the soil temperature in your field. Soil temps by region are also available at www.ifca.com. The soil temperature, not the calendar, should be your guide.
3. Fall applied nitrogen should NOT be applied on poorly drained soils, soils with excessive drainage, soils low in organic-matter content, sandy soils or soils that cool down late and warm up early (roughly south of IL Route 16).
4. **Use the appropriate rate** to get the maximum return on your nitrogen investment. Go to <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/nrate.aspx> and utilize the nitrogen rate calculator.
5. **Manage nitrogen as a system instead of an application—consider split applications.** Talk to your certified crop adviser/nutrient management adviser about applying part of your nitrogen closer to when the crop needs it most.
6. **Soil test** on a regular and consistent basis (at least every 4 years) to assure proper management of P, K and pH. Variable rate applications can also improve nutrient efficiency and economic return under certain conditions.

Illinois Priority Watersheds to Reduce Nutrient Loss

nutrient stewardship

KIC 2025
Keep It for the Crop by 2025

Watershed	Target Nutrient
Lake Bloomington	Total Phosphorus Nitrate
Lake Vermilion	Total Phosphorus Nitrate
Lake Decatur	Total Phosphorus Nitrate
Vermilion River (Illinois Basin)	Nitrate
Salt Fork Vermilion River (Wabash Basin)	Nitrate
Lake Mauvaise Terre	Total Phosphorus Nitrate

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Illinois Council on Best Management Practices C-BMP

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These guidelines apply not only to the priority watershed areas on this map, but state-wide.

Use the 4R's: **Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place.**

Go to www.nutrientstewardship.com to learn more about the 4R framework and recommendations for nutrient stewardship.

This message brought to you by the Illinois Council on Best Management Practices. Visit us at www.illinoiscbmp.org or at www.KIC2025.org.

This document references the 24th Edition of the Illinois Agronomy Handbook