

MILLER CREEK PHASE III

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District Publication

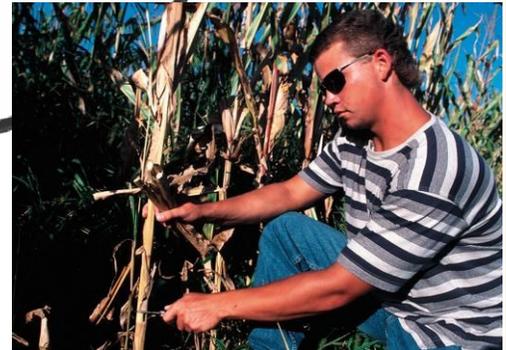
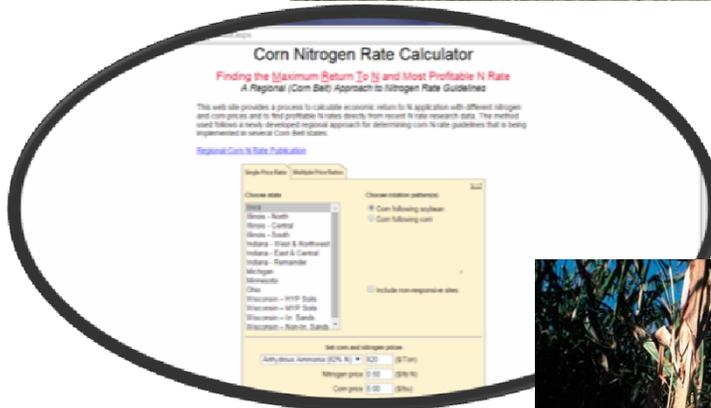
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2015 Annual Newsletter

REDUCTION STRATEGY

Miller Creek was approved for a Phase III project that started in July 2014 focusing on nutrient management practices to reduce excessive nutrients entering Miller Creek. Phase III is modeled after Iowa's Reduction Strategy due to the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia problem. The SWCD is helping producers address excess nutrient runoff by offering cost-share on Nutrient Management tools. Not only will these tools help improve water quality but producers over time will be able to see the benefits to their operations. If you are interested in your bottom line and want to help improve water quality please contact the Watershed Coordinator, Linda Shumate at 641-932-5144 Ext. 112 for more information.



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TOOLS

- *GPS Soil Grid Sampling
- *Fall Stalk Nitrate Testing
- *Late Spring Nitrate Testing
- Water Monitoring
- No-Till Systems
- Mid-Season Tissue Sample
- IA State Extension Corn N Calculator
- *4R Concept (Right Time, Right Place, Right Rate, Right Source)
- Maintain Records for future planning
- *Soil-Health Practices (increase organic matter & infiltration)

Landowners and Operators are eligible for cost-share on stated nutrient management practices. These tools can help producers determine their strategy each season. Example, lower quality soils may need organic matter to improve soil quality which can be accomplished with cover crops. These tools can also show you if you are over or under applying fertilizers to specific areas which can help producers make management decisions.

NITRATE REDUCTION IMPROVES WATER QUALITY

The Albia FFA Students are helping the Monroe County SWCD by tracking project progress by water monitoring and by assisting producers by collecting Fall Stalk Nitrate Samples & Late Spring Nitrate Samples. The data collected will help producers determine the best nutrient management strategy for their operation, potentially decreasing input costs while also helping to reduce nitrates and phosphates entering our streams. The data SWCD obtains from results will help determine the benefits of BMPs and if they are effective in reducing nutrient loss. Assistance from the SWCD & Albia FFA collecting samples is optional, confidential and free of charge. While nutrient management tools are effective in reducing nutrients, other practices such as, Grade Stabilization Structures (ponds), Cover Crops, Denitrifying Bioreactors, Wetlands, Saturated Riparian Buffers & CRP can also improve water quality by reducing excess nutrient runoff.



Monroe County SWCD

USDA-NRCS

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