

NREC COUNCIL

Voting Members

Gary Hudson, Farmer, Hindsboro IL

Dale Hadden, Farmer, Jacksonville IL

Matt Hughes, Farmer, Shirley IL

Dr. Howard Brown, GROWMARK,
Bloomington IL

Ed Corrigan, Brandt Consolidated,
Springfield IL

Matt Duncan, Crop Production Services,
Galesburg IL

Andy Knepp, IL Certified Crop Adviser,
Morton IL

Chris Matlock, FS Custom Turf,
Bloomington IL

Chuck Cawley, IL Department of
Agriculture, Springfield IL

Non-Voting Members

Dr. German Bollero, UI Department of
Crop Sciences, Urbana IL

Jessica Dexter, Environmental Law Policy
Center, Chicago IL

Marcia Willhite, IL EPA, Springfield IL

Dr. Cindy Skrukrud, Sierra Club,
Richmond IL

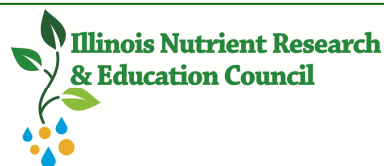
HOW IS NREC FUNDED AND MANAGED?

Public Act 97-0960 requires companies who are licensed to sell bulk fertilizer in Illinois to report their sales to the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Based upon reported tons sold, IDA invoices the fertilizer dealer the amount due to NREC and the fertilizer dealer is required to remit that amount directly to NREC as a condition of their license to sell fertilizer in Illinois.

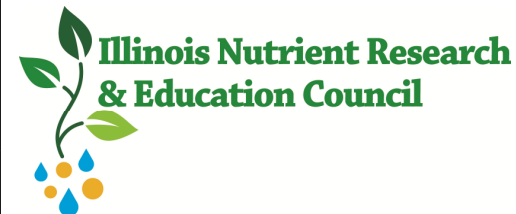
NREC is a public-private partnership; IDA plays a critical role in requiring payment of the NREC assessment, but the funds collected are held outside of state government and managed by NREC.

The NREC voting members determine the assessment of between 50¢ and \$3.00 per ton of fertilizer sold. The NREC Council set the assessment level at 75¢ cents per ton of fertilizer sold after August 15, 2012 and until further notice. This raises between \$2.5 to \$3 million per year. NREC is governed by a 13 member Council with 9 voting members from agriculture and 4 non-voting members from agencies, academia and environmental organizations.

The makeup of the Council members demonstrates a commitment to collaboration between agriculture, environmental groups and state agencies to work together to address nutrient issues in Illinois. Go to www.illinoisnrec.org to view NREC meeting minutes and details on funded projects.



14171 Carole Drive
Bloomington, IL 61705
ph 309.827.2774
www.illinoisnrec.org



2015 NREC PROJECTS

**ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE'S
INVESTMENT IN NUTRIENT
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TO:**

ENHANCE NUTRIENT UTILIZATION

INCREASE CROP PRODUCTION

PROTECT WATER QUALITY



The Nutrient Research & Education Council supports the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Framework:

**Right Source
Right Rate
Right Time
Right Place**

www.nutrientstewardship.com

ABOUT NREC

- NREC was created in 2012 by Public Act 97-0960. Its purpose is to pursue nutrient research and educational programs to ensure the adoption and implementation of practices that optimize nutrient use efficiency, ensure soil fertility and address environmental concerns with regard to fertilizer use.
- NREC is funded by an assessment on fertilizer sold in Illinois; these dollars demonstrate a commitment by agriculture to advance nutrient research at our state universities, including our land grant university which is responsible for supporting nutrient recommendations in the Illinois Agronomy Handbook.
- NREC solicits proposals that will improve nutrient efficiency, enhance crop production and protect water quality. The Council reviews each proposal and approves those projects deemed most likely to contribute to NREC's objectives and which will provide valuable information to Illinois farmers. Projects are ranked on their merit and availability of funds.
- NREC ensures that projects are progressing, and that each project will disseminate its findings to farmers and agribusiness. NREC produces an annual report, which is available at www.illinoisnrec.org. **In 2015, NREC allocated \$2.4 million with many projects focused on the activities outlined in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (INLRS).**

2015 NREC CROP PRODUCTION RESEARCH PROJECTS

Nutrient Removal Rates (UI)

This project collects corn, soybean and wheat samples from around the state at harvest to determine the grain uptake of phosphorus and potassium to ensure soil fertility recommendations are up to date.

Corn Research Program (UI)

This program uses data from on-farm nitrogen application rate studies to refine the nitrogen rate recommendations in the Illinois Agronomy Handbook, known as the MRTN (maximum return to nitrogen).

Residue Management & N Response (UI)

The study evaluates the effects of residue and tillage practices on corn yields if corn residue is to be removed as a source of feedstock for cellulosic ethanol production.

Cover Crop Assessment (UI, ISU and SIU-C)

The UI study looks at cover crops planted at 18 locations throughout Illinois to determine the agronomic and environmental benefits of cover crops in a corn and soybean rotation. ISU is evaluating how cover crops may reduce nutrient losses to streams and SIU-C is looking at how cover crops may reduce nitrate leaching in Southern IL.

Soil Quality (UI)

This project assesses the long-term physical, chemical and biological attributes of soil productivity and sustainability of corn/soybean rotations across all climate zones in Illinois.

Fertilizer Management & Nitrous Oxide (UI)

This study evaluates various fertilizer management practices to determine which ones may reduce nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizer application.

Multifunctional Buffers (UI)

This project focuses on buffer strips that can not only trap nutrients, but provide options for marketable specialty crops grown in the buffers.

2015 NREC WATER QUALITY/EDUCATION PROJECTS

Nitrogen Mgmt in Tile Drained Fields (UI & ISU)

At sites in McLean and Douglas Counties, researchers are working with farmers on nitrogen sources, rates and timings to quantify how various fertilizer practices can reduce losses of nitrate in tile drained systems.

Tracking Soil Nitrate (UI)

This study looks soil nitrate levels (N-WATCH) to determine if nitrogen management recommendations can be made based upon knowledge of movement of nitrogen in the soil following fertilizer applications.

Late Nitrogen Application in S IL (SIU-C)

The project looks at the feasibility of applying nitrogen later in the growing season in southern Illinois to reduce nitrogen loss potential and improve yields.

Bioreactors, Cover Crops & Rotation (UI)

This on-farm project will provide data to ground truth the effectiveness of bioreactors, cover crops and crop rotations which are activities in the INLRS.

Nutrient Removal Wetlands (Wetlands Institute)

This study advances the use of small, precisely placed wetlands within farmland for the purpose of capturing nutrients from tile drainage.

Farmer Nutrient Use Survey (ISU)

Farmers are surveyed on their nutrient management methods to track on-farm adoption of advanced methods to reduce nutrient losses.

Linking Practices to Water Quality (Notre Dame)

This project seeks to quantify water quality improvements after three years of conservation work in the Indian Creek Watershed in Livingston County.

Nutrient Education Programs (CBMP, CCA, ISU)

NREC is providing substantial resources to raise awareness of the goals of the INLRS by funding nutrient education programs and demonstration sites with the Council on Best Mgmt Practices, and with Certified Crop Advisers and lawn care professionals.