Illinois Council on Best Management Practices

August 2015

C-BMP
Illinois Council on Best Management Practices

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Coalition of agricultural organizations and agribusinesses:

- Illinois Farm Bureau
- Illinois Corn Growers Association
- Illinois Soybean Association
- Illinois Pork Producers Association
- Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association
- Syngenta
- GROWMARK
- Monsanto

C-BMP
Illinois Council on Best Management Practices

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Our Mission

To assist and encourage adoption of BMPs to protect and enhance natural resources and the sustainability of agriculture in Illinois

C-BMP
Illinois Council on Best Management Practices

KIC
Keep It for the Crop

CBMP Goals

- Information: Gather current and accurate information on effective/economically viable BMPs and programs
- Awareness: Increase awareness of water quality issues and BMPs
- Participation: Increase farmer participation in programs and adoption of BMPs
- Demonstration: Using the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy as a guide, demonstrate and track adoption of BMPs

Illinois Nutrient Research & Education Council

Cover Crop Training Initiative

- Utilize 5 regional cover crop specialists to provide training, education and outreach to promote use of cover crops for nutrient management in production agriculture
- Cover crop specialists will:
    - Set up meetings across the state
    - Partner with local SWCD, NRCS and Ag Departments at Community Colleges to establish a network for education and outreach
    - Develop cover crop plots across the state at community colleges and on farm locations to encourage student instruction and demonstration
    - For a complete listing of upcoming meetings visit www.illinoiscbmp.org

Cover Crop Training Initiative

Contact a Cover Crop Specialist

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Pete Fandel - North Central Illinois
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Dick Lyons - South Central Illinois
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Mike Plumer - Southern Illinois
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Dan Towery – Eastern Illinois
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Cover Crop Training Initiative

Mid-Year Results: (Jan. 1 – May 31, 2015)
33 cover crop related events
1,712 Attendees
20 future events scheduled (June 1 – Dec. 31)

Cover Crop 101 Video Series Developed
Printed brochures and planning check lists
Partnership with IDOA on RCPP in-kind support

Community College Plots

1. John Wood Community College/U of I Orr Center - Perry
2. Lake Land Community College - Mattoon
3. Parkland Community College - Champaign
4. Spoon River College - Canton
5. Lincoln Land Community College - Springfield
6. Illinois Central College – East Peoria
7. Black Hawk College – Moline

Demonstration Projects

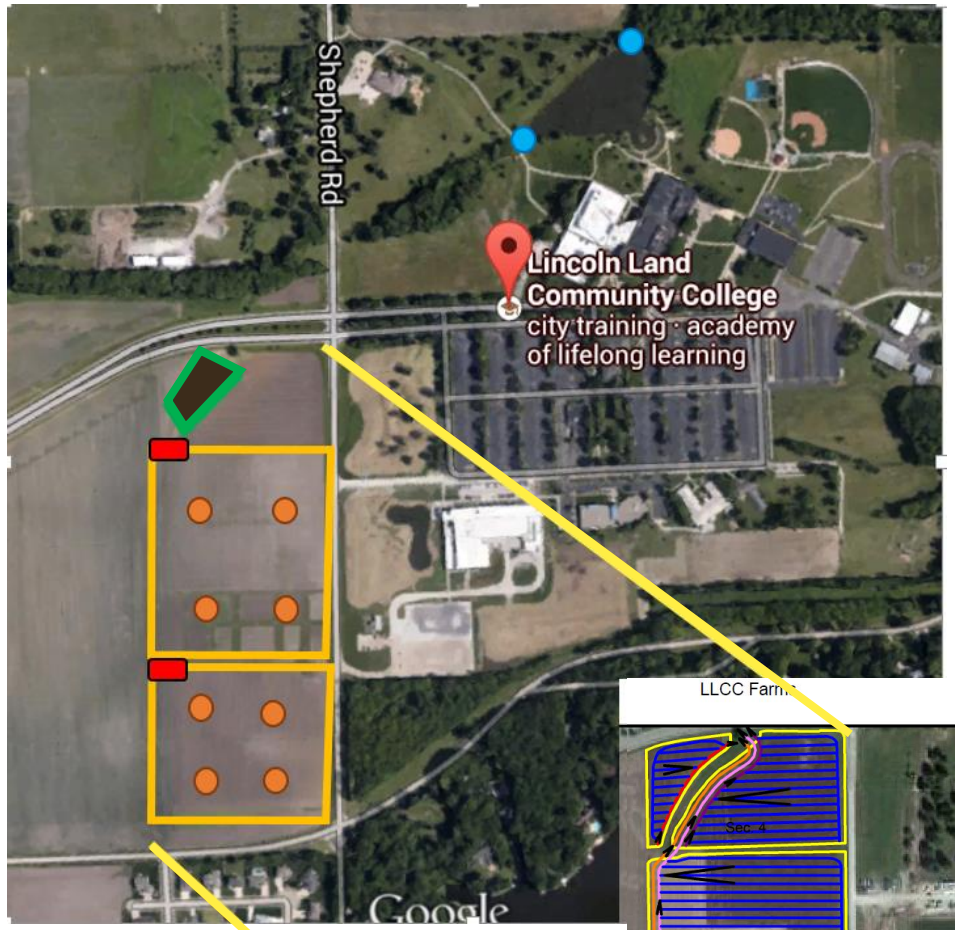
Illinois Demonstration Farms Partnership –
Three locations have been identified to add edge of field water monitoring to farm scale demonstration sites that have implemented one or more BMPs.

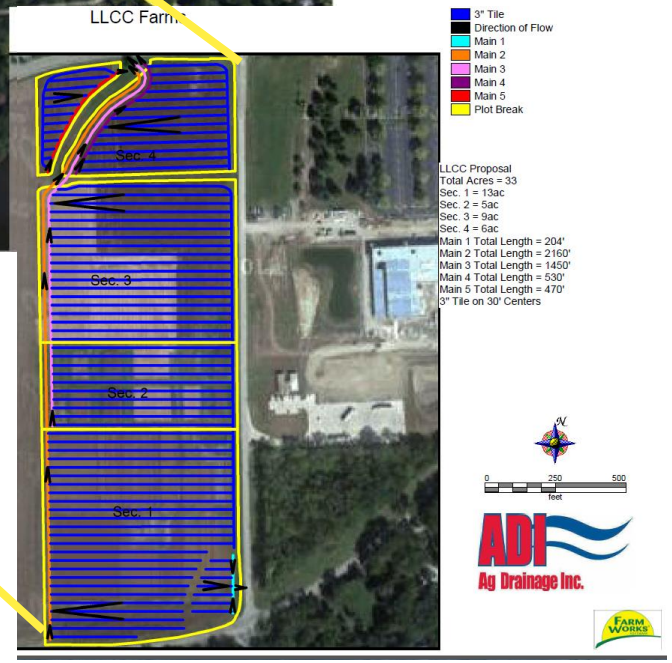
- Lincoln Land Community College – Sangamon Co.
- Roberts Site – Peoria Co.
- Illinois Central College – Peoria Co.

Demonstration Project

Lincoln Land Community College

- CBMP's Cover Crop Training Grant
- SWCD's 319 Grant –bioreactor
- Opportunity to be used for new Dept of Labor program training in Agricultural Watershed Management



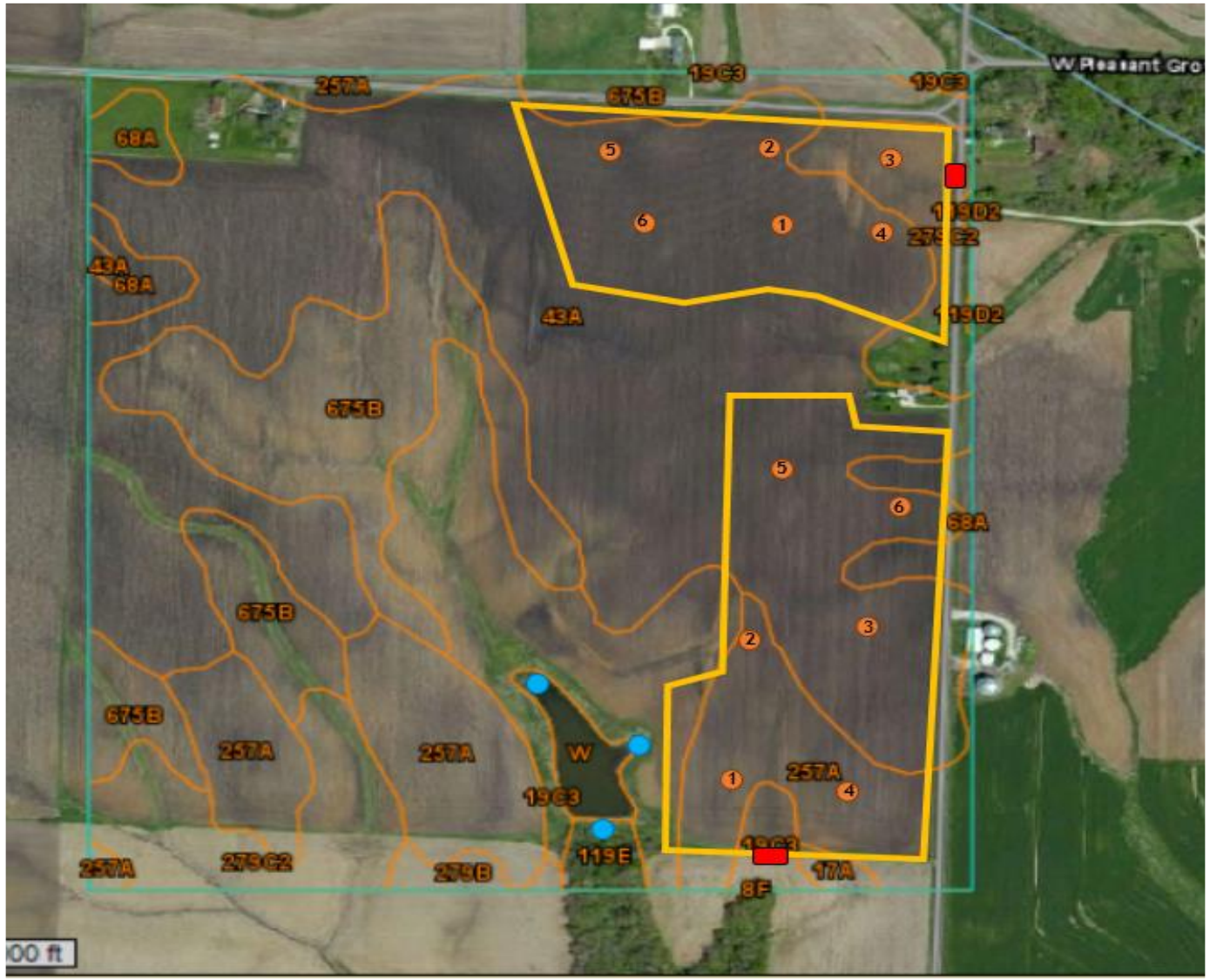


- Monitoring site
- Grab sampling
- Soil sampling
- Boundary of drainage area
- Boundary of bioreactor

Demonstration Project

Trivoli – Peoria Co. Site

- Monitoring site
- Grab sampling
- Soil sampling
- Boundary of drainage area



Demonstration Project

Illinois Central College

- Cover Crop Training Grant
- Cover Crop Herbicide Trials

Monitoring site
Grab sampling
Soil sampling
Boundary of drainage area

Demonstration Project

Equipment will be purchased and loaned out to local SWCDs to host weekly **Water Testing Open House** events for farmers to bring in water

Local Community College faculty will have access for using with ag classes

Measures ambient concentration of Nitrate and Ammonium

Collaborations

Trees Forever – $20,000
Illinois Buffer Partnership Over the past 15 years, this program has provided assistance to more than 200 demonstration projects across Illinois. Over 4100 acres of conservation buffers have been planted, protecting more than 57 miles of Illinois streams.

Kaskaskia River Watershed Project Heart Lands Conservancy - $20,000
This project will work directly with SIU-C and Dr. Karl W. J. Willard to provide an update and analysis of 14 monitoring locations across the Kaskaskia River basin. The first study was done approximately 10 years ago. This project will assess whether water quality trends improved, declined, or remained the same

Collaborations

Vermilion County Water Sampling Project - $4,000

Illinois CBMP provided cash support to the Vermilion County SWCD. Vermilion County SWCD wanted to collect current baseline data for nitrates in the tributaries of Lake Vermilion. The micro grant enabled the SWCD to cover the water sampling costs from April through August 2015.

American Farmland Trust (AFT) Partnership in Lake Mauvaise Terre - $4,000 cash support and $7,650 in-kind support

Illinois CBMP is supporting AFT with cash and in-kind support for education and outreach to watershed farmers and landowners in Lake Mauvaise Terre

N-WATCH

A tool to use with N Management Systems to monitor N dynamics at a point in the field

The tool can be used to learn more about N behavior and to build your confidence on how to better manage your second greatest input cost, nitrogen to

- **M**aximize utilization
- **O**ptimize yield
- **M**inimize environmental impact.

Developed N-WATCH 101 Video Series

CBMP funded 57 N-WATCH sites

8 Macon County
18 Vermilion County
13 Indian Creek/Vermilion River
18 Lake Springfield

N-WATCH
Sentinel Site Program

- The sentinel site program provides a way to watch the dynamics of plant-available N in the upper two feet of the soil profile over time by following abbreviated and anonymous local farmer N-WATCH Reports.
- CBMP sponsored 300 N-WATCH sites – 200 priority Watersheds and 100 at-large
- To sign up visit www.nwatchonline.com

CBMP Supports IFCA's Keep it 4r crop program

Nutrient stewardship program to reduce nutrient losses from agriculture, focusing on the 4Rs of Nutrient Use:

Right Source
Right Rate
Right Time
Right Place

Seeks to educate ag retailers and farmers:

- Managing nutrients as a system, not an application.
- It's about losing less nutrients and utilizing more.
- It's about accountability, and profitability

- On-farm Nitrogen Rate Trials

  CBMP Funded N-RATE Sites
  30 sites in the following priority watersheds
  Lake Decatur
  Lake Springfield
  Salt Fork Vermilion
  Vermilion River
  Evergreen Lake

Lake Springfield Watershed Nutrient Management Project

Project Timeline

- Three year project (2013 – 2016)

Funding Partners

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Springfield's City, Water, Light and Power

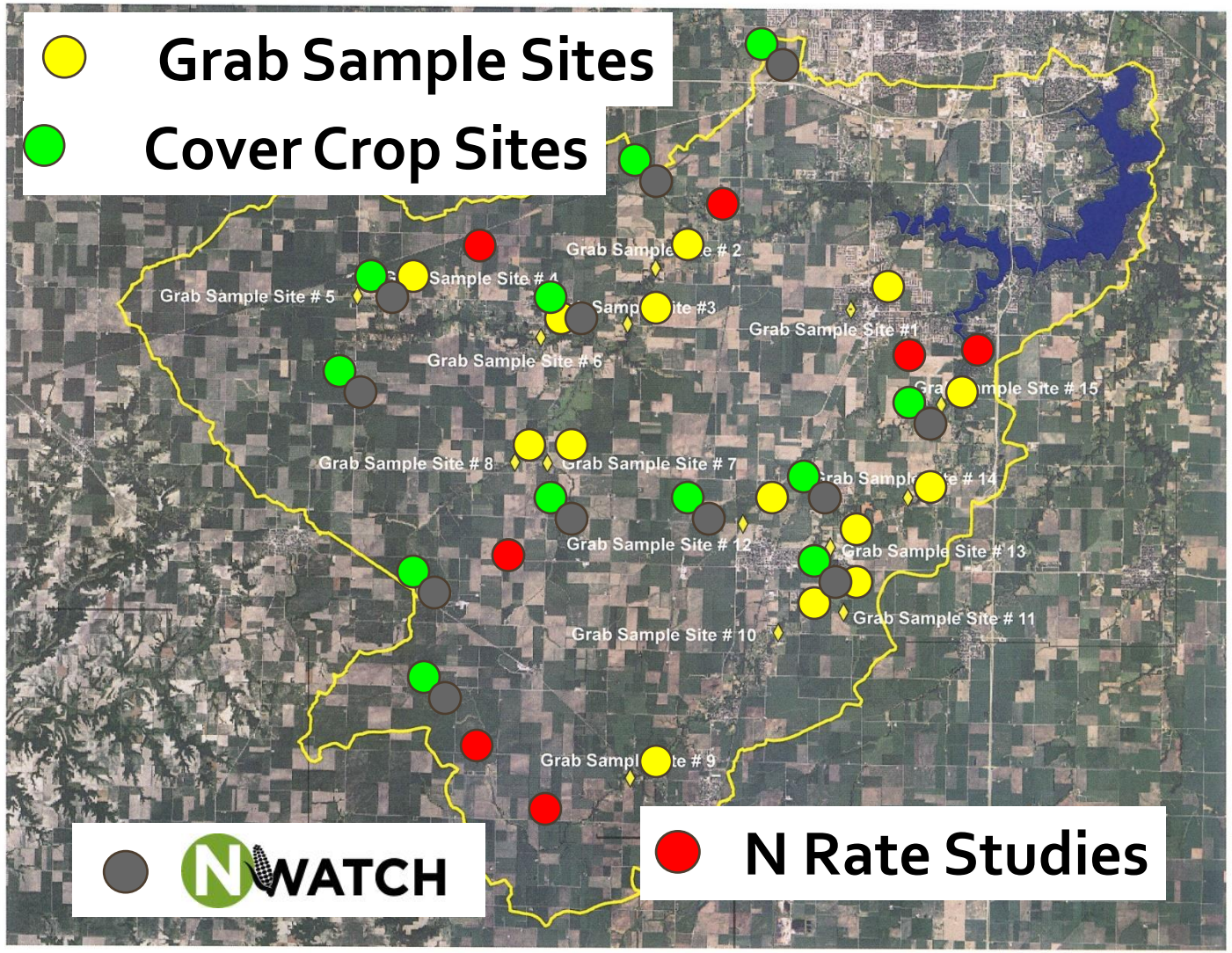
Project Goals

- Achieve a sustained reduction in nitrate loading from agricultural non-point sources
- Help understand the trends in nitrate levels within the Lake Springfield Watershed

Lake Springfield Watershed Nutrient Management Project

Year One Outcomes

- 27 producers are participating
- 12 farmers, 12 N-WATCH sites and 504 acres cover crops
- 6 farmers - Nitrogen Rate and Timing Studies.
- 9 farmers – Additional N-WATCH sites
- Twice weekly monitoring of 23 stream sites for nitrate nitrogen.


Grab Sample Sites
Cover Crop Sites
Grab Sample Site # 5
Grab Sample Site # 6
Grab Sample Site #1
Grab Sample Site # 15
Grab Sample Site # 8
Grab Sample Site # 7
Grab Sample Site # 12
Grab Sample Site # 13
Grab Sample Site # 11
Grab Sample Site # 10
NWATCH
N Rate Studies

Lake Springfield Watershed Nutrient Management Project

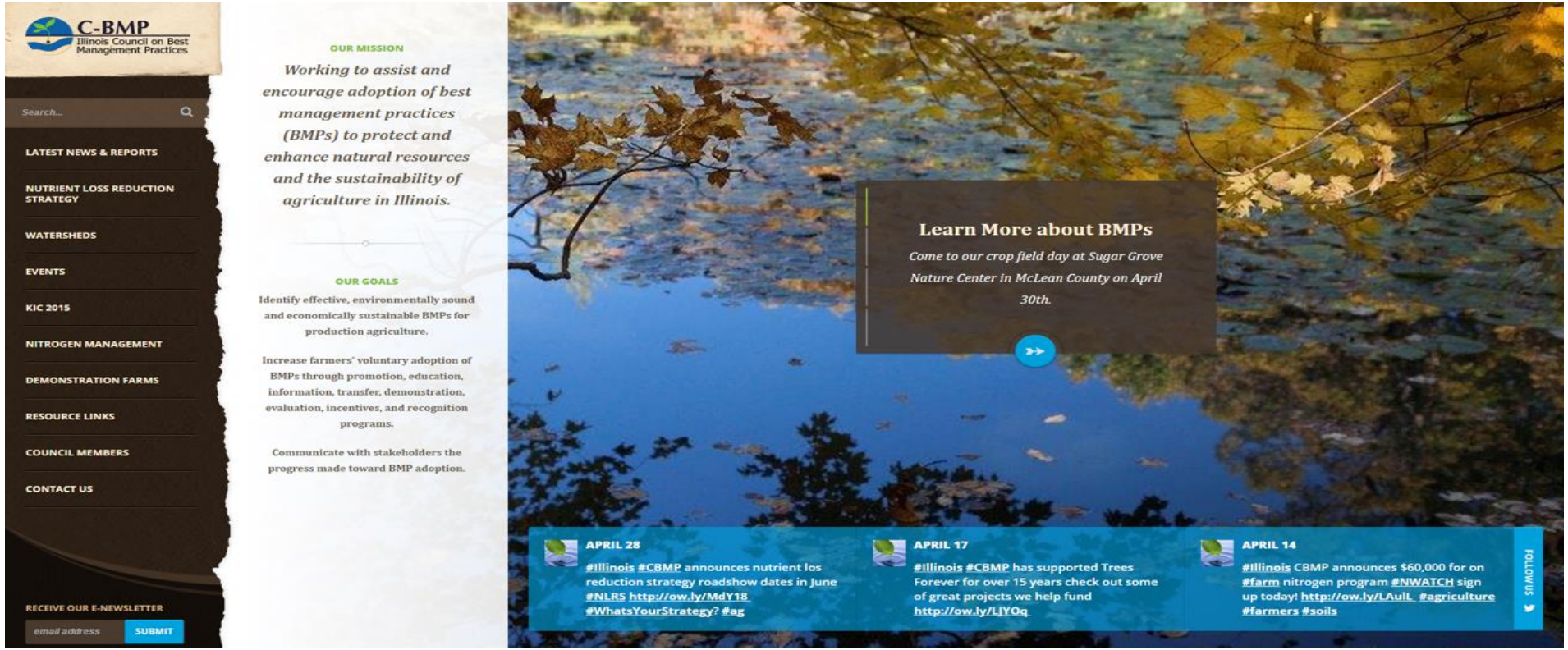
Year Two Goals

- Increase the number of participants by scheduling a Lake Springfield Bus Tour of the watershed on July 21, 2015.
- Establish N-WATCH Sentinel Sites within watershed with aggregated results posted online at www.illinoiscbmp.org
- Increase the number of cover crop acres by 500
- Increase the number of N-Rate Trials
- Demonstration farm field days at Lincoln Land Community College
- Continue to collaborate on 319 EPA Grant

Online Resources

Looking for a one-stop shop for videos, webinars, news articles and other resources about BMPs?

Visit www.illinoiscbmp.org and join our newsletter!



Roadshow Meetings

- 11 Statewide Strategy Meetings in June
- Print, radio and online ads
- Tele-town hall phone calls to targeted producer across the state
- Targeted e-blasts and social media coordination
- Collaborative grassroots effort from our member organizations
- Message is geared at farmers, agribusiness and general public
- On site water sampling, on-farm BMPs
- Watershed Level Project Info
- Illinois IDOA, Illinois EPA, Statewide SWCD Support
- Farmer leader support

Roadshow Meetings

C-BMP
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NUTRIENT LOSS REDUCTION STRATEGY ROADSHOW

The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS) will be released this summer. C-BMP and its member organizations want you to be prepared by hosting local educational events throughout the state. *PLEASE JOIN US to learn more about the NLRS*

Date	City	Location	Time
6/2/15	Carterville	John A Logan College, 700 Logan College Drive	6:00 PM
6/8/15	Galesburg	Knox County Farm Bureau, 180 S. Soangetaha Road, Suite 101	8:00 AM
6/9/15	Princeton	Bureau County Metro Center, 837 Park Avenue West	6:00 PM
6/12/15	Shelbyville	Lake Shelbyville Visitors Center, 315 East Main	9:00 AM
6/16/15	Jacksonville	Hamilton's – Fireside Room, 110 North East Street	9:00 AM
6/17/15	Princeville	Ben Herrmann Farm, 12200 W. Legion Hall Rd	10:00 AM
6/18/15	Clinton	Warner Library, 310 N. Quincy	9:30 AM
6/22/15	Decatur	National Sequestration Education Center (Richland College), 1 College Park	6:00 PM
6/23/15	Vandalia	Fayette County Farm Bureau, 1125 N. Sunset Drive	6:00 PM
6/24/15	Bloomington	McLean County Fairgrounds, 1106 Interstate Drive	10:00 AM
6/29/15	Pittsfield	Pike County Farm Bureau, 1301 E. Washington	7:30 PM

To RSVP, please contact your county farm bureau office one week prior to event

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: **WWW.ILLINOISCBMP.ORG**

Promotional Results

- Over 1,100 attendees for the 11 meeting roadshow
- Tele Town Call reached over 93,000 high value personalized "touches" were made to spread awareness of NLRS and CBMP with two nights of calls.
- Web hits to Illinois CBMP increased after each tele town call meeting as well.

Roadshow Survey Results

- Over 90% have tried nutrient management practices and over 50% and done so for over 10 years
- Over 90% have tried no-till or strip-till practices
- Over 90% wait until the soil temps fall to 50 degrees to apply anhydrous ammonia
- Over 80% use a nitrification inhibitor
- Over 40% have tried cover crops
- Over 70% that attended will try a new practice or a combination of practices for the first time

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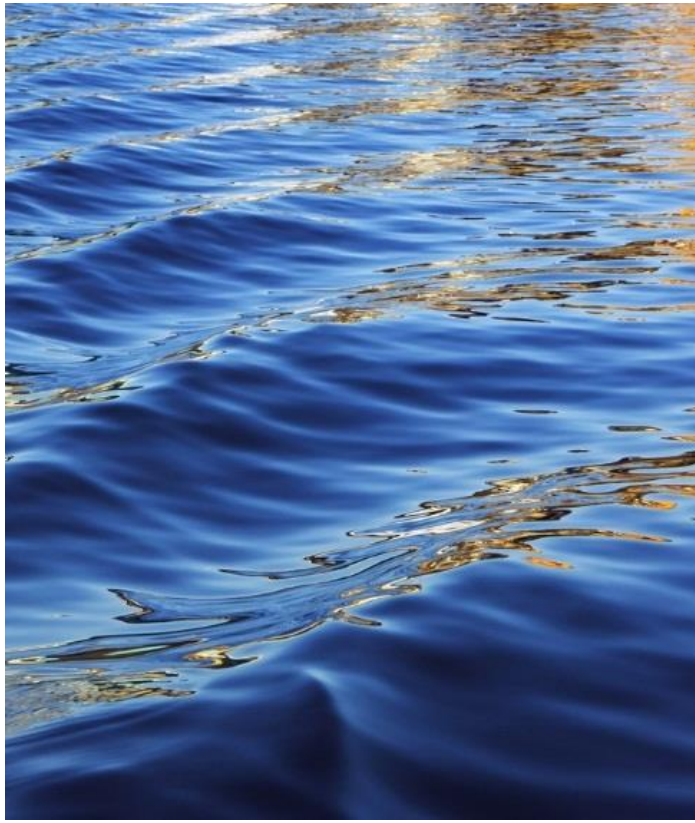
Thank You