

# AN INREC OVERVIEW: Rooted in Research



A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT THE TECHNOLOGY, PRACTICES,  
AND PROGRESS OF THE IOWA NUTRIENT REDUCTION STRATEGY.

The Iowa Nutrient Research and Education Council uses a first-of-its-kind system using ag retailer sales data and farm records to track and demonstrate the progress being made by Iowa farmers for the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Through this survey technology, INREC has been able to monitor the progress towards the original goals of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Progress such as:

**3.8M**

**acres of cover crops  
grown in 2023**

*(increased from 1.6M in 2017)*

**91.0%**

**of Phosphorus applications are  
applied when soil test levels are at  
or below optimum levels in 2023**

**40.1%**

**of Iowa row crop  
acres utilized no-till  
practices in 2023**

## BUT WHAT'S THE PROCESS?

Each year, 150 ag retail locations are selected out of the approximately 600 locations in Iowa at random to complete the Nutrient Reduction Strategy Survey. With this survey, retailers are asked to identify ten customers based on the random selection criteria provided and complete the survey of in-field conservation practices. Responses are evaluated by the Iowa State University Center for Survey Statistics & Methodology to extrapolate for statewide adoption of conservation practices.

*The INREC system is structured to be unbiased,  
representative, statistically significant and verifiable.*



**Looking for more  
information?**  
Check out the  
process in more  
detail on our website.

A key part of Iowa NREC is collaboration with organizations, agencies, and farmers within Iowa—but also outside of our state. Outside of Iowa and interested in replicating the Iowa NREC survey? Reach out! We welcome the chance to assist other states in an effort to improve water quality.

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