AN INREC OVERVIEW:

Rooted in Research

IowaNREC

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:

3.4M
acres of cover crops grown in 2025
(increased from 1.6M in 2017)

100.0%
of Phosphorus applications are applied when soil test levels are at or below optimum levels in 2025

37.8%
of Iowa row crop acres utilized no-till practices in 2025

BUT WHAT'S THE PROCESS?

The Nutrient Reduction Strategy Survey draws on a random selection of agricultural retail locations from approximately 600 across Iowa. This year, 80 retail locations participated in the 2025 survey. Each participating retailer is 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.

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