

Agricultural Sector Overview

**Improving our Water Resources
with Collaboration and
Innovation**

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OUR VISION

TO **PROMOTE AND REGULATE**
AGRICULTURE IN A MANNER
WHICH ENCOURAGES
FARMING AND AGRIBUSINESS
WHILE PROTECTING
ILLINOIS' CONSUMERS AND OUR
NATURAL RESOURCES.



OUR BELIEF

AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY
RESTS ON THE PRINCIPLE
THAT WE MUST MEET THE
NEEDS OF THE PRESENT
WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE
ABILITY OF **FUTURE GENERATIONS**
TO MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS.



Leading *Takeaways*



- Sustained group effort despite **historic rainfall** in 2019 and a **global pandemic** in 2020.
- Agriculture sector **spent nearly \$27 million implementing the strategy outside** of traditional government cost-share programs
- Over **72,000 people attended** more than **1,020 outreach events**
 - including field days, conferences, or workshops to learn about practices that can be implemented to reduce nutrient loss from farm fields
- Partners for Conservation **cost-share program** assisted farmers by redirecting funds to **implement an additional 93,750 acres of cover crops** after a historic flooding in 2019
- Fall Covers for Spring Savings **supported 50,000 additional acres of cover crops** in 2019
- Illinois farmers reported **increased knowledge of the Strategy**
 - Resulting in an increase in cover crops, with 1.4 million acres planted, **representing a 135% increase** from 2011
- Significant **decrease in phosphorus fertilizer application** rates in 2019
 - 11.2 million acres of croplands reported as having less applied compared to 2011

IN **2019** AG SECTOR PARTNERS REPORTED THAT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS **INVESTED \$12,913,738**

IN **2020**, THEY REPORTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS **TOTALING \$13,982,060**.

- NUMBERS DO NOT INCLUDE STATE/ FEDERAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM FUNDS.
- DIFFICULT TO CAPTURE ALL EXPENDITURES OUTSIDE OF STATE AND FEDERAL COST-SHARE PROGRAMS.
- FIGURES REPORTED MAY SIGNIFICANTLY UNDERESTIMATE DOLLARS SPENT IN ILLINOIS.

Resource Measures

Table 4.1. Funding resources in the agricultural sector

	2019	2020
Grants or Loans Received	\$2,874,170	\$5,366,883
Grants or Loans Given	\$7,764,110	\$8,100,700
Funded Programs	\$426,206	\$514,477
Total	\$11,064,486	\$13,982,060

EXTENSIVE AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES
SPONSORED BY AG ORGANIZATIONS IN 2019
AND 2020, IN THE MIDST OF A GLOBAL
PANDEMIC, **SPEAKS TO THE AGRICULTURE
SECTORS COMMITMENT** TO PROMOTING
NLRs.

- IMPACT OF COVER CROPS
- EFFECTIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT
- EDGE-OF-FIELD PRACTICES

Resource Measures

Table 4.2. Outreach activities and associated attendance

	2015-16		2017-18		2019-20	
Type of Outreach	Number of Events	Total Attendance	Number of Events	Total Attendance	Number of Events	Total Attendance
Presentations	457	16,000	602	38,155	724	47,375
Field Days	130	3,692	204	18,493	118	11,760
Workshops	607	12,695	423	18,478	132	8,322
Conferences	27	6,935	42	9,355	46	4,623
Total	1,221	39,322	1,271	84,481	1,020	72,080

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES **FOCUSED ON**
SPECIFIC CONSERVATION PRACTICES.

AN **INCREASING PERCENTAGE** OF
WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS
SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED

- NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT
- COVER CROPS
- CONSERVATION TILLAGE, AND
- EDGE-OF-FIELD PRACTICES SUCH AS
WETLANDS, BUFFERS, AND
BIOREACTORS.

Resource Measures

Table 4.3. Topics of outreach activities 2019-20

Specific BMPs	General Topics	Topic	Number of Activities	Percent of Activities
		NLRS	187	22%
		Conservation Practices	135	16%
		Soil Health	93	11%
	Specific BMPs	Programs	69	8%
		Nutrient Management	87	10%
		Cover Crops	147	17%
		Edge-of-Field	114	13%
		Tillage	24	3%

Outreach Measures

SWCDs, ALONG WITH OTHER AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS, **PROVIDED OUTREACH DURING THE 2019-20** GROWING SEASONS REMINDING FARMERS TO REPORT THEIR COVER CROP ACRES TO FSA.

COVER CROP ACRES INCLUDE ALL FARMLAND PLANTED WITH A CERTIFIED COVER CROP.

COVER CROP ACRES SAW A SPIKE IN 2019, WHICH MAY BE DUE TO A LARGE AMOUNT OF PREVENT PLANT ACRES IN RESPONSE TO WIDESPREAD FLOODING

Table 4.6. Acres in cover crops reported by producers to FSA

	2011	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cover Crops	768	11,064	27,064	83,980	92,970	427,410	131,757

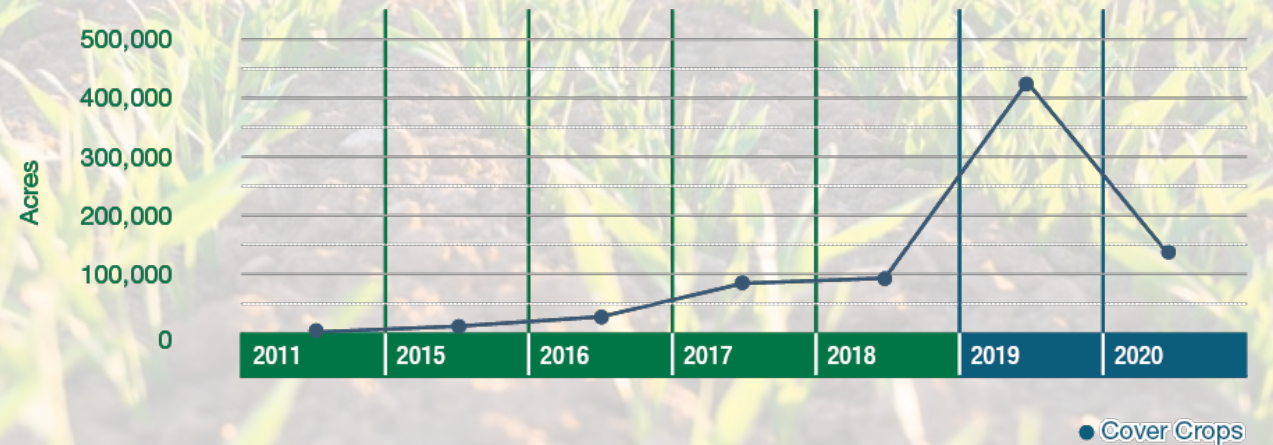


Figure 4.3. Acres in cover crops reported by producers to FSA

Land & Facilities Measures

IN **2019**, PARTNERS FOR CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM **TARGETED \$2.89 MILLION**

IN **2020**, **\$2.40 MILLION**, IN ALLOCATIONS FOR STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION.

Table 4.23. Acres treated by and dollars spent on PFC in 2019 and 2020

	Bioreactors	Wetlands	Filter Strips	Tillage	Perennials	Cover Crops
2019 Acres	0	0	0	535.3	153.81	15,472.48
2019 Cost-Share Dollars	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,219.20	\$14,560.85	\$347,678.85
2019 Land Owner Dollars	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,249.84	\$10,927.59	\$294,069.77
2020 Acres	0	0	0	4,045.56	443.36	17,945.38
2020 Cost-Share Dollars	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$26,253.58	\$83,014.78	\$426,980.26
2020 Land Owner Dollars	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$38,705.83	\$46,090.05	\$358,703.96

Land & Facilities Measures

COMBINED PARTNERS FOR CONSERVATION
RESOURCES FROM 2019 AND 2020

- **COVERED APPROXIMATELY 56%**
- UP FROM 52% DURING 2017-18
- BALANCE PAID BY APPLICANTS OR LANDOWNERS.



Figure 4.20. Acres treated by and dollars spent on PFC in 2019 and 2020

PFC AND LANDOWNER INVESTMENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **SOIL EROSION WAS MAINTAINED OR REDUCED** AT OR BELOW TOLERABLE SOIL LOSS ON 60,283 CROPLAND ACRES.

THE REVISED UNIVERSAL SOIL LOSS EQUATION INDICATES THAT **SEDIMENT LOADING WAS REDUCED BY 20,006 TONS** — TRANSLATING TO AN ESTIMATED 1,100 SEMI-TRAILER LOADS OF SEDIMENT THAT DID NOT REACH ILLINOIS WATERWAYS.

Land & Facilities Measures

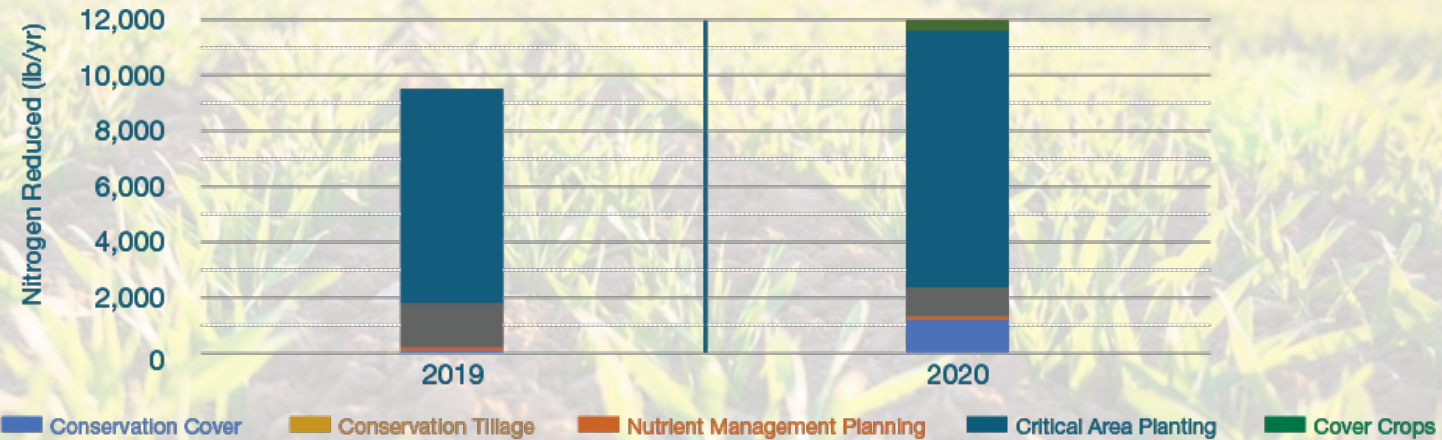


Figure 4.21. Calculated total nitrogen load reduction (lb/yr) from PFC in 2019 and 2020

Annual load reductions are based on the year the practices were implemented; reductions are achieved annually through the life of each practice.

IN THE PAST TWO YEARS

67,499 TONS OF SOIL SAVED

THESE PRACTICES ALSO **REDUCED NUTRIENT LOADING** TO STREAMS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

IN 2019-20, REDUCTION ESTIMATED

- **21,535 POUNDS** OF NITRATE-NITROGEN
- **10,170 POUNDS** OF PHOSPHORUS

Land & Facilities Measures

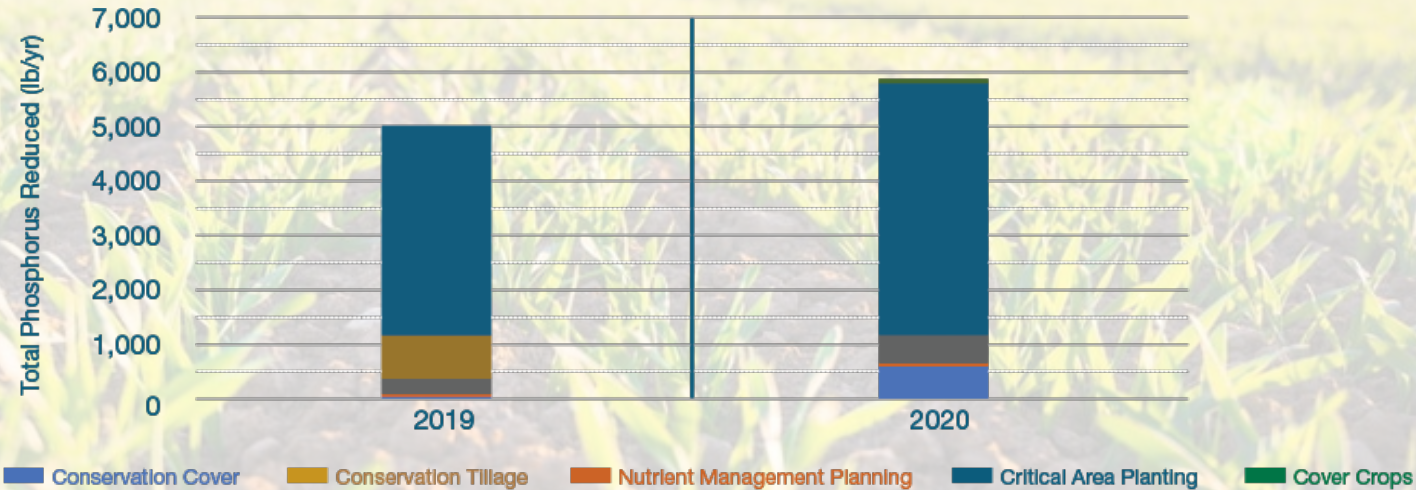


Figure 4.22. Calculated total phosphorus load reduction (lb/yr) from PFC in 2019 and 2020

Annual load reductions are based on the year the practices were implemented; reductions are achieved annually through the life of each practice.

PROGRESS MADE, YET....

**MUCH WORK STILL
NEEDED**

SUSTAINED PARTNERSHIPS

ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO LONG-TERM IMPACT

CLIMATE CHANGE

WILL CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE NLRS EFFORTS

Looking Ahead

