



# Agricultural Sector Overview

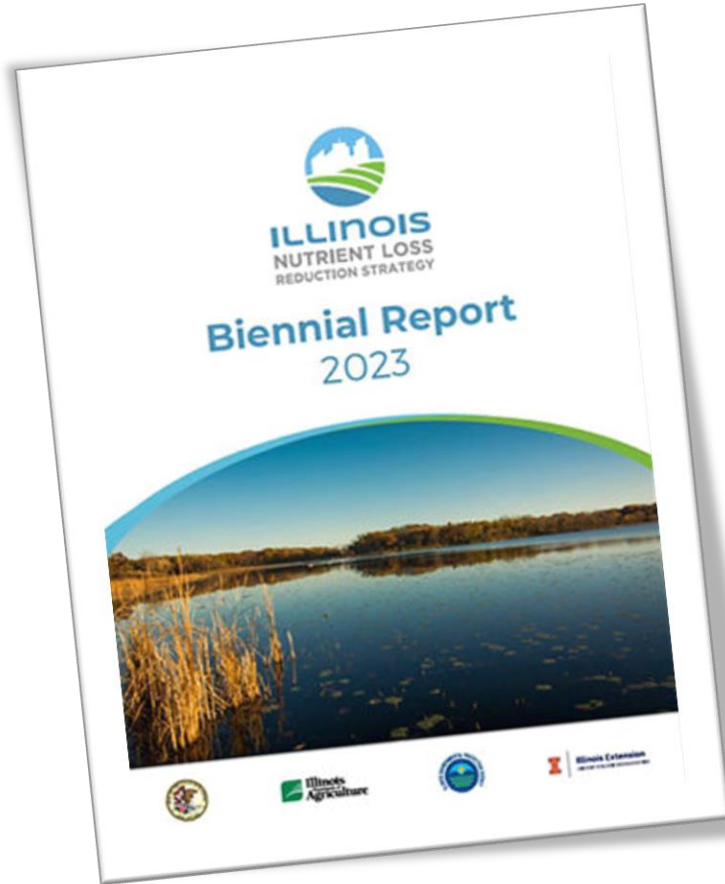
**Michael Woods, PhD, CEO**

Association of Illinois

Soil and Water Conservation Districts



# Notable *Takeaways*



73,000 pounds of  
**Nitrogen**



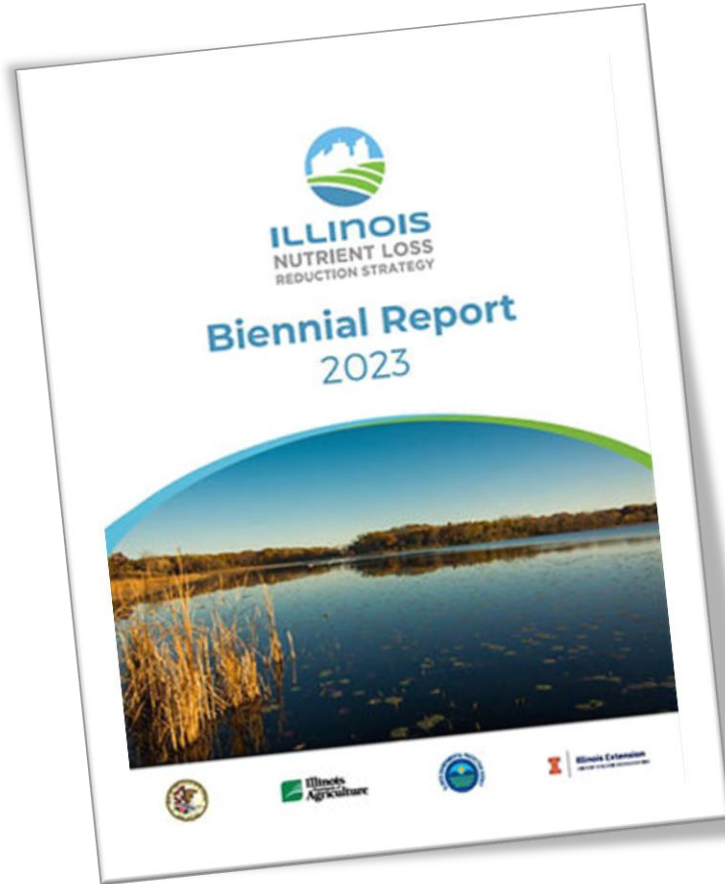
30,000 pounds of  
**phosphorus**



kept out of waterways through agricultural conservation projects

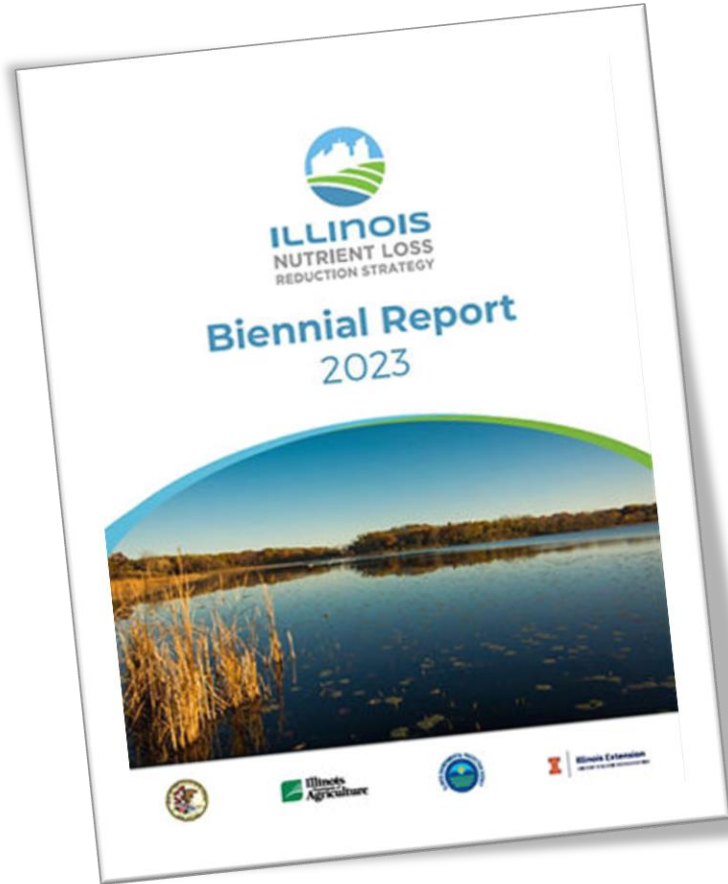


# Notable *Takeaways*



- In 2021,
  - **6% of Illinois' cropland**, or 1.39 million acres, grew cover crops
  - 71% of cropland was **managed using conservation tillage**

# Notable *Takeaways*



➤ NASS NLRS survey on nutrient management results:

➤ **76% of 2021 corn acres** managed using the Maximum Return To Nitrogen, MRTN, rate.

➤ Corn fertilization timing:

➤ 25% of acres fall/winter,

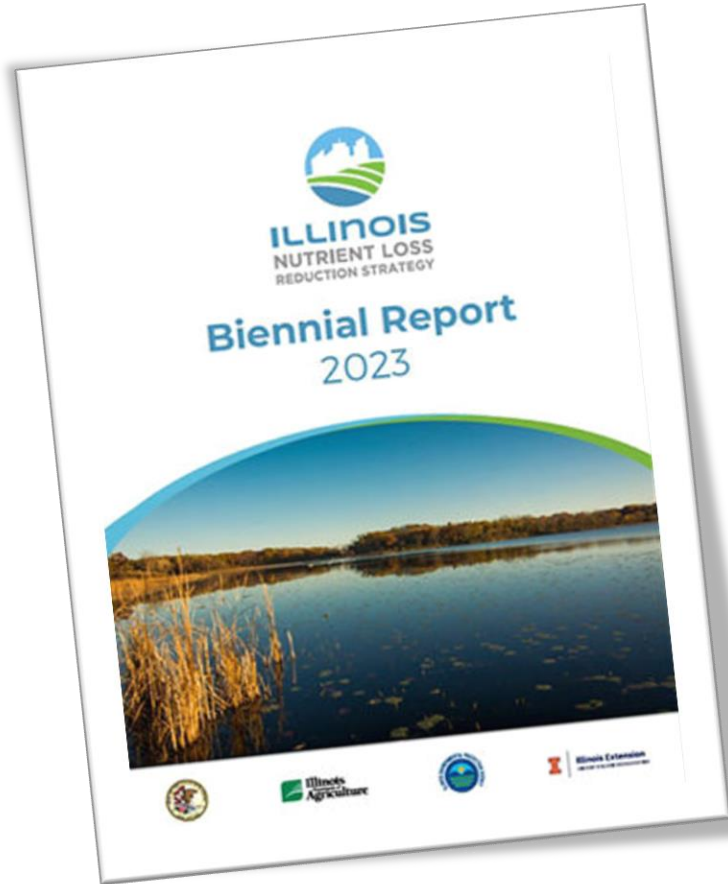
➤ 35% fall-spring split,

➤ 40% in spring

➤ 85% of corn acres **used nitrogen inhibitors** for fall/winter-applied anhydrous ammonia,

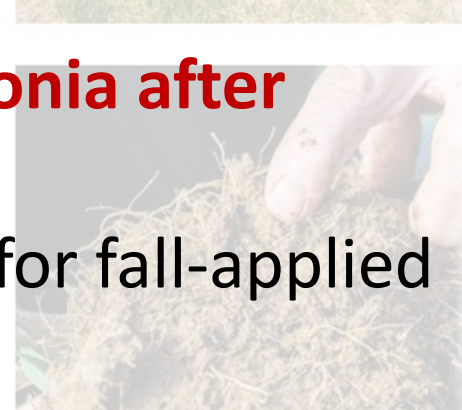
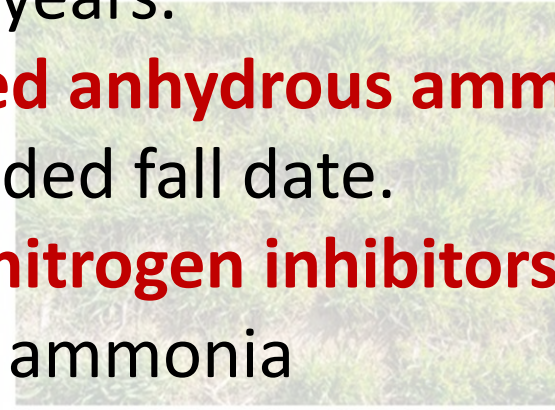
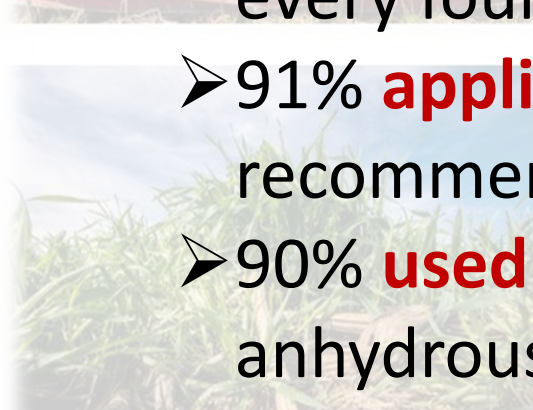
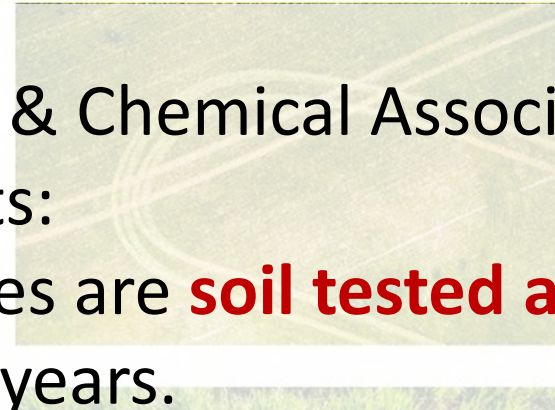
➤ 83% for spring-applied.

# Notable *Takeaways*

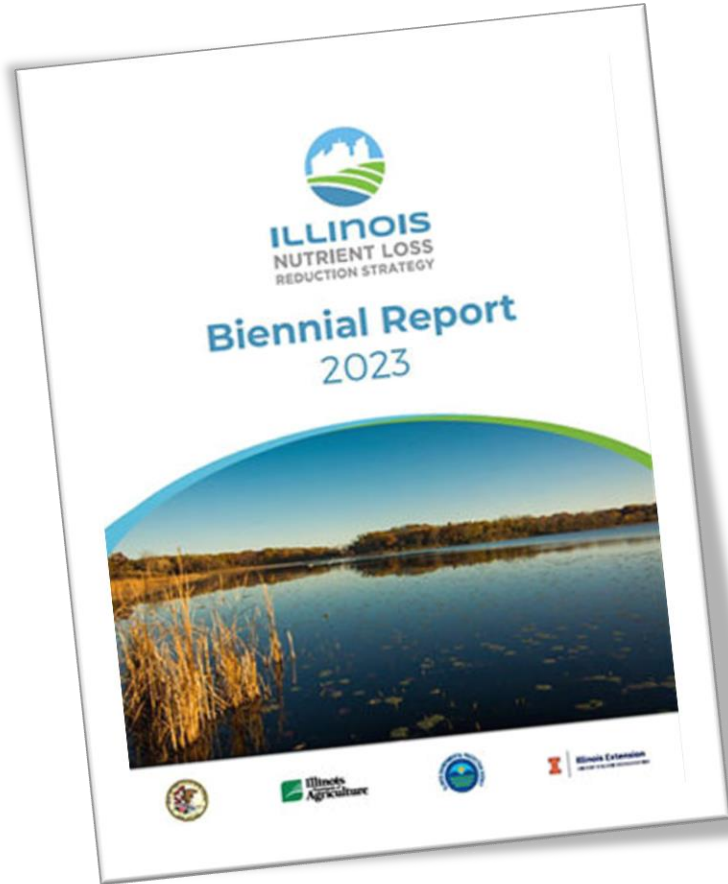


Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association's 2018-22 4R Survey results:

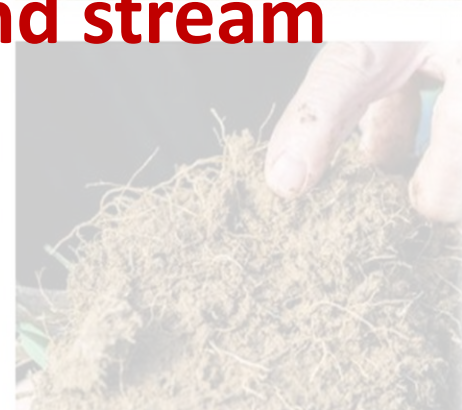
- 78% of acres are **soil tested at least once** every four years.
- 91% **applied anhydrous ammonia after** recommended fall date.
- 90% **used nitrogen inhibitors** for fall-applied anhydrous ammonia



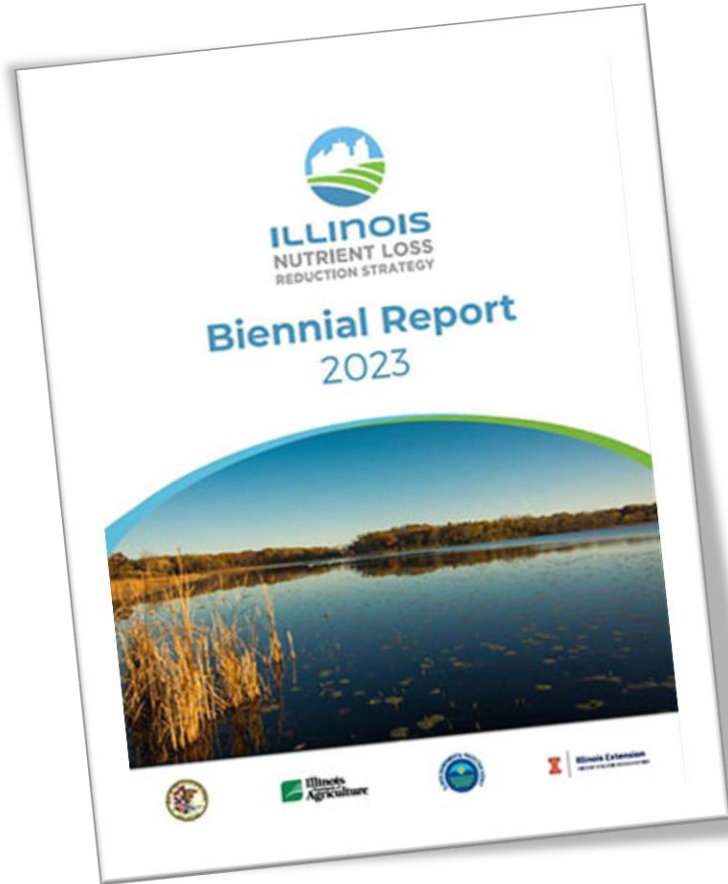
# Notable *Takeaways*



- 50% of rivers and tributaries next to cropland had **30-foot grass buffers on both banks.**
- Opportunity exists to **expand stream buffers** by 26,700 acres.



# Notable *Takeaways*



- **\$51 million was invested** for NLRs agricultural efforts in 2021-22.
- **A record 110,660 people attended** 941 agricultural events from 2021-22
- 17% increase in events **focused on cover crops.**

# At a *Crossroads*

NUTRIENT LOADS ARE  
**STILL INCREASING**

URGENT NEED TO CONTINUE WORK IN  
**RESEARCH, EDUCATION,  
OUTREACH, & TECHNICAL  
SUPPORT**

**SUSTAINED PARTNERSHIPS**  
ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO LONG-TERM IMPACT

**RESPONSE TO WEATHER**  
WILL CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE  
NLRS EFFORTS

