



United States Department of Agriculture

Illinois Department of Agriculture *Water Quality*

Under Secretary Bill Northey
USDA Farm Production and Conservation



FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

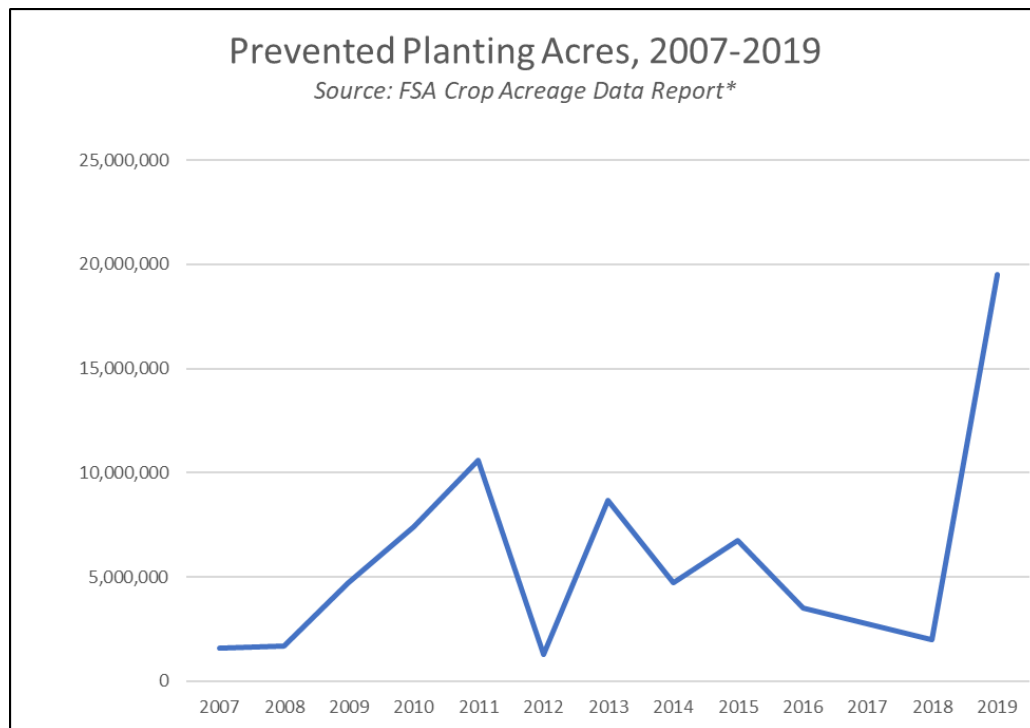
Conservation at Work in Illinois

- Partnerships
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials
- Data Sharing



Prevented Planting

- Nearly 20 million acres prevented from planting
 - 1.5 million acres in Illinois
 - 3rd highest state
- Increased program delivery and flexibility
 - Top-up payments
 - Deferred interest
 - Payments through MFP and WHIP+
 - Adjusted or extend deadlines
 - Financial assistance for cover crops



**FSA Reports from 2011 to 2019 from August. Reports 2010 or before are from the end of the year, since multiple reports weren't pulled at that time. Reports from 2007 and 2008 only include select crops as a crop summary by county is not available.*

Flood Impact on Water Quality

- Nutrient Loss
- Nutrient Application Disruption
- Prevented Planting Acres



Examples of Water Quality Initiatives

Lessons Learn from Other Regions

- National Water Quality Initiative
- Mississippi River Basin
- Chesapeake Bay
- Everglades



National Water Quality Initiative

- 200+ watersheds nationwide, including 7 in Illinois.
- 11 impaired water bodies have been improved and subsequently scheduled for delisting.



Mississippi River Basin

- Encompasses 13 states, including Illinois.
- Uses a small watershed approach to support the states' reduction strategies.
- Nutrient management used on nearly 482,000 acres.

Achievements:

- Reduction of 1.9 million tons sediment loss.
- Reduction 3.6 million lbs. phosphorous loss.
- Reduction 14 million lbs. nitrogen loss.



Chesapeake Bay Watershed



- Variety of Farm Bill programs
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - Regional Conservation Partnership Program
 - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Upcoming Conservation Reserve Program Signup

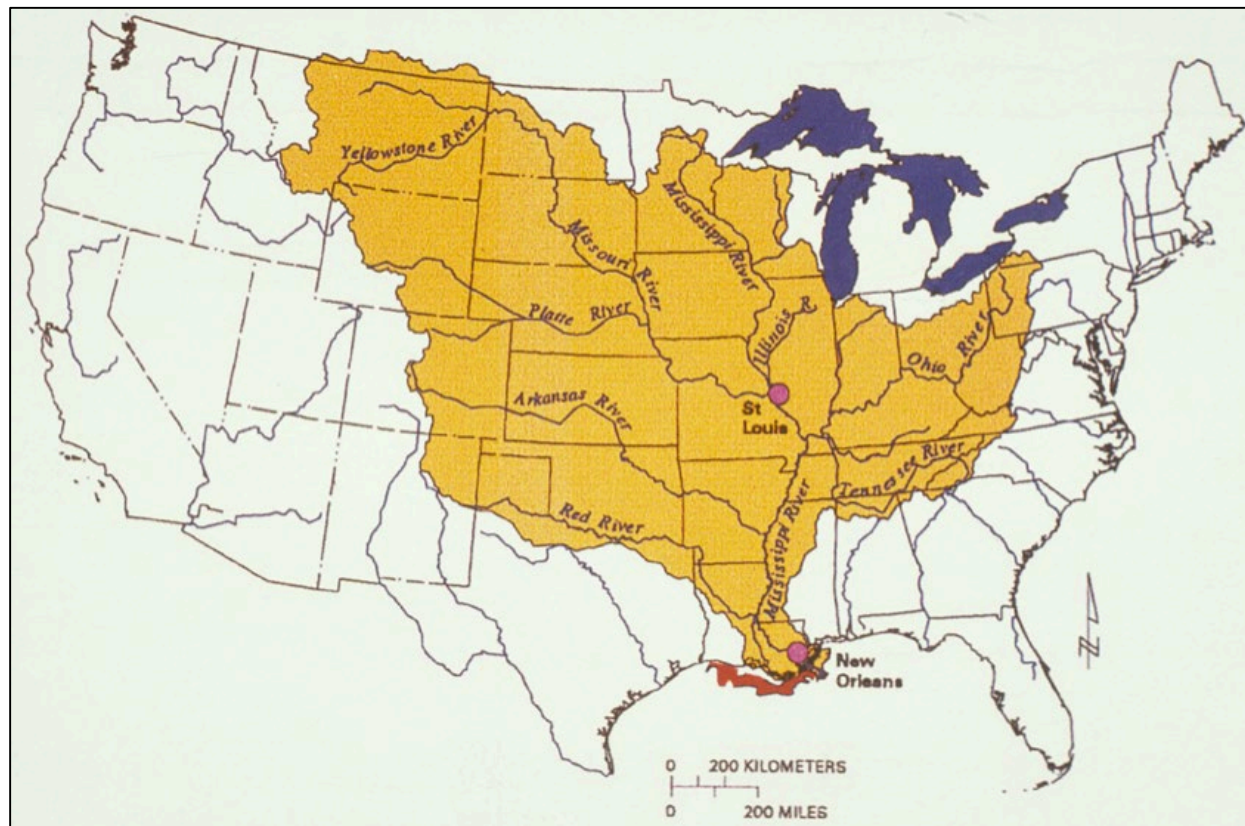
Everglades

- More than \$25.6 million Agricultural Conservation Easement Program funding in Fiscal Year 2019.
- Through Wetland Reserve Easements and the Wetlands Reserve Program, restoration work has been conducted on over 49,000 acres.



Hypoxia

- Elevated nutrient levels
- USDA targeted efforts



State-Federal- Private Coordination/ Collaboration

Hypoxia Task Force

- Understand causes and effects of eutrophication in the Gulf.
- Coordinate activities to reduce the size, severity and duration.
- Ameliorate the effects of hypoxia.
- 12 states.

National Drought Resilience Partnership

- Build national capabilities for long-term drought resilience.
- Leverage the work of existing federal investments.
- Linking information with long-term strategies.



Nutrient Management

- Impacts on and off farm
- USDA technical and financial assistance



Photo courtesy of University of Maryland

Recognizing Progress

- CCA Conservationist of the Year
- Tracking Progress
- Delaware CBEAR



Importance of Conservation

- Collaboration is important.
- It's a personal decision and commitment of individual landowners and farmers.





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USDA Is Here for You

