Collaborating with Agricultural Stakeholders on Nutrient Reduction

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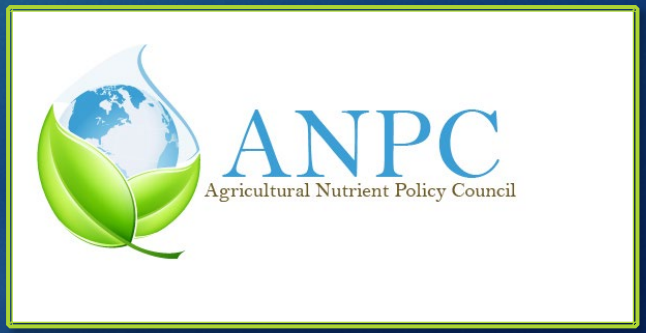

Agricultural Nutrient Policy Council

- Formed in 2010
- 40+ State and National Ag Trade Associations and Agri-Businesses
- Help agriculture engage quickly in policies and programming regarding CWA nutrient/water quality and Farm Bill Conservation Title issues
- Early issues -- Chesapeake Bay TMDL, Florida NNC, State NLRS Framework Memo

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- Help foster discussions and partnerships for nutrient solutions
- Serve as a point of contact for federal and state agencies looking for meaningful engagement with state ag groups and businesses
- Focus on helping state ag groups and businesses be successful as they continue to focus on implementing state nutrient loss reduction strategies

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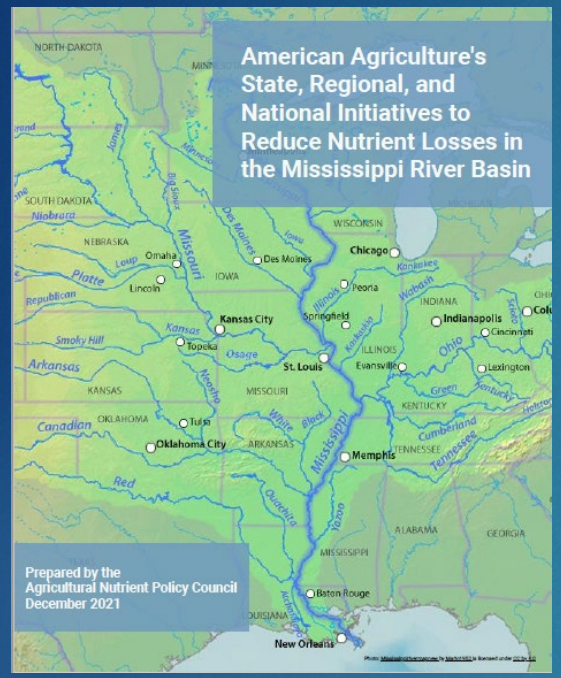
Recent Work



NACWA
THE VOICE FOR A CLEAN WATER FUTURE

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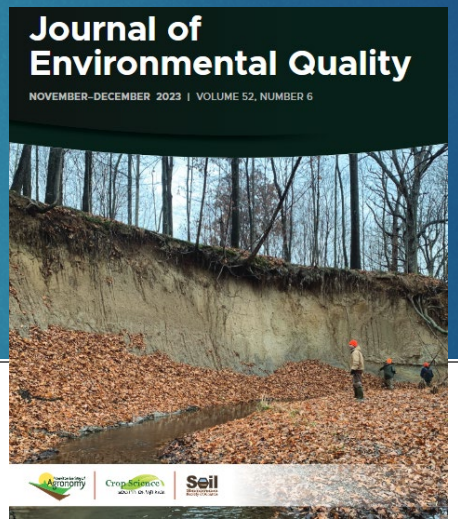
Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force

Sharing and Exploring Successful Programming and Policies for State-Led Efforts to Help Farmers and Ranchers Reduce Nutrient Losses to Protect Water Quality



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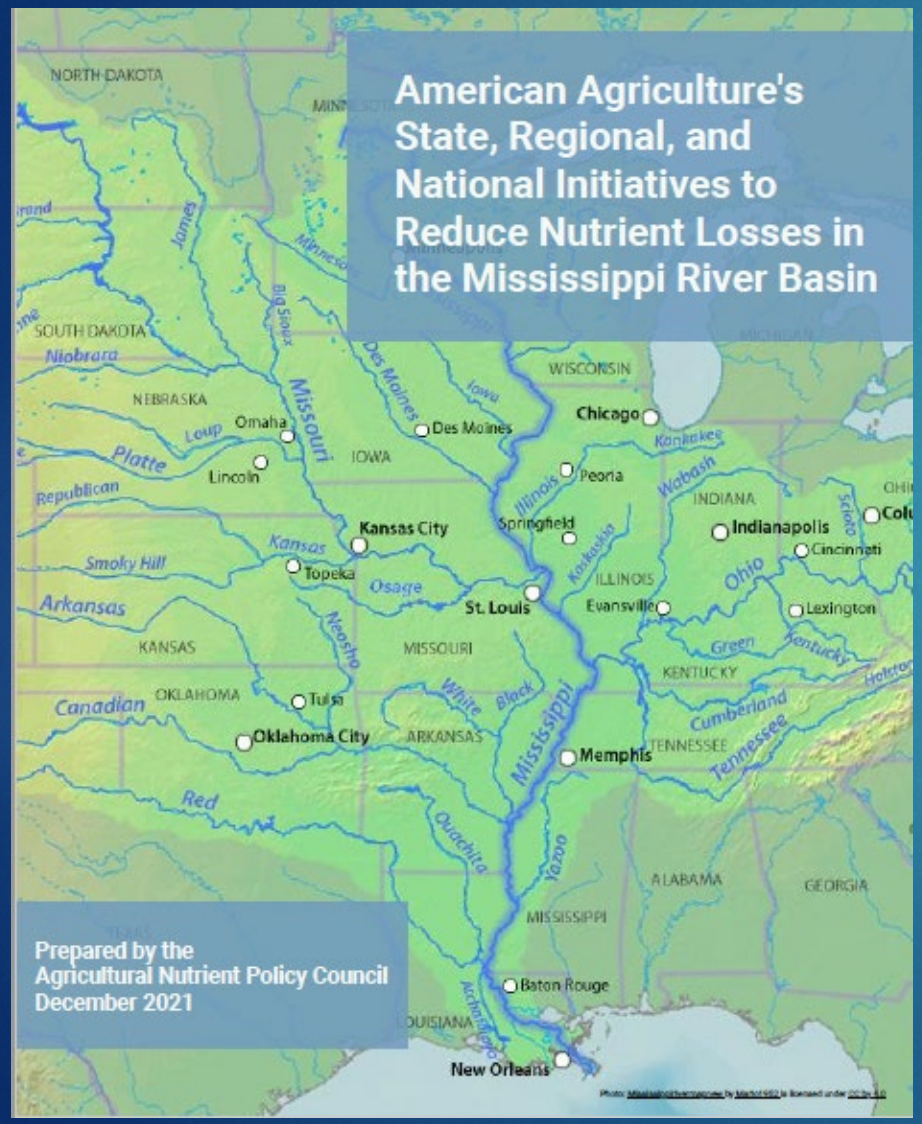
PERSPECTIVE

Journal of Environmental Quality

Streambank erosion and phosphorus loading to surface waters: Knowns, unknowns, and implications for nutrient loss reduction research and policy

ANPC's Compilation Report Update



- Update underway to bring current through 2024
- Goal of completion by year end
- Provide up to date status of state efforts as we head into 2025 milestone year of Hypoxia Action Plan

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ANPC Research Priorities

- Goal to share our priorities for research needs relating to advancing and measuring nutrient loss reduction
- Seeking engagement with agencies and organizations to identify mutual research priorities and interests and build collaborative efforts upon those
- Guiding principles to identify and facilitate research on practices that are:
  - Cost-effective
  - Easily integrated
  - Highly scalable
  - Impactful

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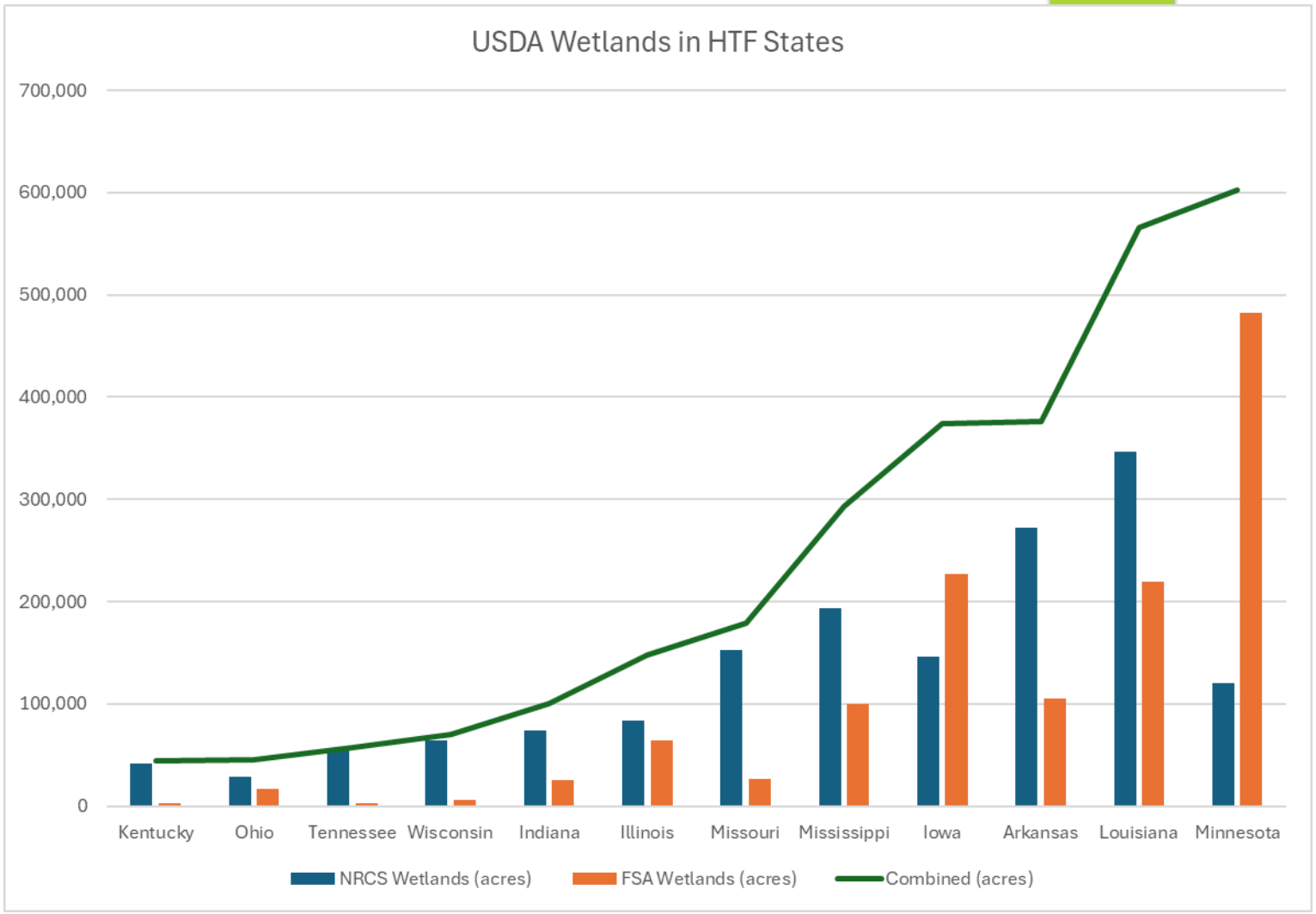
ANPC Research Priorities

- Conservation Practices Research Priorities Examples:
  - New and emerging technology development
  - Opportunities for retrofitting technologies to enhance nutrient reduction
  - Quantifying co-benefits and/or trade-offs for other resource concerns
  - Weather impact on practice effectiveness, design, cost

Retrofitting Technology Example

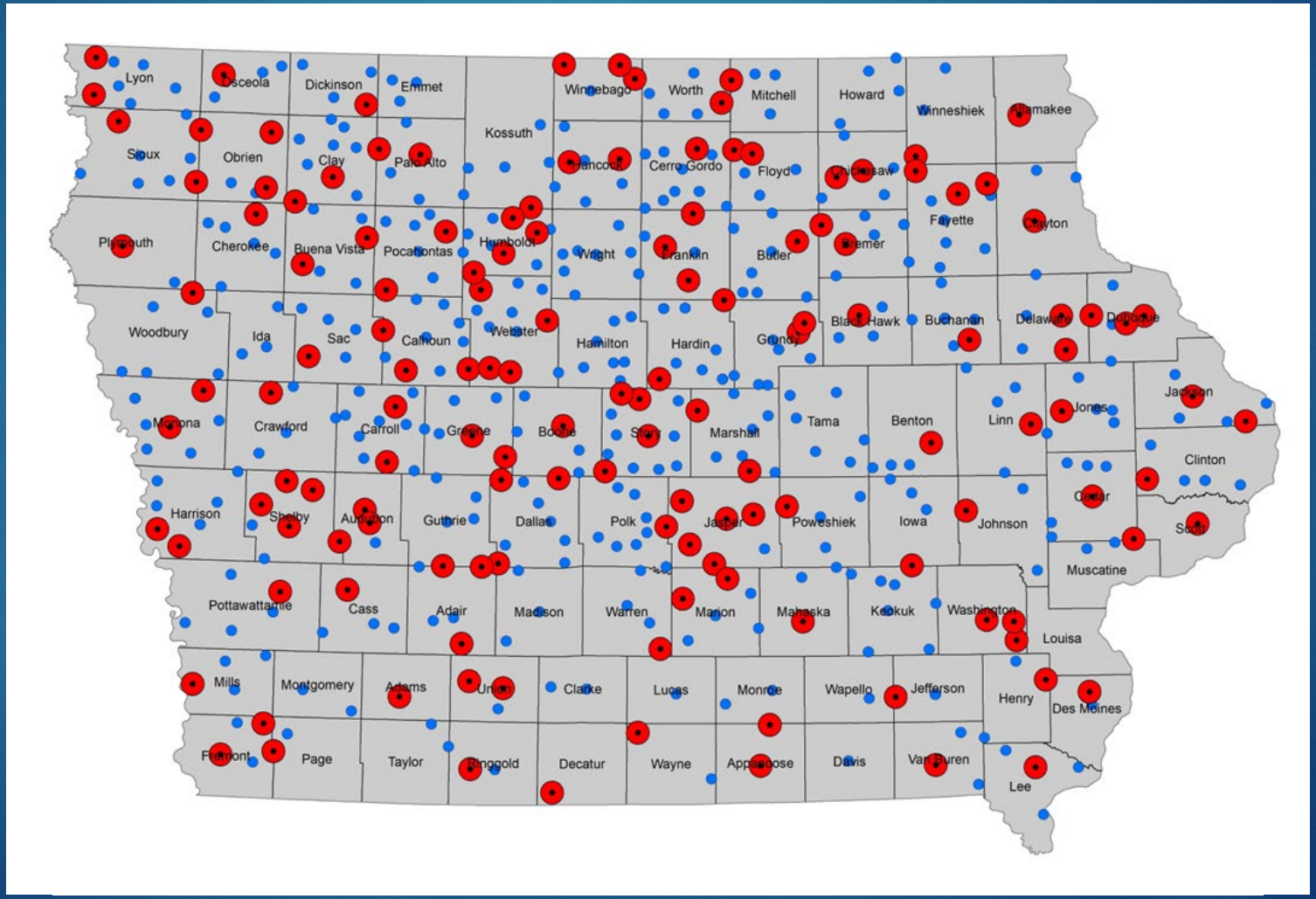
- Numerous existing wetland easements through USDA
- Primary historic focus on habitat restoration
- Potential to retrofit for enhanced water quality function
- Even a small % of total area could have large impact
- Reduces cost and time
- Could reduce regulatory burden



ANPC Research Priorities

- Progress Tracking and Quantification Priorities Examples:
  - Best practices for assessing water quality trendline data
  - Approaches for science-based estimates of nutrient loss reduction
  - Quantification of nutrient loads from natural sources

Progress Tracking and Quantification Examples



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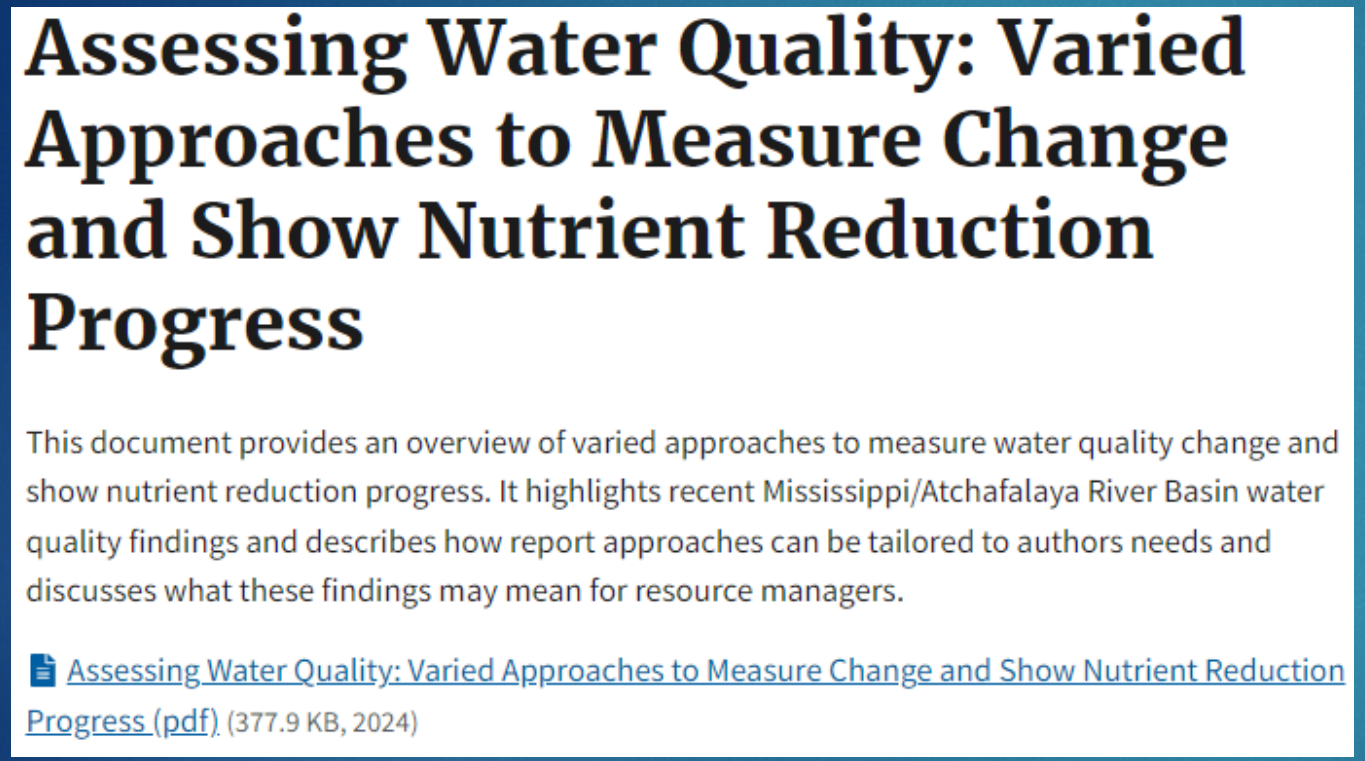
New EPA Report



Assessing Water Quality: Varied Approaches to Measure Change and Show Nutrient Reduction Progress

This document provides an overview of varied approaches to measure water quality change and show nutrient reduction progress. It highlights recent Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin water quality findings and describes how report approaches can be tailored to authors needs and discusses what these findings may mean for resource managers.

Assessing Water Quality: Varied Approaches to Measure Change and Show Nutrient Reduction Progress (pdf) (377.9 KB, 2024)

- "Four Reports Report"
  - 2023 Hypoxia Task Force Report to Congress
  - EPA National Rivers and Streams Assessment Report
  - Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program Status and Trends Report
  - Upper Mississippi River Basin Association's How Clean is the River? Report

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Phosphorus Science Workshop

- Hosted by ANPC at Reservoir Center for Water Solutions in D.C. on October 1st
- Focus on current and emerging P science and load trendlines
- Targeted for collaboration amongst scientific community, state and agricultural leaders, and federal agency staff
- Explore the conundrum of a lack of declining P load trends despite numerous significant gains in reducing P loads to streams by both point and non-point sources
- Will cover science across Mississippi River Basin, Great Lakes region, and eastern agricultural areas
- Goal to gain a better understanding of dynamic processes that have the potential to affect and obscure progress being made, and help identify solutions to address issue

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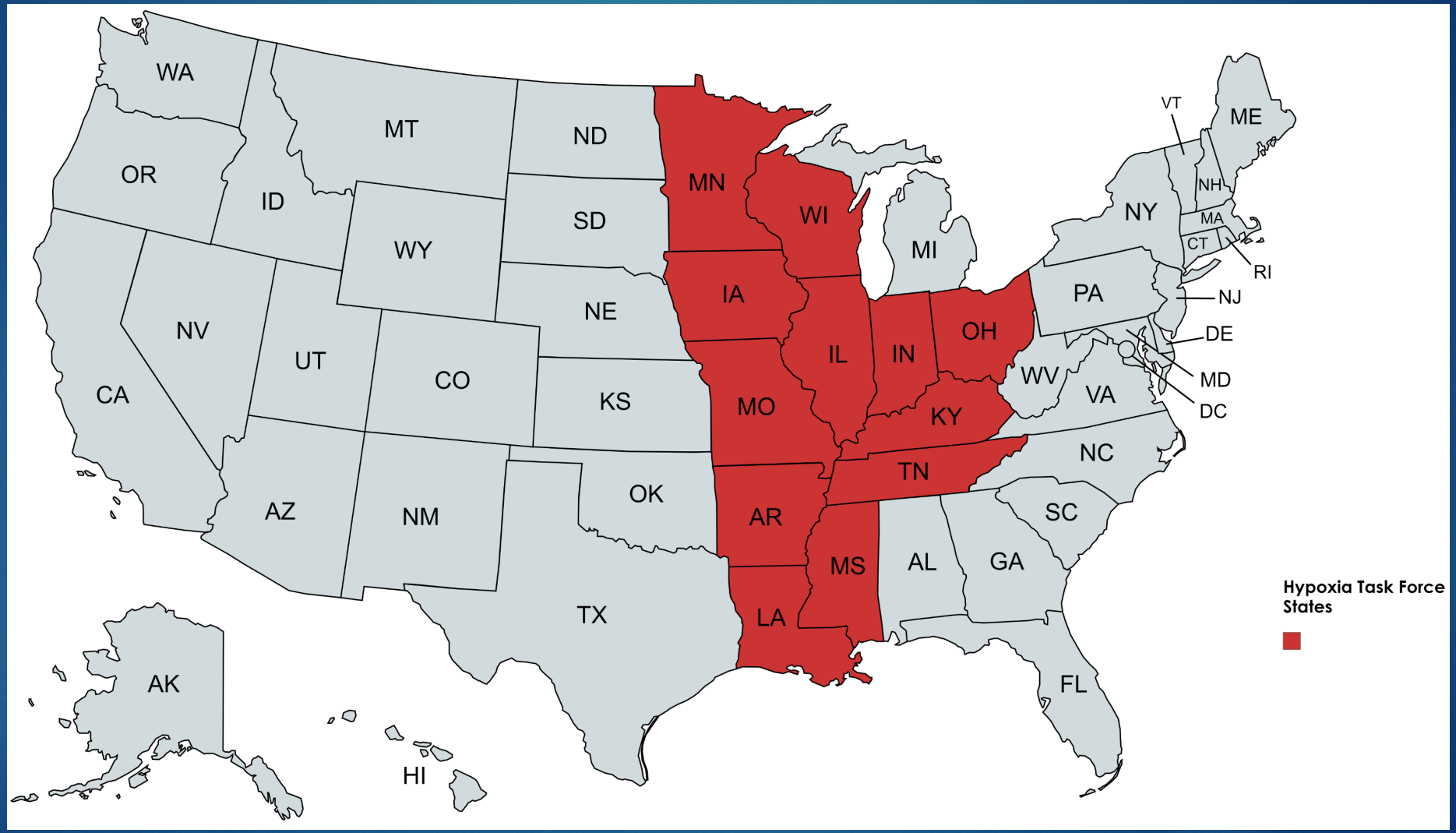
Hypoxia Task Force State Highlights



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Hypoxia Task Force State Highlights

- Iowa has broken conservation adoption records three years straight
- Minnesota in 2024 had 15 lakes removed from impaired waters list
- Illinois point sources have achieved 37% reduction in TP since 2011, exceeding goal of 25% reduction by 2025
- Tennessee Department of Agriculture provided nearly $600K over past year for cover crops in watersheds with high erosion rates
- Ohio this spring had 535 farmers across 64 counties enroll 503,000 acres in the H2Ohio program for voluntary nutrient management planning and implementation
- Missouri had a record year funding $49.5 million for soil and water conservation practices, an increase of $9.5 million from last year

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Hypoxia Task Force State Highlights

- Louisiana has several conservation practices being implemented on the ground over the next 3-5 years that would not have been possible without collaboration among farmers, agencies, partners, and the Hypoxia Task Force
- Kentucky paired over $1.6 million in agriculture and infrastructure funding to improve wastewater treatment and reduce soil erosion in Boyle County
- Indiana has now tracked 1.7 million acres of cover crop usage, and in 2023 had over 50,000 conservation practices installed
- Arkansas is actively implementing broad outreach and education through the Arkansas Watershed Steward Program

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Hypoxia Task Force State Highlights

- Mississippi is partnering with Arkansas and Louisiana on a $25 million RCPP project to improve wildlife habitat, improve local water quality, support groundwater recharge, and increase sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.
- Wisconsin has 17 active RCPP projects as of 2024, totaling over $50 million of investments by NRCS

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Elements Needed for Success

- Farmers are problem solvers. Make them an active part of the solution
- Partnership and collaboration
- Trust building
- Resources and funding
- Troubleshooting barriers
- Innovation (new technology, precision ag)
- Recognition

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