2025-2026

ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION REPORT

In 2025, Illinois Farm Bureau's (IFB) Environmental Team continued to navigate environmental issues that impact agriculture and our members. The Environmental Team's work covers numerous topics: education and resource development, legislation and policy development, advocacy, and leadership. We use existing resources and expertise to leverage our work and highlight the voluntary efforts that Illinois agriculture takes to support environmental stewardship.

This action report highlights several priorities and issues that we addressed over the year. Of course, our efforts are only part of the story. We have our IFB members to thank for continuing to engage in this work and for supporting our efforts to promote and provide contributions to environmental action in Illinois agriculture.

CONTENTS

NLRS Leadership

Nutrient loss is one of IFB's top environmental priorities. Our Nutrient Stewardship Program was developed in response to nutrient-related State and federal policy—the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force's (GHTF; 1997) subsequential reduction goals for the Mississippi River Basin States (2012). Guidance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the GHTF charged these states to develop programs that reduce nutrient loss (i.e. nitrate-nitrogen and phosphorus) to waterways.

The goal of nutrient reductions is to reduce nutrient loads in local waterways, the Mississippi River and ultimately, the Gulf of America. Illinois' Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS) is coordinated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), University of Illinois Extension (U of I), and a multi-stakeholder Policy Working Group.

Throughout 2025, IFB supported NLRS programs and other programs related to nutrient loss across Illinois. At the state level, the Environmental Policy Team:

- Continued to take a leadership role on the NLRS Policy Working Group, which advises IEPA and IDOA on: implementation practices, strategies for promoting Best Management Practices (BMPs), delivering funds, and others topics.
- Engaged in several NLRS committees and subcommittees, including the Agriculture Water Quality Partnership Forum, Performance Benchmark Committee, and the Communications Subgroup.

On the Federal level, the Environmental Policy Team:

- Participated in several USEPA meetings (both political and leadership-oriented), including the Agricultural Advisor for Region Five and the USEPA Regional Administrator.
- Worked with researchers to highlight several areas that need additional research, including long-term nutrient cycles, streambank erosion, and others.

NLRS Activity

IFB continues to voluntarily engage in several areas of NLRS implementation. IFB directly contributes time, resources, and expertise to develop programs and resources that help our members to engage in nutrient stewardship practices.

IFB's NLRS implementation efforts tend to fall into four categories:

1. Education and outreach to farmers, landowners, and the public.
2. Support research of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce nutrient losses from agricultural fields.
3. Support farmer implementation of BMPs across the State.
4. Demonstrate IFB's contributions toward achieving NLRS goals and progress.

2025 NLRS Activity Metrics

Financials

Over $1,550,000
committed to IFB NLRS initiatives

Research Support

ILFB contributed $200,000 to NLRS research efforts, supporting weed management, field-scale monitoring, soil health, and water quality research.

IFB Media

FarmWeek & FarmWeekNow.com

Over **75** articles and digital publications focusing on the NLRS and similar topics

Radio & Podcasts

Over **66** Environmental-related podcast interviews and podcast uploads

Social Media & Campaigns

Over **70** IFB touchpoints focusing on NLRS and environmental topics

Additional campaigns on IFB social media and other media, producing over **1,560,000** impressions

External Media

66 Environmental-related news placements statewide featuring IFB staff and members

Outreach Events

Over **30** Field Days and other presentations, with nearly **2,000** attendees

Learn more about our NLRS efforts over the years here:

on.ilfb.org/NLRS

Environmental Stewardship Grant Programs 2025

For several years, IFB has made it an organizational priority to lead on environmental issues, committing significant resources to support these efforts. The Environmental Stewardship Grant Program, includes the Nutrient Stewardship Grants and the Pollinator Conservation Grants, acts as the cornerstone to our grassroot efforts. These programs support member engagement and local environmental efforts that address nutrient management. They also connect and expand collaboration with numerous external partners at the local and regional levels.

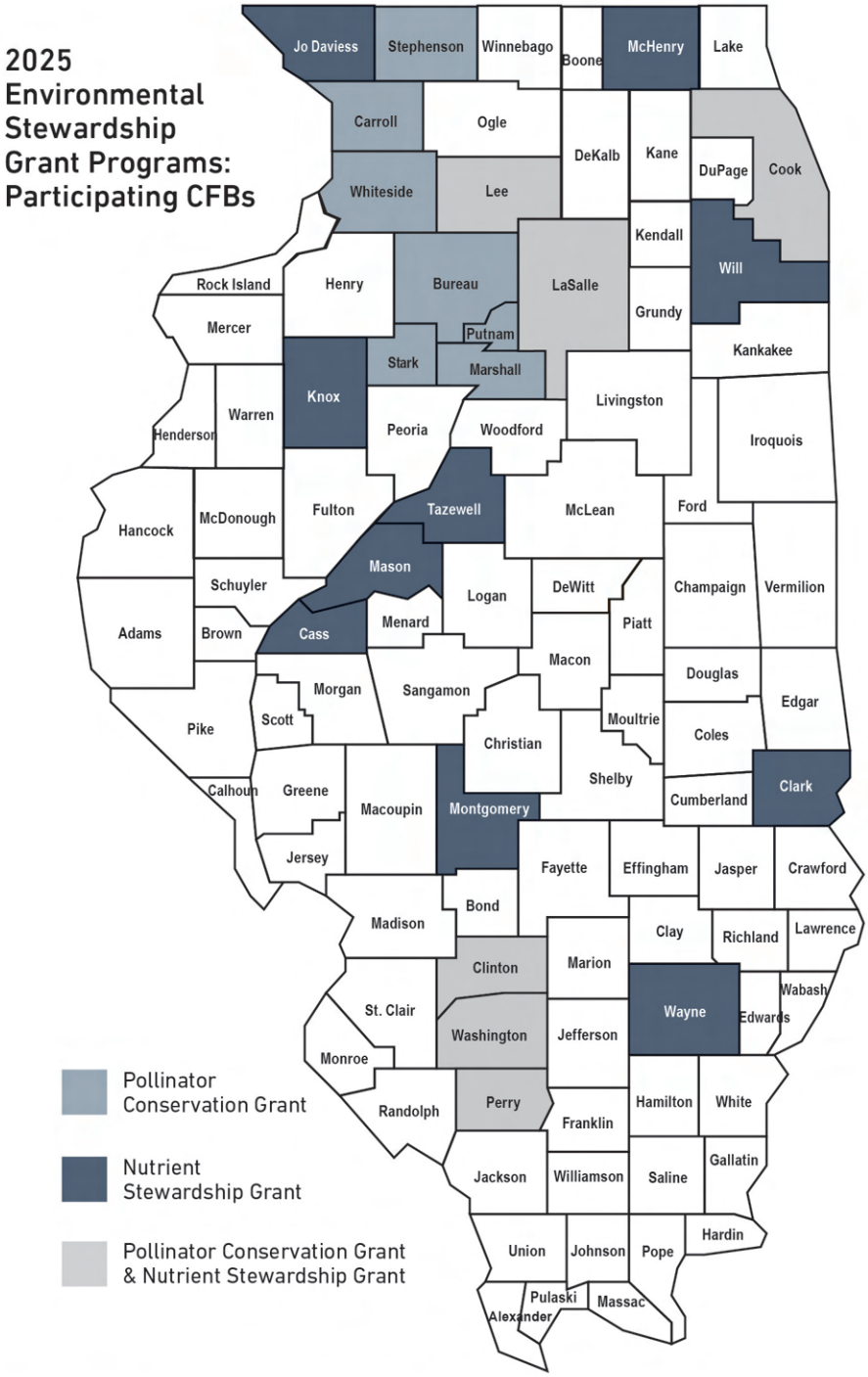
Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program Updates:

- Developed in 2015 to engage all levels of IFB on addressing nutrient loss.
  - 2025 marks the 10th year of the program.
- Since 2015, $1,550,000 to over 174 projects spanning over 75 counties across Illinois.
- In 2025, $200,000 was committed to 15 projects across 18 counties.
  - County Farm Bureaus (CFBs) and their partners invested both time and money to match IFB grants.
  - Projects included: field days and outreach events, implementing cover crops, resource education, on-farm research, soil health education and testing, animal integration, and many others.

Pollinator Conservation Grant Program Updates:

- Developed in 2021 based on CFB feedback and a growing need for pollinator conservation.
- Since 2021, $140,000 committed to over 38 projects spanning over 23 counties across Illinois.
- In 2025, over $25,000 was committed to 7 projects across 12 counties.
  - CFBs and their partners invested both time and money to match IFB grants.
  - Projects included: pollinator seed distribution, pollinator habitat installation, outreach events and a permanent pollinator conservation park/education space.

We are excited to see continued engagement from CFBs and our members. The projects funded by these programs serve as opportunities to support IFB organizational priorities, as well as, larger environmental goals/ initiatives. These projects also offer invaluable leverage, connection, and collaboration with external organizations that share our overarching goals.


2025
Environmental
Stewardship
Grant Programs:
Participating CFBs
Jo Daviess
Stephenson
Winnebago
Boone
McHenry
Lake
Carroll
Ogle
DeKalb
Kane
DuPage
Cook
Whiteside
Lee
Kendall
Will
Rock Island
Henry
Bureau
LaSalle
Grundy
Mercer
Putnam
Kankakee
Stark
Marshall
Knox
Livingston
Warren
Henderson
Peoria
Woodford
Iroquois
Hancock
McDonough
Fulton
Tazewell
McLean
Ford
Mason
Champaign
Vermilion
Schuyler
Logan
DeWitt
Piatt
Adams
Brown
Cass
Menard
Macon
Douglas
Morgan
Sangamon
Edgar
Pike
Scott
Christian
Moultrie
Coles
Calhoun
Greene
Macoupin
Montgomery
Shelby
Cumberland
Clark
Jersey
Fayette
Effingham
Jasper
Crawford
Madison
Bond
Clay
Richland
Lawrence
Clinton
Marion
Wabash
St. Clair
Wayne
Edwards
Washington
Jefferson
Monroe
Hamilton
White
Randolph
Perry
Franklin
Gallatin
Jackson
Williamson
Saline
Hardin
Union
Johnson
Pope
Pulaski
Massac
Alexander
Pollinator
Conservation Grant
Nutrient
Stewardship Grant
Pollinator Conservation Grant
& Nutrient Stewardship Grant

Other Programs

IFB offers many resources and programs to support our members, including several in addition to the Environmental Stewardship Grant Programs. Two examples are highlighted below:

Edge of Field Practice Partnerships

The Woodchip Bioreactor Partnership was developed in 2017 with the goal of implementing, monitoring, and providing education opportunities for woodchip bioreactors, grassed waterways, and wetlands. Highlights for 2025 include:

- Field day and Live installation of a woodchip bioreactor in Henry, IL. The event included education, presentation on installation, monitoring data, and contact information for sign-up.
- Partners were IFB, Marshall-Putnam CFB, Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, LLC (ILICA), U of I, Illinois NRCS, Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership (ISAP), and Fishers and Farmers Partnership.
- Installation was funded between IFB, ISAP via a Fishers and Farmers Grant, and NRCS via an EQUIP grant—significantly reducing our investment.

Poultry Litter – Best Management Practices Now Available

The Environmental Team created a resource of best management practices for our members, designed to minimize risks to surface and groundwater and prevent neighbor nuisance issues. A poorly managed and/or improperly located litter pile may be in violation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and the regulations thereunder."Best Management Practices for Field Stockpiling Poultry Litter" fact sheet is now available at ***ilfb.org/resources/poultylitter***

New Partnerships

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The Environmental Team has been working with USFWS to help develop a strategy to restore wetlands utilizing the USFWS partners Program. This Program helps landowners restore and enhance wildlife habitat through voluntary efforts, providing them with technical and financial assistance. Projects implemented through the Partners Program provide wildlife habitat improvement and water quality benefits. This partnership shows IFB's commitment to protecting threatened and endangered species and water quality throughout the State.

Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources (STAR)

IFB now has a seat on the Illinois STAR steering committee, helping to navigate opportunities to use the STAR conservation evaluation tool for a variety of priorities such as implementation of Illinois Department of Agriculture's (IDOA's) Partners for Conservation Program, value added markets such as the Siemer STAR Producer Reward Payment Program, and future possibilities to be used for Endangered Species Act compliance.

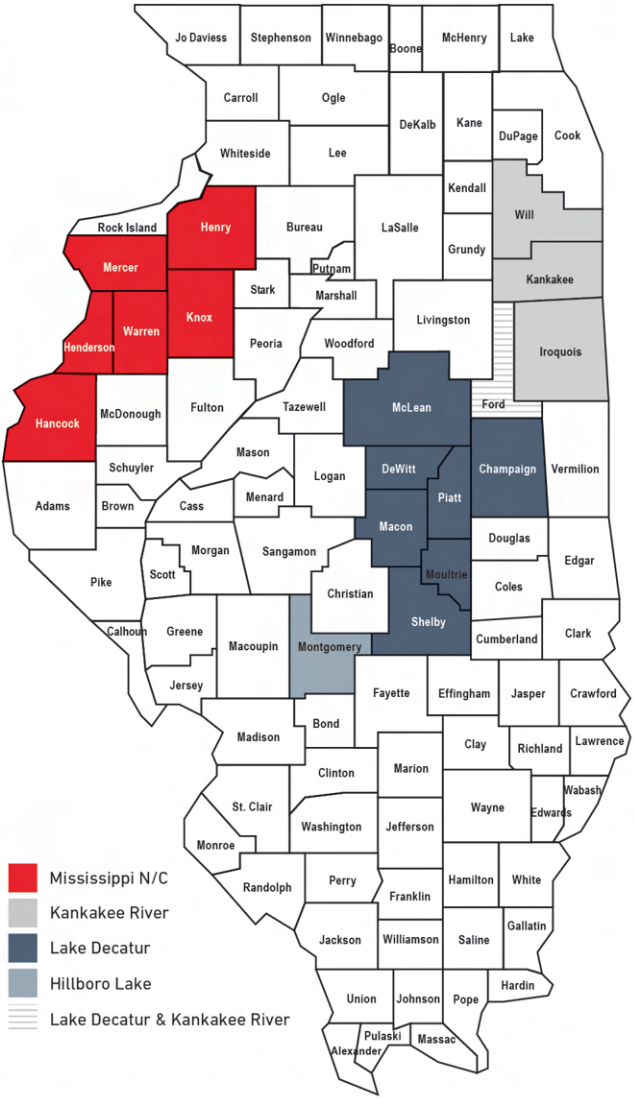
Ecosystem Services Exchange (ESE)

Through a grant received by the National Association of Conservation Districts, ESE is working with the Environmental Team to increase awareness of their project "Improving Water Quality through Conservation Drainage in the Illinois River Basin". This 7-county (DeWitt, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, Macon, McLean, and Piatt) project aims to develop 100 designs for conservation practices such as Drainage Water Management, Saturated Buffers and Denitrifying Bioreactors.

Watershed Support

IFB remains involved with USEPA and United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) through several grant projects for watershed improvement. These primarily include engagement in USEPA's Clean Water Act 319 or 604b grants and USDA-NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) proposals. CFBs across the State help identify interest and magnify support by collaborating on these projects. IFB then strengthens local support by providing in-kind and financial resources.

IFB and CFB Federal Watershed Grant Program Engagement



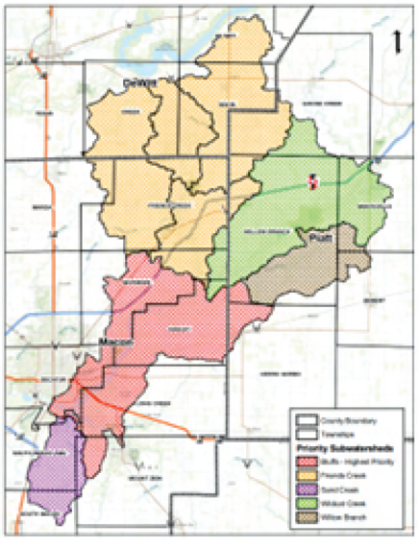
How IFB has engaged in these programs:

WATERSHED	USEPA 604B	USEPA 319	USDA-NRCS RCPP
Mississippi North Central	Awaiting funding decision. Involved **Henry, Mercer, Knox, Warren, Henderson, Hancock CFBs**		
Hillsboro Lake			Awaiting funding decision. Involved **Montgomery CFBs.**
Lake Decatur			Provide **in-kind and financial support** for outreach on BMPs to meet watershed goals. Involved **Ford, McLean, Champaign, DeWitt, Macon, Piatt, and Shelby CFBs.**
Kanakee River Basin			Provide **financial and in-kind support** for BMPs, marketing, and field days. Involved **Will, Kankakee, Ford-Iroquois CFBs.**

Lake Decatur Watershed RCPP Implementation

The City of Decatur received $9.8 million from the USDA-RCPP to improve water quality across the Lake Decatur watershed. The five-year program provides substantial cost-share for practices that reduce sediment and nutrient loss to Lake Decatur. Funding and technical assistance were directed to key counties, drainage areas, and fields. CFBs involved were: Ford, McLean, Champaign, DeWitt, Macon, Piatt, and Shelby.

Since 2024, IFB has contributed



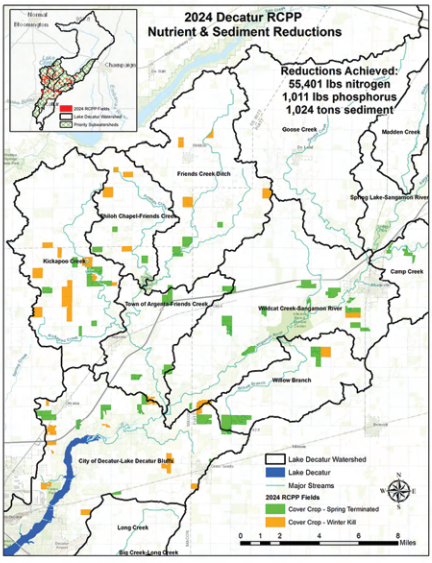
$20,000 and numerous hours of in-kind time to support watershed and outreach events for the Lake Decatur Partnership RCPP.

The program has been highly successful with 94,146 acres enrolled in 2024 and 13,678 acres enrolled in 2025. Incentives include: cover crops ($103.44/acre); No-till/ Strip-Till ($22.40/acre); Nutrient Management ($30.83-97.74/acre). Additional benefits included: service and product discounts, streamlined applications for USDA-NRCS programs, 5-year contracts, no Adjusted Gross Income caps, and free equipment rental.

Total reductions achieved after implementing these acres include:

- 55,401 pounds of nitrogen
- 1,011 pounds of phosphorus
- 1,024 pounds of sediment

Approximately, $1,500,000 remains for the 2026 year of the Lake Decatur Partnership. This program will be applying for funding in 2026 with enrolled RCPPs being eligible for continued support. IFB is currently organizing a tour with involved CFBs to present on 2024-2025 data and provide information for 2026.

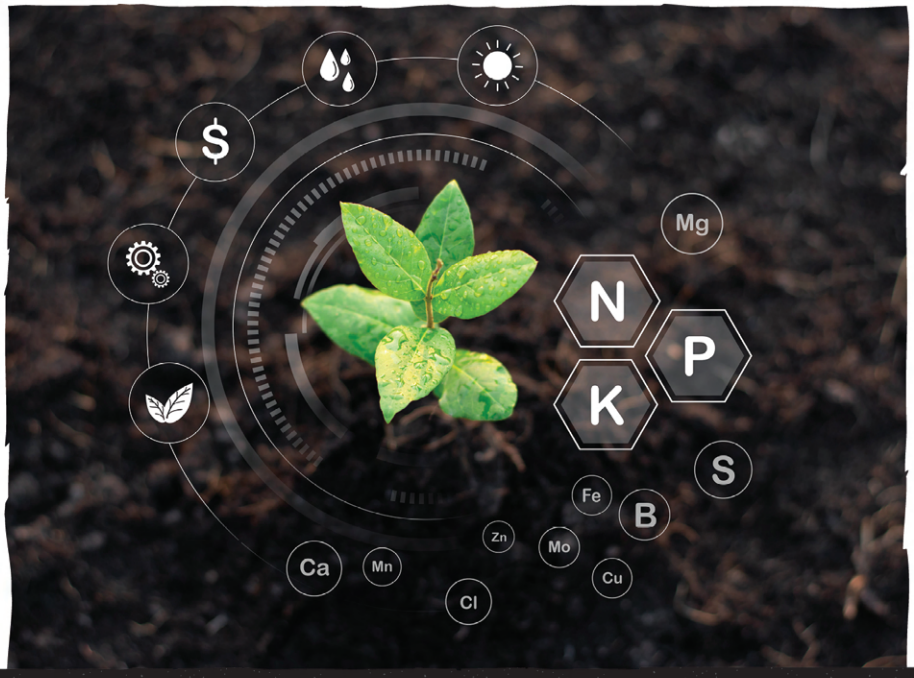


Illinois Ag Retail Survey

"IFB as well as several Illinois agricultural groups worked to support the third year of the Illinois Ag Retail Survey. The survey is funded and supported by several Illinois' agricultural and commodity groups ensuring consistent messaging across retail locations and farmers. The survey is a critical step in collecting comprehensive data on nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer use and application methods. The third year of data collection provided several highlights including:

- In total, 835 fields were surveyed, while only 500 field responses were needed. High participation rates show that farmers and retailers were aware and engaged in the effort.
- Both small and large farms participated in the survey with the median size of field and farm operation being 92 acres and 1763 acres.
- The survey results verify that farmers are using fertilizer rates consistent with the recommendations in the University of Illinois Agronomy Handbook.

Looking ahead, survey supporters are looking forward to continued data collection and identifying trends of best management practice usage over time. The data will also provide opportunities to develop new programs and initiatives to tackle key areas identified by the survey. For IFB, this survey showcases agriculture's progress and defines the significance of voluntary practice adoption.



Research Support

Supporting agricultural research is critical to IFB's environmental work. Beyond collaborating directly with Illinois universities' researchers, the Environmental Team organizes outreach events, connects farmers with scientists for on-farm trials, hosts farmer focus-groups, provides financial assistance, and engages in other initiatives that foster meaningful research on key environmental issues.

NLRS:

In 2015, Illinois adopted the NLRS to reduce nutrient runoff from agriculture and point sources, like wastewater treatment plants and industry. This aligns with the USEPA's goal of shrinking the Gulf of Mexico's hypoxic "dead zone" to 5,000 square kilometers by 2035. Illinois set interim goals of reducing total nitrogen (TN) by 15% and total phosphorus (TP) by 25% by 2025, with a long-term goal of 45% reductions in both.

Currently, NLRS attributes 100% of non-point source nutrient contributions to agriculture. However, other sources—such as streambank erosion, legacy phosphorus built-up in soils, and nutrients stored in stream sediments—also play a role. These potential sources have been acknowledged for decades but remain unquantified.

In addition to nutrient loading, factors like river flow variability, coastal weather, and climate change also influence the size of the hypoxic zone. Yet, their impact has not been formally assessed.

To address these gaps, the Illinois Farm Bureau's Environmental Team is partnering with University of Illinois researchers to quantify nutrient contributions from these overlooked sources. Without this research, farmers are held responsible for 82% of TN and 48% of TP reductions. IFB is committed to supporting a more accurate and equitable nutrient reduction framework—one that reflects the full range of contributing sources and better balances the responsibility placed on Illinois farmers.

In 2025, research projects IFB supported were:

- Along with the Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC), the Environmental Team worked to promote the resampling of soil samples at approximately 450 locations around the State to compare to soil samples dating from 1899 through the 2000's stored at the University of Illinois archives.
- Supported Dr. Karla Gage's (SIUC) Integrated Weed Management research, including seedbanks, cover crops, herbicide resistance, and crop rotation.
- Supported several areas of Dr. Andrew Margenot's (U of I) research, including the "gap-analysis" of the NLRS report, a water quality monitoring project with Bureau CFB, on-farm struvite trials in specialty crop production, on-field replication of U of I's

Marrow plot projects and other areas of soil health and water quality.

- Supported Dr. Bin Peng's (U of I) research on identifying gaps in the current NLRS such as conducting flow-normalized nutrient loading for reporting so that human and hydrological impacts at watershed scale can be separated, quantifying the nutrient load contribution from extreme hydrological events to determine appropriate BMPs and their location, and demonstrating the field-to-watershed approach for determining most effective means of controlling nutrient losses from fields.
- Supported multiple areas of Dr. Kaiyu Guan's (U of I) soil carbon and aerial imagery and monitoring research. This includes continued support of the Agroecosystem Sustainability Center (ASC) at U of I.
- Continued to participate in a coalition focused on compiling existing scientific research and commissioning new studies to critically evaluate the scientific basis for the USEPA's anticipated nitrate and nitrite standards.

Engagement

Endangered Species Act Workshops

As a result of losing numerous lawsuits, most recently in September of 2023, the USEPA is implementing changes in pesticide uses to meet their obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The ESA is designed to conserve threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found.

- USEPA has a responsibility of complying with ESA by reviewing information and data to determine whether a pesticide product can be registered for a particular use.
- As part of that determination, USEPA evaluates if listed species or their designated critical habitat may be affected by use of the product. All pesticide products that USEPA determines "may affect" a listed species or its designated critical habitat may be subject to the Endangered Species Protection Program (ESPP.)
- The goal of ESPP is to carry out USEPA's responsibilities under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
- USEPA reviews each registered pesticide **at least every 15 years** to ensure that each pesticide can carry out its intended function(s) without creating "unreasonable adverse effects to human health and the environment" and updates their respective labels.
- To comply with new ESA requirements, many pesticide labels are being updated, and compliance requirements may be changing.

In 2025, the Environmental Team collaborated with CFBs, Illinois Soybean Association and Illinois Corn Growers Association to to identify hosts for a series of workshops aimed at educating members on significant and impactful changes to the ESA. Partnering with CFBs and university experts, the team successfully organized and held six (6) ESA workshops across the State.

Discussions with CFB Managers

In 2025, the Environmental Team launched a statewide tour to meet with CFB managers in their respective Districts. Recognizing that each region faces unique environmental challenges and priorities, the team engaged in in-depth conversations with managers to gather feedback on a variety of topics. Discussions included effectiveness of current environmental programs, preferred methods of communication, awareness of pending ESA label changes, and related concerns. The team also sought input on improving the Certified Crop Advisor Award, provided watershed and water quality updates, and discussed irrigator reporting requirements.

In 2026, the Environmental Team will begin implementing the suggestions provided by managers and will continue conducting Districts visits to meet with those who have not yet been reached.

Weeds with Karla

7 Part Series

Recognizing that farmers and ranchers are facing unprecedented challenges in weed management, in 2025, IFB's Environmental Team partnered with SIU to develop and share a series of informational webinars about Integrated Weed Management.

Over 7 episodes, Dr. Gage shared research findings from students and guidance/research from colleagues with a goal of providing new ideas and practical information to help manage weeds. Specifically, the series discussed:

1) **Integrated Weed Management**
   Why do we need it? Practical implementation methods and the benefits of integrated weed management.

2) **Seedbanks**
   Research in seedbank management. Management and the consequences of unmanaged late season weed escapes.

3) **Harvest Weed Seed Control**
   As a tactic for herbicide resistance management, focusing on the practice of chaff lining.

4) **Cover Crops**
   Planning to integrate cover crops into your weed management program? Learn about species selection and herbicide carryover.

5) **Herbicide Resistance**
   Evaluating herbicide resistance and prolonging the efficacy of often-used herbicides.

6) **Crop Rotation**
   The benefits of increasing the number of crops in rotation and the practice of 'relay cropping' wheat and soybeans. What does relay cropping system look like in practice?

7) **Planting Green**
   Utilized the practices of 'planting green' and 'interseeding' to create mulch layers for weed suppression. Some cover crops produce biochemical compounds that suppress weed germination, a sort of "chemical warfare" that plants use; this is called allelopathy and can be a valuable tool in some scenarios.

Each topic is first discussed in *FarmWeek*, then IFB members will have access to supporting presentations, videos, radio interviews and more on IFB's website at: on.ilfb.org/weedskarla at their convenience.

For feedback and suggestions on weed related topics to discuss in the future, send email to environmentalteam@ilfb.org.

The host of the discussions is Dr. Karla Gage, Associate Professor of Weed Science and Plant Biology in the Schools of Agricultural Sciences and Biological Sciences at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIU). Dr. Gage completed BS and MS degrees in Biology at the University of Memphis and a PhD in Plant Biology with a focus on weed ecology at SIU.

Advocacy

The Environmental Team works on behalf of our members to monitor and engage in issues that could have adverse effects on agriculture. Over the course of 2025, one such area of environmental focus has been monitoring developments of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Biosolids. In early 2025, USEPA shared "Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS)." IFB partnered with Illinois Corn Growers Association and Illinois Soybean Association to review the assessment and provided joint comments to USEPA. Collectively, the groups asked the risk assessment be withdrawn for a variety of reasons including analyses based on extreme assumptions, inadequately published reference data on chemicals, and recognition of variability due to site-specific factors and various municipalities biosolids.

Additionally, the Environmental Team engages in regular discussions with the IEPA to discuss State level concerns. The Team also continues to periodically interact with IDOA and engages with USEPA, AFBF, and other agriculture groups to monitor regulatory compliance, policy, and program implementation.

Proposal To List Monarch Butterfly As A Threatened Species Under The Endangered Species Act

In late 2024, the USFWS proposed listing the monarch butterfly as a threaten species under the ESA. In March 2025, IFB commented on the proposal suggesting USFWS recognize the many exemptions provided for farmers and encouraging USFWS to align any additional mitigations with on-going pesticide label reviews and updates under FIFRA. IFB also shared their on-going financial commitments to pollinator projects.

On March 2025, the USFWS re-opened the public comment period. In May 2025, IFB again provided comments and took this opportunity to share the many activities conducted by CFB to further demonstrate farmers commitments to the monarch. IFB also shared detailed information about the considerable pollinator efforts being completed by Agriculture in the Classroom throughout the state.

2025 Animal Feed Operation Proposal

In addition to developments in PFAS regulations and ESA, IFB signed on to joint comments to the USEPA regarding draft AP-42, Chapter 9, Section 4 ("AP-42") and Air Emissions Estimating Methods for Animal Feed Operations ("EEMs"). The comment suggested USEPA reconsider current models as the draft models are not reliable due to the fact they rely on dated information and would impose significant cost on farmers.

Proposals Reviewed Include:

AGENCY	OVERVIEW
US FWS **PROPOSAL TITLE** Endangered and Threatened Species: Species Status with Section 4(d) Rule for Monarch Butterfly and Designation of Critical Habitat	- March 2025 and May 2025 - Proposing listing the monarch butterfly as a "threatened" species - IFB first suggested to align the listing to additional mitigations with on-going pesticide label updates - IFB second comment shared the on-going efforts to promote pollinators in Illinois being done by CFBs and Agriculture in the Classroom

AGENCY	OVERVIEW
USEPA **PROPOSAL TITLE** Risk Assessment for PFAS in Biosolids	- August 2025 - In joint comments filed with Illinois Corn and Illinois Soybean Association, the groups shared that the methodology used in the risk assessment caused great concern as the analyses were based on extreme assumptions not congruent with real-world practices and inadequately published reference data on chemicals. - Jointly the organizations requested the withdrawal of the draft risk assessment.

AGENCY	OVERVIEW
USEPA **PROPOSAL TITLE** AP-42 Emission Factors for Animal Feeding Operations (AFO's)	- August 2025 - IFB joined comments asking the USEPA reconsider current models as they do not adequately represent the current livestock, poultry and egg industries. - The joint comment also highlighted potential costs associated with erroneously calculated large emission would be significant.

WOTUS

Over the course of many years, IFB has been actively engaged on Waters of the United States (WOTUS) issues- monitoring litigation and regulatory changes, as well as consistently advocating for Illinois agriculture. In 2025, Environmental Policy monitored the following:

- Several states began taking steps to adopt state level wetland permitting program/legislation.
  - These permitting programs are meant to cover waters that were once regulated under the CWA but are now uncovered post-Sackett.
  - Many of these new laws and legislative proposals go beyond what was regulated under the CWA.

Significant Recent WOTUS Developments:

May 2023

- Supreme Court rules in favor of Sacketts in *Sackett v. EPA*, including eliminating significant nexus test, and clarifying the agency's jurisdiction over regulated waters. The Supreme Court concluded that:
  - "Adjacent" cannot include wetlands that are nearby covered waters.
    - Must be indistinguishable from waters of the United States.
  - EPA failed to show the exceedingly clear language required if Congress wishes to alter the federal/state balance or government's power over private property.
    - If EPA had such broad jurisdiction, difficult to see a role for the states' "responsibilities and rights' in regulating water resources.
  - CWA never mentions the "significant nexus" test, so the EPA has no statutory basis to impose it.
  - CWA is a potent weapon granting authority for both criminal and civil penalties.
    - Due process requires Congress to define penal statutes "with sufficient definiteness that ordinary people can understand what conduct is prohibited" and "in a manner that does not encourage arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement."

August 2023

- New WOTUS rule published under "good cause" clause. Possibility for court challenges.
- Rule considered "final" for Illinois and other states not included in Kentucky v. EPA or other challenges.

March 2025

- USEPA and Army Corps of Engineers announced a joint memorandum providing guidance to field staff on implementation of "continuous surface connection" consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the case of Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency.
- USEPA and Army Corps of Engineers requested feedback on key topic areas to further define 'waters of the United States' including:
  - Defining continuous surface connection including defining "abut".
  - The scope of jurisdiction ditches.
  - The scope of relatively permanent waters and to what features this phrase applies.
  - And several others.
- AFBF provided both verbal and written comments.

IFB anticipates USEPA will provide additional guidance regarding CWA implantation in the near future. The Environmental Team is continuing to closely monitor updates to WOTUS as well as any State developments. At present, the USEPA's 2023 WOTUS Rule is in effect.

CONTACT US:

Sanjay Sofat | ssofat@ilfb.org

Amelia Cheek | acheek@ilfb.org

Eric Gerth | egerth@ilfb.org

Bena Pegg | bpegg@ilfb.org

Learn more at:
www.ilfb.org/environment