

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2110 W. Park Court, Suite C
Champaign, Illinois 61821



"...Preserving for the Future..."



ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Conservation Practices for Nutrient Management in Champaign County

*YOU CAN HELP AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN
U.S. AGRICULTURE!*

Conservation practices are intended to benefit agriculture by maintaining or enhancing productivity while protecting our natural resources. To better understand and quantify the effectiveness of using conservation practices within a given system, the University of Illinois is working with the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District and American Farmland Trust to implement controlled, replicated experiments under real-world conditions.

To accomplish this, we must find producers who are not only willing to try a conservation practice on part of their acreage, but also allow us to monitor the impact of the practice. We believe cooperation between researchers at the University of Illinois and individual farmers will produce better scientific studies and lead to practical common sense solutions that can make a difference.

Conservation practices that we want to test

In field:

- Cover crops
- Strip-till corn
- No-till soybeans or corn
- Spring or side-dress N application vs. fall N application

Edge of field:

- Water table management
- Saturated riparian buffers
- Bioreactors



What does “monitoring” include?

We need to know how much water leaves your field, and what is in it.

For *field tiles*, we install a structure into the tile to allow for flow monitoring, and for sample collection (we then analyze in our laboratory for nitrate and phosphorus).



For *overland runoff*, a weir is installed to measure flow volume and allow for sample collection.



We also need to know what you are doing on the field (cultural practices being used and timing), as well as the area being drained.

Some important considerations about monitoring on your farm:

- The location and identity of monitored sites will remain anonymous at all times.
- No cost for the installation of equipment or structures.
- Monitoring equipment is usually installed at the edge of field, out of the way of operations.
- Monitoring equipment will not have an effect on or impact tile capacity.

This is an opportunity to try something new and see how it works on your farm. Information gained will allow for an assessment of nutrient management and other practices.

For more information please contact:

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