We conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

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LASTING results

1 million + members + 64 years of conservation = 120 million acres protected worldwide, including all 50 states and 35 other countries.
North America Region | Agriculture

**Nutrient Management**  
**Sustainable Grazing**

Focus Areas
Dozens of agriculture projects are embedded in these whole systems.
Our Nutrient Goal:

Reverse agricultural nutrient loading trends causing hypoxic zones in freshwater systems and oceans by 2025.

What Are We Doing?

• Demonstrating the value of Precision Conservation technologies
• Mobilizing with the agriculture industry to increase conservation champions and advisors guiding farmers to deliver those practices
• Engaging the food industry in supply chain initiatives to drive change
• Working to increase policy incentives
A Systems Approach

Edge-of-Field

Down Stream

In Field
Water Quality Data from Indiana Soil Health Demo Farm

Problem of Excess:
- Channelized agricultural streams and ditches export excess nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and sediments to sensitive downstream ecosystems where they contaminate drinking water, fuel downstream algal blooms with “dead zones”, and harm sensitive fish and mussels.
- Excess fertilizer nutrients often enter streams and ditches via tile drains, especially during Winter and Spring when fields are bare.

Cover crops can reduce nutrient loss:
- Cover crops, like ryegrass, are planted after cash crop harvest and their growth coincides with critical times for nutrient export from tiles to streams/ditches.

Goal: Retain nutrients/soils on fields, and reduce stream export.

Nitrate-N export from tile drains is lower with cover crops

- Year 1 and Year 2 planting suggests that the planting of cover crops reduces tile drain nitrate concentrations by ~30%.
- Our data suggest that cover crops have the potential to significantly reduce N export from tile drain outlets.

Conclusions:
- Cover crops provide a field-scale management solution that reduces nutrient loss to tile drains and keeps fertilizer on fields.
- Cover crops applied at the watershed scale have the potential to meet current reduction goals set by managers to significantly reduce nutrient export to downstream waters.
Voluntary Nutrient Service Providers Private Third Party Audit
Midwest Row Crop Initiative

Leading food retailers, brands, input providers and producers, including Walmart, PepsiCo, Monsanto, Kellogg’s, General Mills and Cargill, are working with respected conservation groups – like TNC, WWF and EDF – and row crop farmers to meet growing consumer demand for more sustainable food.
Together, we want to **support, enhance and accelerate** the environmentally-friendly agricultural practices already underway in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska to **deliver more food** while…

**Midwest Row Crop Initiative**

*Stakeholder Engagement*

- Improving Water Quality
- Optimizing Irrigation Efficiency
- Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Midwest Row Crop Initiative
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