

January 2017

Indiana Nutrient Management/Soil Health Strategy



The Indiana Nutrient Management/Soil Health Strategy (NMSH) is a multi-year plan to reduce nutrient loss through nutrient management practices and improving overall soil health. With education and outreach, this strategy aims to collaborate with both government agencies and private organizations to increase awareness and knowledge on soil health. While this strategy focuses on topics similar to the Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy, the NMSH's goal is to increase farmer education and awareness in order to "keep farm management decisions in the hands of farmers". The NMSH is meant to complement the state's Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

As a "by ag, for ag" strategy, multiple entities play a large role in the strategy. Organizations that have a hand in this strategy are all commodity groups, the Indiana Conservation Partnership, Indiana Certified Crop Advisor program (CCA), Purdue Ag Research and many other organizations. These groups play integral roles in promoting and educating the public on soil health and nutrient management. While these organizations help with the promotion of this strategy and look at the regulatory aspect, the NMSH strategy is meant to benefit the farmer and help the farmer implement long-term soil health practices.

"Farmers are in the best position to determine which practices make the most sense for their farms." says Aly Wells, Director of Production at Indiana Soybean Alliance. "Our goal with

"Farmers are in the best position to determine which practices make the most sense for their farms. Our goal with the Nutrient Management Soil Health Strategy is to provide farmers with the resources they need to make those decisions. Making small changes on our farms can lead to big impacts for soil health and water quality across the state."

- Aly Wells,
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Indiana Corn Marketing Council
Indiana Corn Growers Association

the Nutrient Management Soil Health Strategy is to provide farmers with the resources they need to make those decisions. Making small changes on our farms can lead to big impacts for soil health and water quality across the state."

By implementing these practices within the strategy and aligning with the theme "Small Changes, Big Impact", the individual farmer should see agronomic benefits such as improved soil health and water quality. When farmers apply small changes to their farm, it will pay off in the long run with less regulatory intervention and overall improved soil health. With these improved agronomic benefits come improved economic benefits, through increased yields and less input costs, saving the farmer's bottom line.

In order to reach out to farmers and others who would benefit from the practices within the strategy, presentations and printed materials are typically provided at various events throughout the state. Look for these materials are at the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) Annual Conference, INfield Advantage winter meetings and present at Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) meetings. NMSH materials are funded with Indiana corn and soybean checkoff dollars. For more information on the Indiana Nutrient Management Soil Health Strategy, visit impactindiana.com.



Follow CCSI on social media:
[Facebook.com/conservationcropping](https://www.facebook.com/conservationcropping)
Twitter: @CCSI_IN

CCSI is a project of the Indiana Conservation Partnership icp.iaswcd.org