



Managing Reactive N in the Environment

C.S. Snyder, PhD, CCA
Nitrogen Program Director

Presented to
EPA FRRCC 2009

Brazil's Lula: food riots are wake-up call

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Environment > GM

Britain 'must revive farms' to avoid grave food crisis

Top thinktank issues stark warning of unrest over prices and says GM crops could offer a solution

Jamie Doward, home affairs editor
The Observer, Sunday 1 February 2009
[Article history](#)



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GM · Food

Observer

UK news

Britain faces a major **food** crisis unless urgent steps are taken to revive its flagging agricultural sector, warns one of the world's most influential thinktanks.

< Done

Jacques Diouf (left) shakes hand with Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Miguel Angel Moratinos.

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26 January 2009, Madrid - Chiefs of

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IPNI is committed to a healthy and adequate global food supply



EPA SAB Integrated Nitrogen Committee Report on Reactive N (Nr)



November 15, 2008

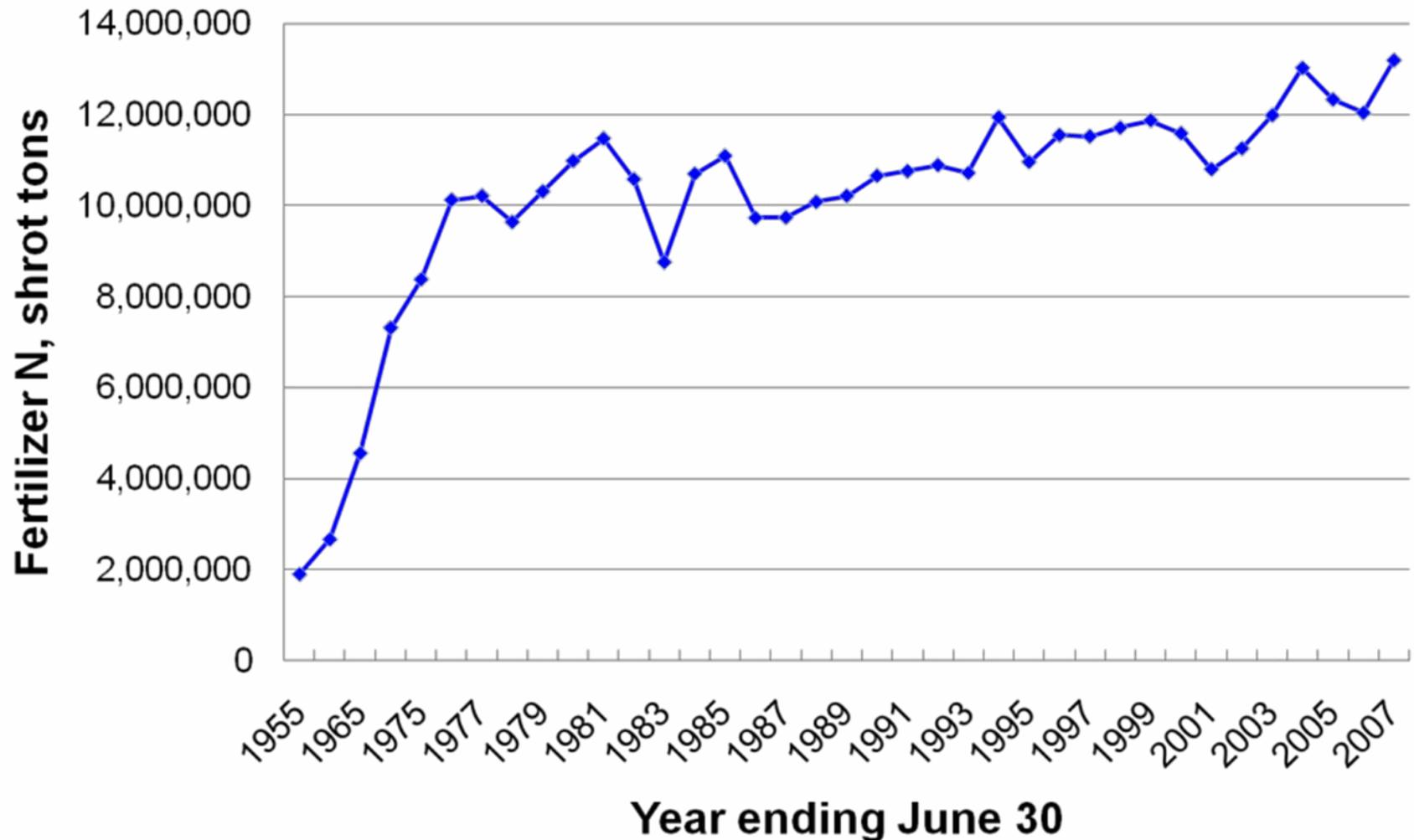
- **Improved practices** - impact lowered through better management practices
- **Product substitution** - a product is developed or promoted which has a lower dependency on, or releases less, reactive nitrogen)
- **Transformation** - one form of N converted to another form
- **Source limitation** - introduction of Nr in environment lowered through preventive measures (e.g. **precision fertilizer application, controls on NOx generation**)
- **Removal** - in which Nr is sequestered from impacting a particular resource
- **Improved use or reuse efficiency** - efficiency of production that is dependent on Nr is improved (e.g. increased grain yields for lower Nr applied), or Nr wasted from one source is reused in another (e.g. algal farming).

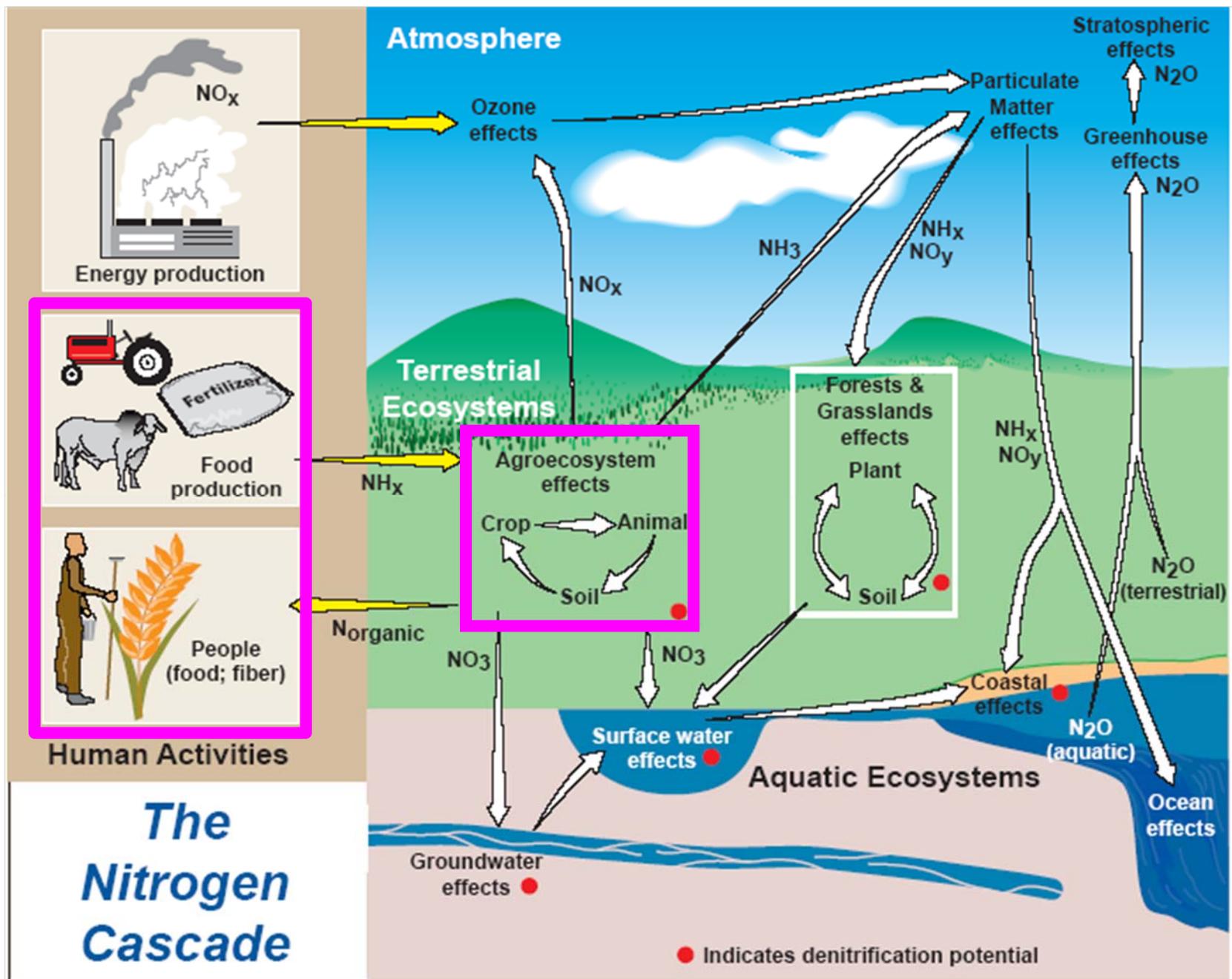
EPA INC Draft Recommends - Reduce Nr Loss to Environment by 25%



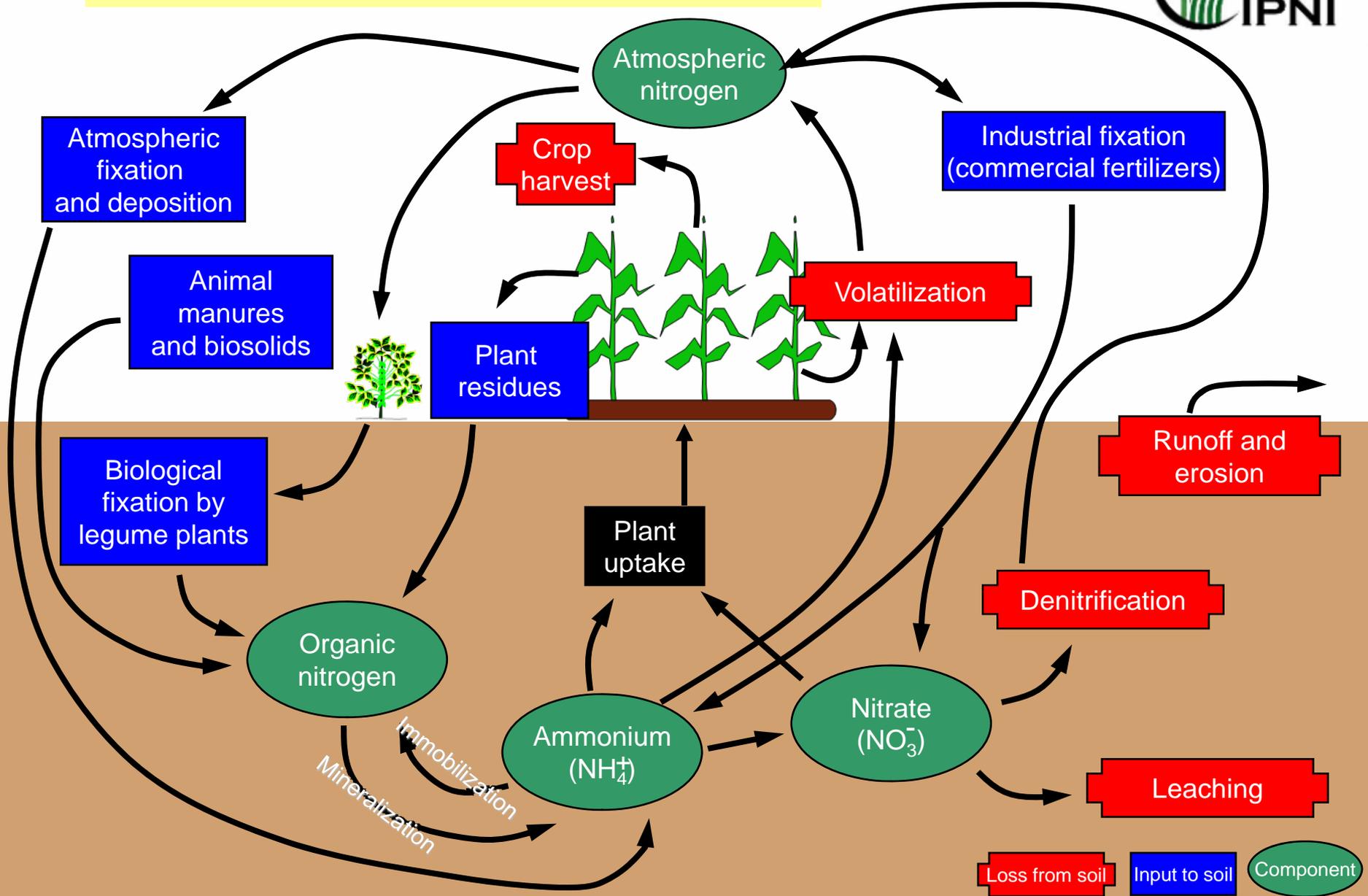
- Decrease **livestock-derived ammonia** emissions to approximately 80% of 1990
- Decrease **excess flows of Nr into streams, rivers, and coastal systems** by approx. 20%
- **Increase crop output while reducing total Nr up to 20%** of applied artificial Nr.
- High priority for a targeted construction grants program under the CWA (i.e wetlands)

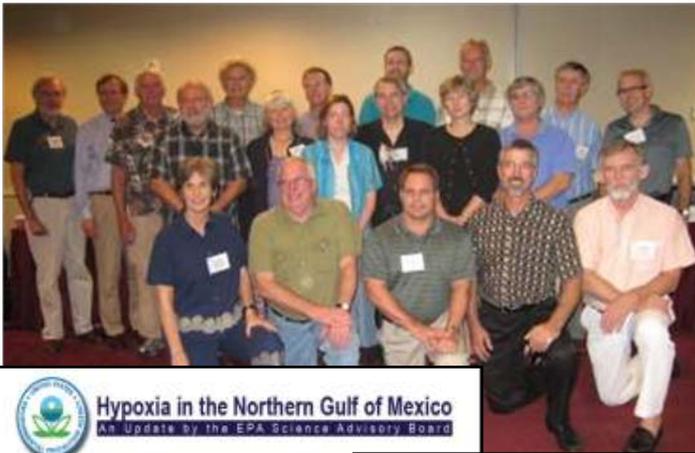
U.S. Fertilizer N Consumption





The Nitrogen Cycle





Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico
An Update by the EPA Science Advisory Board

EPA Hypoxia SAB report suggested
45% less total N
AND
45% less total P
discharge to the Gulf to reduce
hypoxia



Nutrients and Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico – An Update on Progress, 2008

By C.S. Stedler

Based on data presented here and in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board (EPA SAB) 2008 report, there is reason to believe that declines in discharge of N and P to the Gulf of Mexico are proceeding through voluntary actions by farmers, their advisors, and their suppliers. Driven by global economic pressures, local and personal profitability goals and objectives, and a greater environmental consciousness and stewardship ethic, farmers and practitioners are increasingly implementing fertilizer BMPs. These accomplishments are noteworthy and herald progress toward improved fertilizer nutrient use efficiency, which may lead to reductions in N and P loss from farm fields and agricultural watersheds.

Since 1985, the areal extent of hypoxia (2 mg/L of dissolved oxygen) in the shallow coastal waters (< 30 m or 100 ft) of the northern Gulf of Mexico has been estimated annually in late July by scientists with the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON). Figure 1 shows the extent of hypoxia beginning in 1985 and through 2007. Historic evidence suggests hypoxia is a natural event, but current science indicates hypoxia in the Gulf has occurred more frequently and extensively in the last half century. These contemporary changes in the size and duration of the hypoxic zone are thought to be most related to nutrient discharges, specifically N and P discharges from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya River Basin (MARB).



Location of nine large sub-basins comprising the MARB that are used for estimating nutrient fluxes. (From Aulerbach et al., 2007).

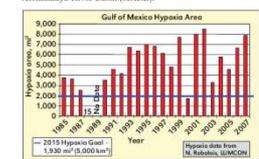


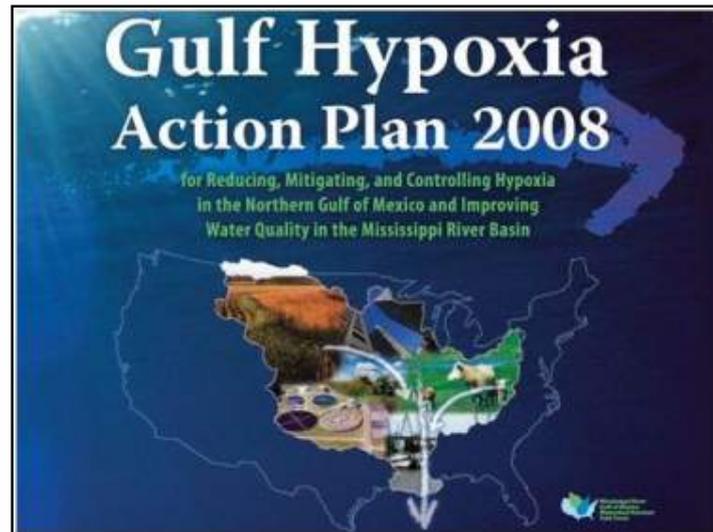
Figure 1. Areal extent of hypoxia in the northern Gulf of Mexico, as determined by annual cruises conducted in late July. One square kilometer (km²) = 0.3861 square miles (mi²).

Federal, state, and tribal authorities developed an Action Plan and defined within-Basin goals and the goal of reducing the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico to a 5-year running average of 5,000 km² (1,930 mi²) by 2015 (MRCMWNTE, 2001). Since 2001, knowledge has expanded on the complexity of factors (e.g. climate, weather, basin morphology, coastal water circulation patterns, water retention times, freshwater inflows, stratification of freshwater over saltwater, mixing, nutrient loadings, and loss of processing marsh lands along the Louisiana coast) that contribute to the development of hypoxia in the Gulf. For example, a recent report by Heland and DiMarco (2008) has exposed some of the complexities associated with coastal physical processes, and factors that

interact with the biology of the ecosystem, which affect hypoxia development and persistence east and west of the shelf region south of Terrebonne Bay in Louisiana. These two analyses suggest that a water stratification envelope may be the dominant factor affecting the areal extent of hypoxia along the Louisiana-Texas shelf, as opposed to nutrients delivered by the Mississippi and Atchafalaya discharges.

At the request of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed National Task Force (MRCMWNTE), EPA assembled a team of leading scientists to form a hypoxia Science Advisory Board to assess nutrient load reductions achieved, the responses of the hypoxic zone and associated water quality and habitat conditions, and economic and social effects since the 2001 Action Plan (MRCMWNTE, 2001) was released. The SAB reported, "Hypoxia can occur naturally in deep basins, bays, and oxygen minimal coastal zones associated with upwelling. However, nutrient-induced hypoxia in shallow coastal and estuarine systems is increasing worldwide" (EPA SAB, 2008). The SAB report also stated that "recent science has affirmed the basic conclusion that contemporary changes in the hypoxic area in the northern Gulf of Mexico are primarily related to nutrient fluxes from the MARB." A new Action Plan is in development and a draft has been released to the public (MRCMWNTE, 2008).

Former N discharge reduction goals (MRCMWNTE, 2001) were aimed principally at NO₃-N discharge reduction (actually, reported as the combined measure of NO₃ and NO₂ forms of N), but the 2008 EPA SAB report recommended reductions in Ammonium and notes for this article: N = nitrogen; P = phosphorus; BOD = best management practices; NH₄ = nitrate; NH₃ = nitrite; NH₂ = ammonia; OLR = one, one-hundredth of one; NO_x = nitrate plus the compound produced from their oxidation.



Has nutrient discharge increased ?



Table 1. Average annual and spring (April-June) combined water flow, NO₃-N, total Kjeldahl N (organic N + NH₄-N), and total N discharge from the combined Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico for 2001 to 2005 compared against the reference period 1980-1996. Source: EPA SAB, 2008.

	1980-1996	2001-2005	Change
	million m ³ (water) or million metric tons		%
<u>Annual</u>			
Water	692,500	652,500	-6
NO ₃ -N	0.96	0.81	-15
Total Kjeldahl N	0.61	0.43	-30
Total N	1.58	1.24	-21
<u>Spring</u>			
Water	236,800	210,600	-11
NO ₃ -N	0.38	0.33	-12
Total Kjeldahl N	0.21	0.14	-32
Total N	0.59	0.48	-19

Notable Declines

Discharge by 5 Major Sub-basins



Where is it coming from?

Table 2. Average nutrient discharge for the five large sub-basins in the Mississippi-Atchafalaya River Basin for the 2001-2005 water years (EPA SAB, 2008). Values in parentheses indicate % of total Basin discharge.

Sub-basin	Land Area		Water flow million m ³ /yr	NO ₃ -N ----- 1,000 metric tons/yr -----	NH ₄ -N and organic N (Total Kjeldahl N)	Total P	
	km ²	mi ²					
			16	61	84	74	64
Upper Mississippi ¹	493,900	190,600	116,200 (18)	349 (43)	136 (32)	40 (26)	
Ohio-Tennessee	525,800	203,000	279,800 (43)	335 (41)	175 (41)	59 (38)	
Missouri	1,353,300	522,400	60,080 (9)	79 (10)	84 (20)	30 (20)	
Arkansas-Red	584,100	225,500	67,200 (10)	29 (4)	44 (10)	9 (6)	
Lower Mississippi ¹	183,200	70,700	129,550 (20)	22 (3)	-8 (-2)	16 (10)	

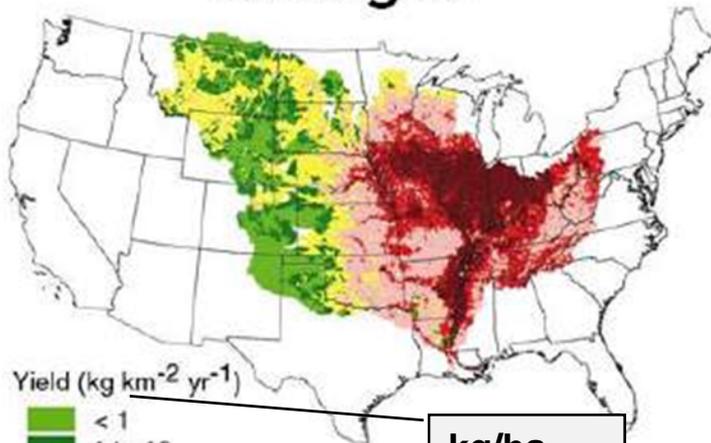
¹ Nutrient discharge calculated by differences. Negative values occur downstream where a downstream site had a lower discharge than the upstream site, that result in errors in discharge estimates or a real net loss of nutrients.

USGS Estimates Loss of N and P to Water Resources in Different Areas

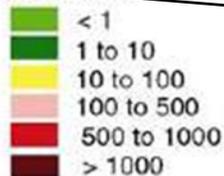


SPARROW - Modeled Estimate of N and P Discharge in Watersheds of the Mississippi R. Basin

Nitrogen



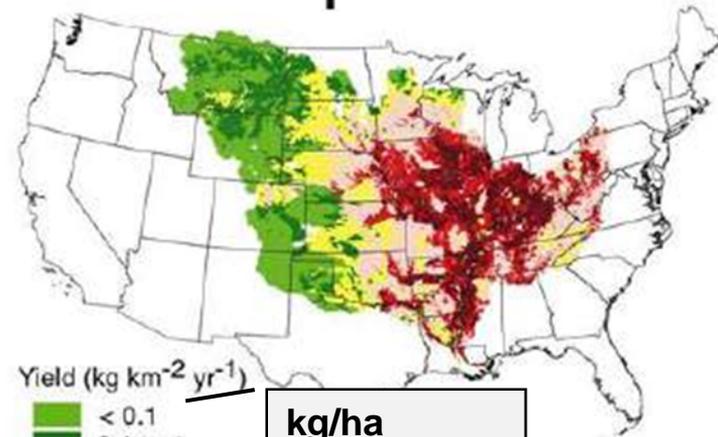
Yield ($\text{kg km}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$)



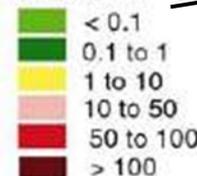
kg/ha

.01
 .01- 0.1
 0.1 to 1
 1 to 5
 5 to 10
 >10

Phosphorus



Yield ($\text{kg km}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$)



kg/ha

.001
 .001- 0.01
 0.01 to 0.1
 0.1 to 0.5
 0.5-1.0
 >1



Sub-basin Contributions of N & P



Table 3. Average annual nutrient yields for the five large sub-basins in the Mississippi-Atchafalaya River Basin for water years 2001-2005. Source: EPA SAB, 2008.

Sub-basin	NO ₃ -N	NH ₄ -N and organic N (Total Kjeldahl N)	Total P
----- kg/ha/yr -----			
Upper Mississippi	→ 7.1	2.7	0.8 ←
Ohio-Tennessee	→ 6.4	3.3	1.1 ←
Missouri	0.6	0.6	0.2
Arkansas-Red	0.5	0.8	0.1
Lower Mississippi	1.2	-0.5	0.9 ←

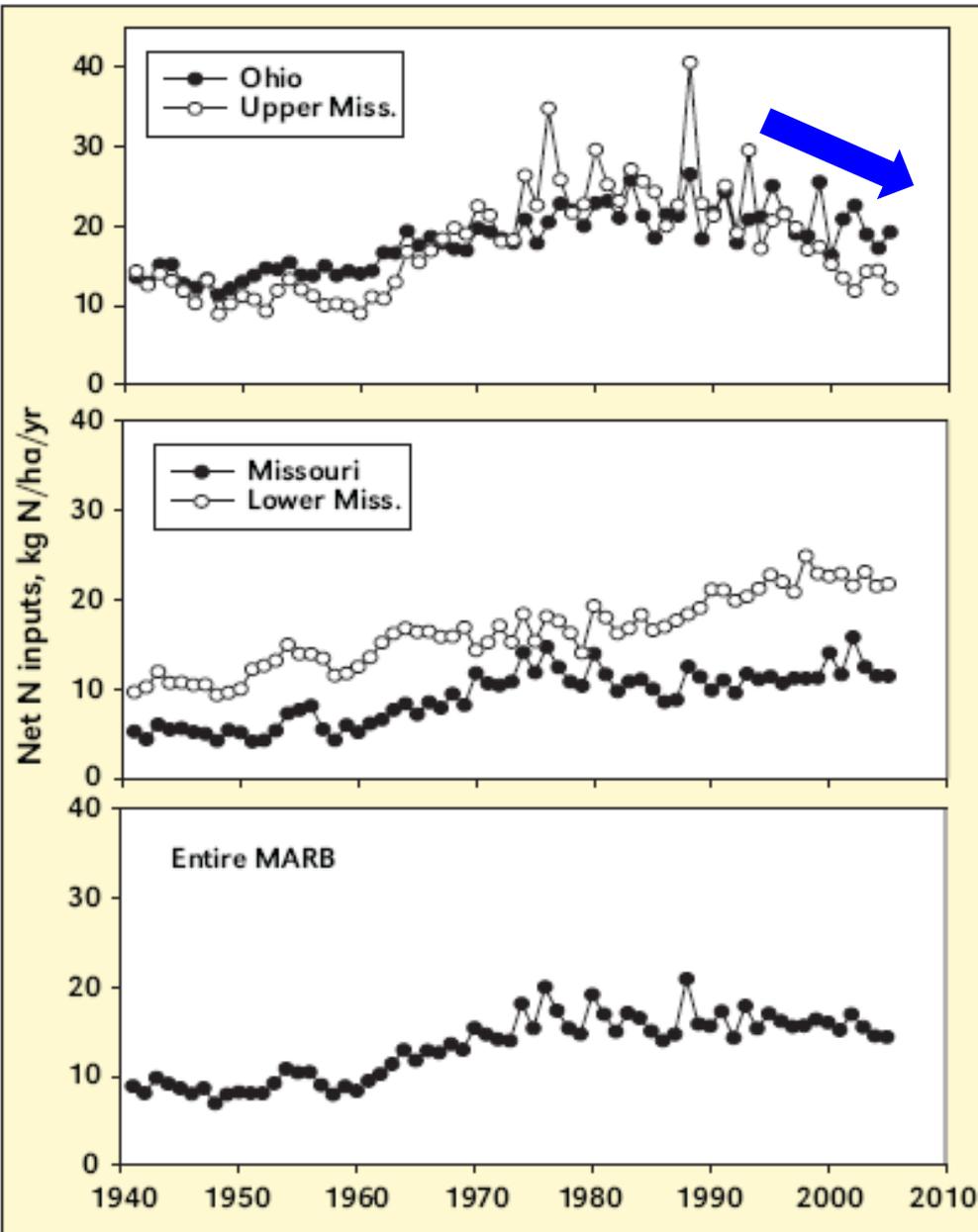


Figure 8. Nitrogen mass balance and net inputs for major regions of the Mississippi-Atchafalaya River Basin through 2005. Source: EPA SAB, 2008.

Voluntary actions are reducing the “net” Nitrogen (N) balance in the Mississippi River Basin; especially in two key upper sub-basins.

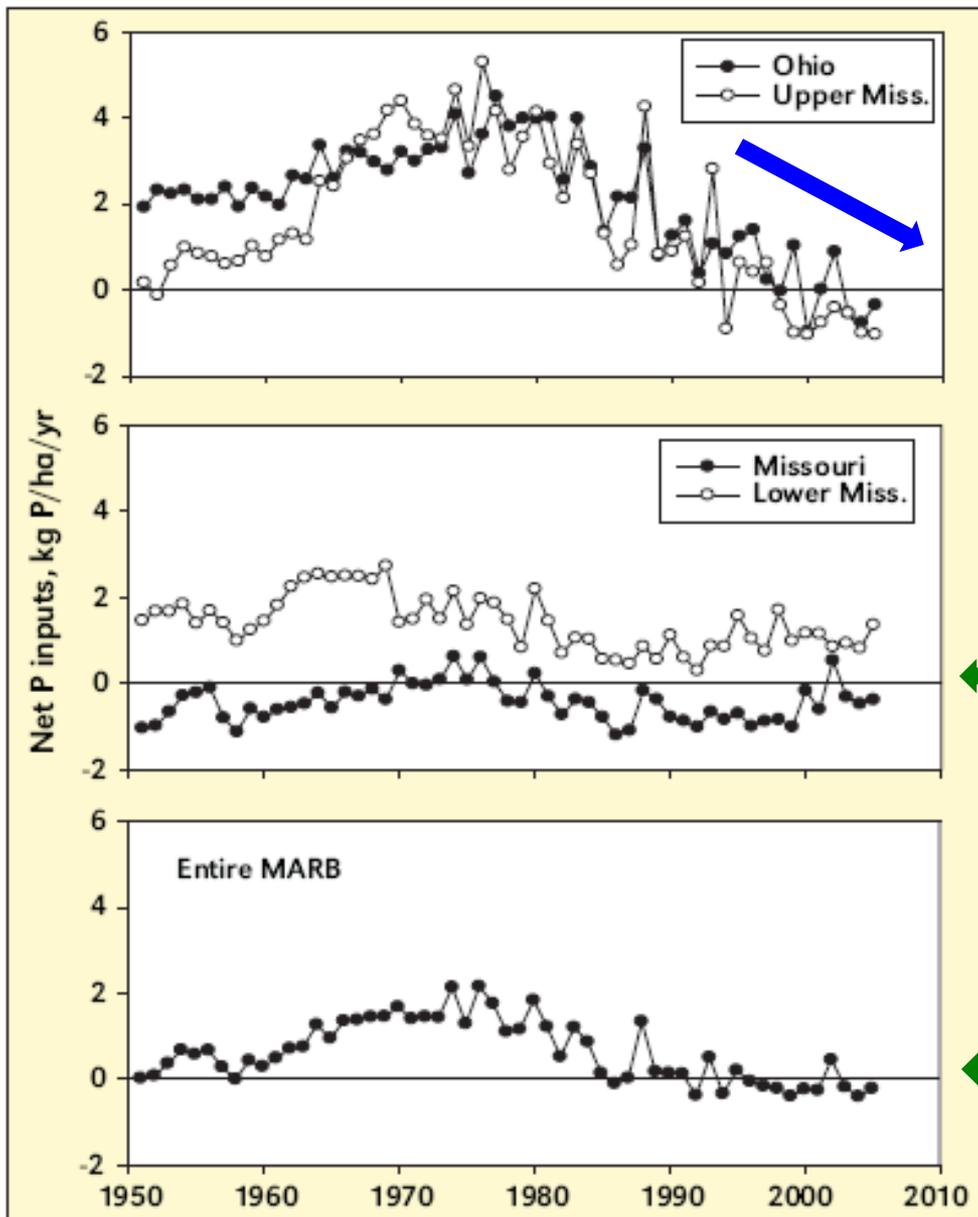
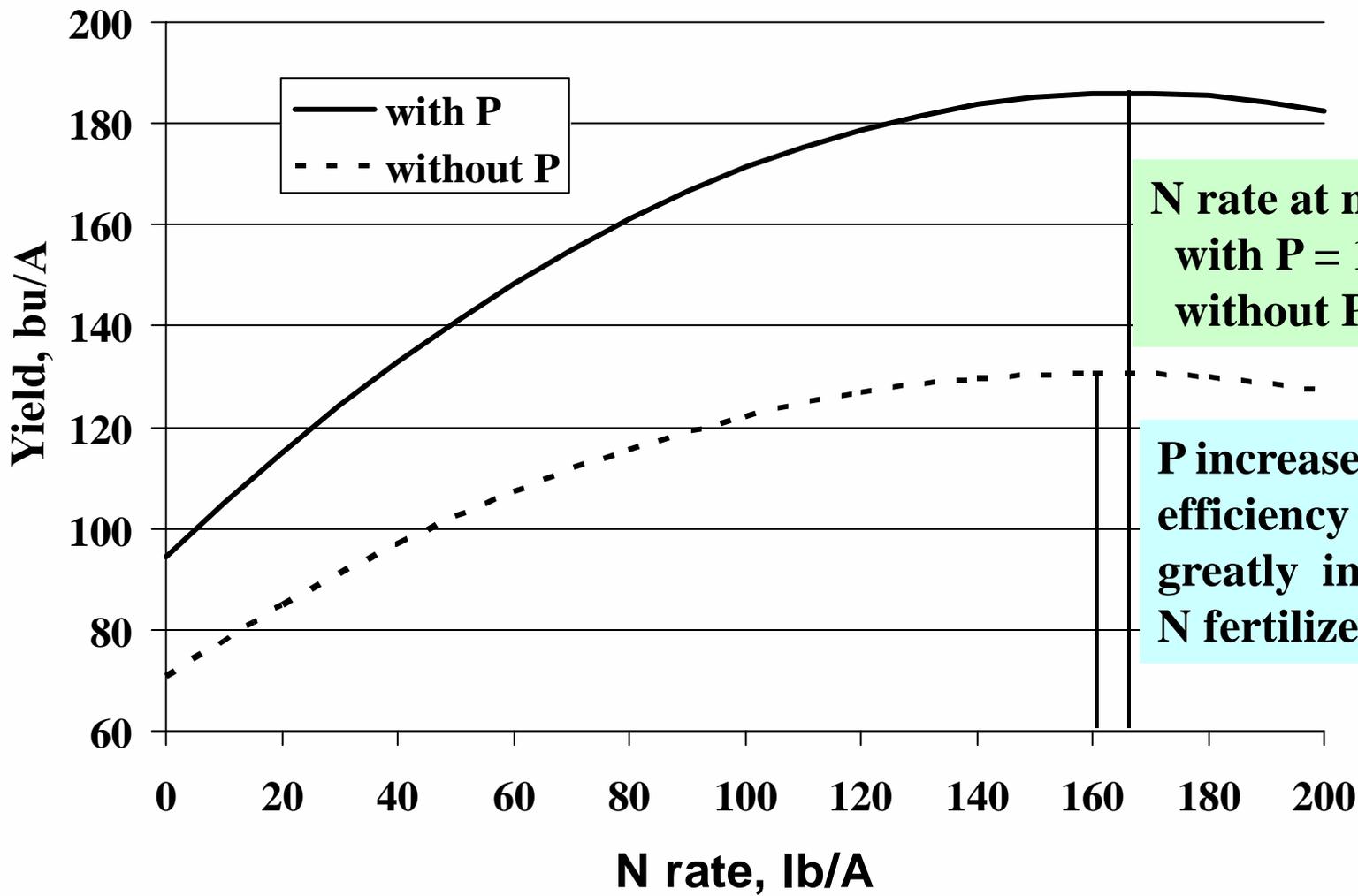


Figure 9. Phosphorus mass balance and net inputs for major regions of the Mississippi-Atchafalaya River Basin through 2005. Source: EPA SAB, 2008.

Voluntary actions are also reducing the “net” phosphorus (P) balance in the Mississippi River Basin; especially in two key upper sub-basins.

This is a concern, however, because **soil P** may be “mined”, and may lead to yield reductions and lower **N use efficiency**

Effect of N and P on Corn Yield



N rate at max yield:
with P = 167 lb/A
without P = 161

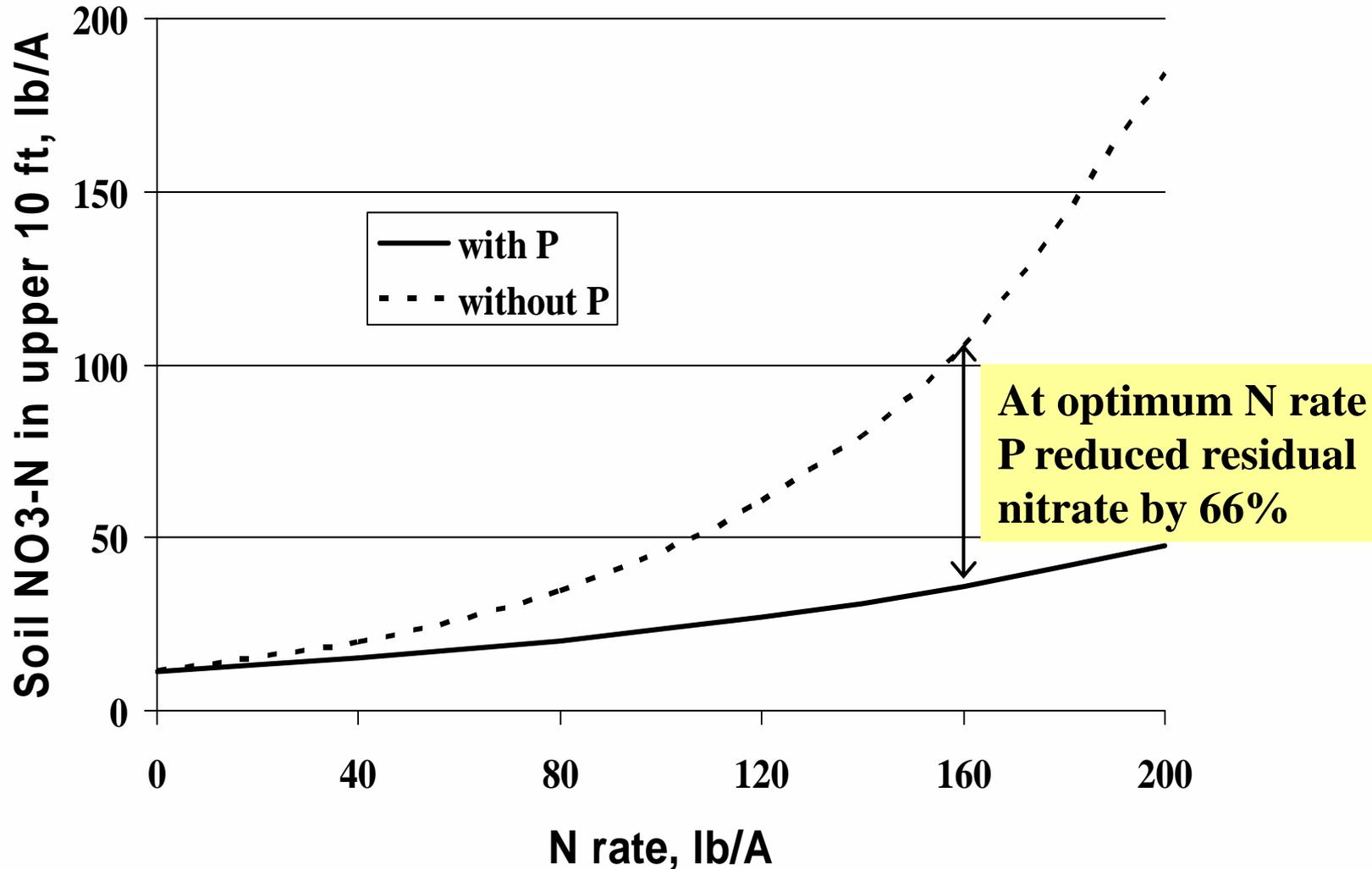
P increased N use efficiency instead of greatly increasing N fertilizer demand

Schlegel, Dhuyvetter, and Havlin, 1996

J. Produc. Agric. 9:1

30 year average

P Reduces Residual Soil Nitrate and Potential for Nitrate Leaching



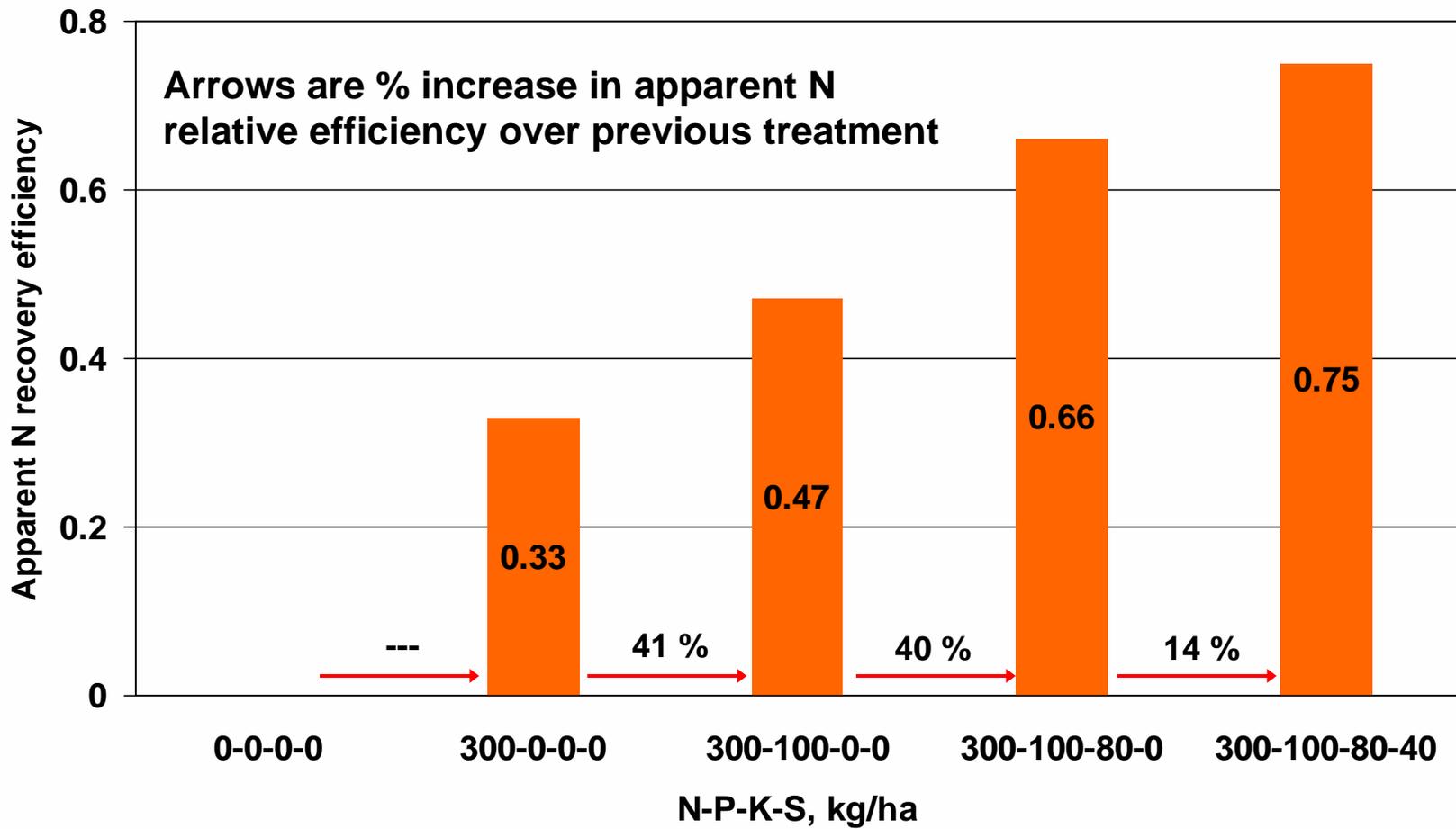
Schlegel, Dhuyvetter, and Havlin, 1996

J. Produc. Agric. 9:1

30 year average



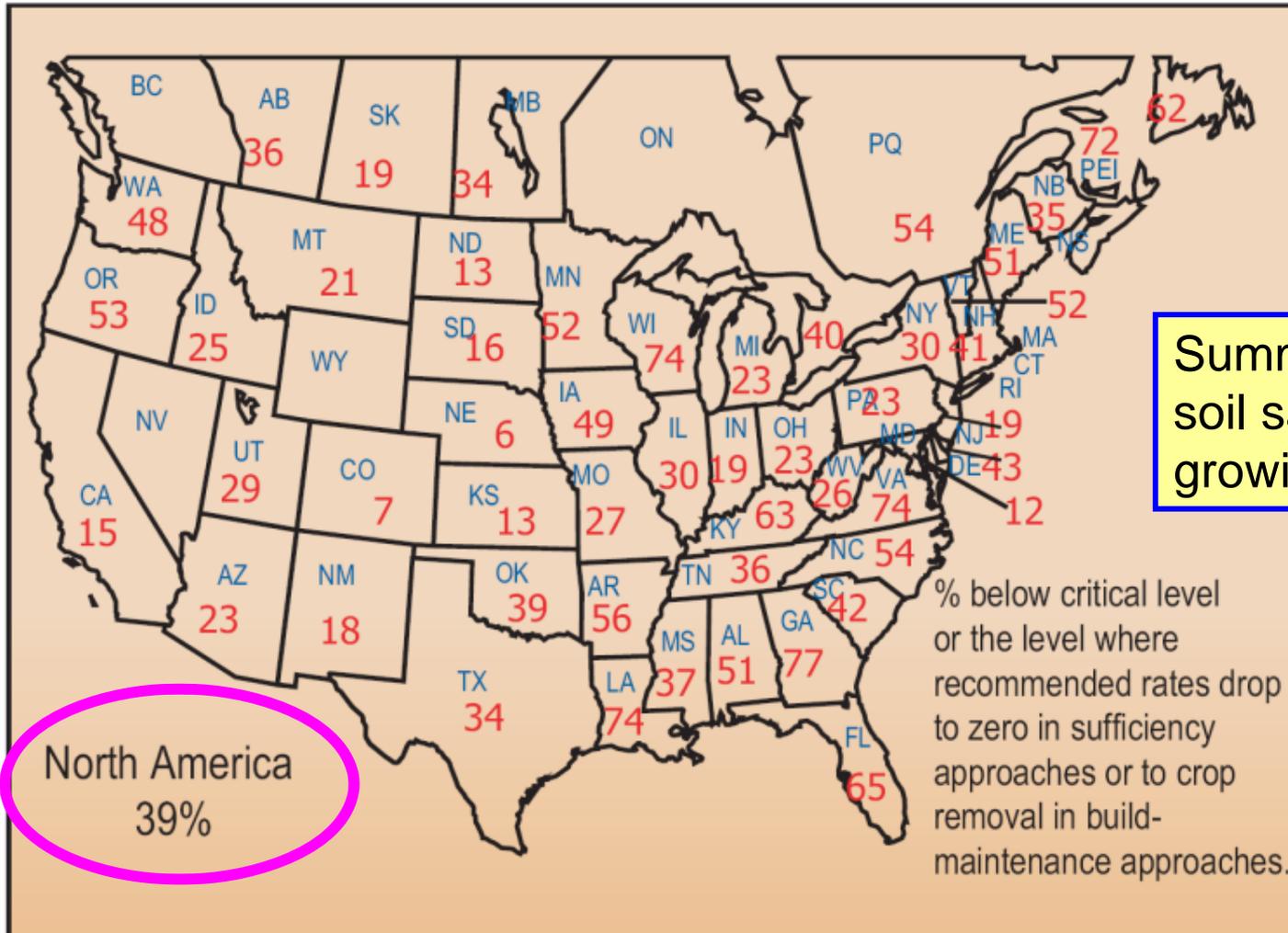
Balanced Fertilization Improves Crop N Recovery



Gordon. Better Crops. 2005 (KS, Car sandy loam)
2- year average (2001- 2002)

Assumes uptake 1.4 lb N/bu grain

Percent of soil samples requiring annual **K** fertilization to avoid profit loss in most major crops in 2005



Summary of 3.4 million soil samples for 2005 growing season

% below critical level or the level where recommended rates drop to zero in sufficiency approaches or to crop removal in build-maintenance approaches.

Decadal-Scale Changes of Nitrate in Ground Water of the United States, 1988–2004.



(Rupert. 2008. J. Environ. Qual. 37:S-240–S-248)

- 67% of sites (16 out of 24) - had no significant change in NO_3 concentrations
 - All but 1 of the 8 others had increases in NO_3
- “A subset of wells had data on ground water recharge date; nitrate concentrations increased in response to the increase of N fertilizer use since about 1950.”

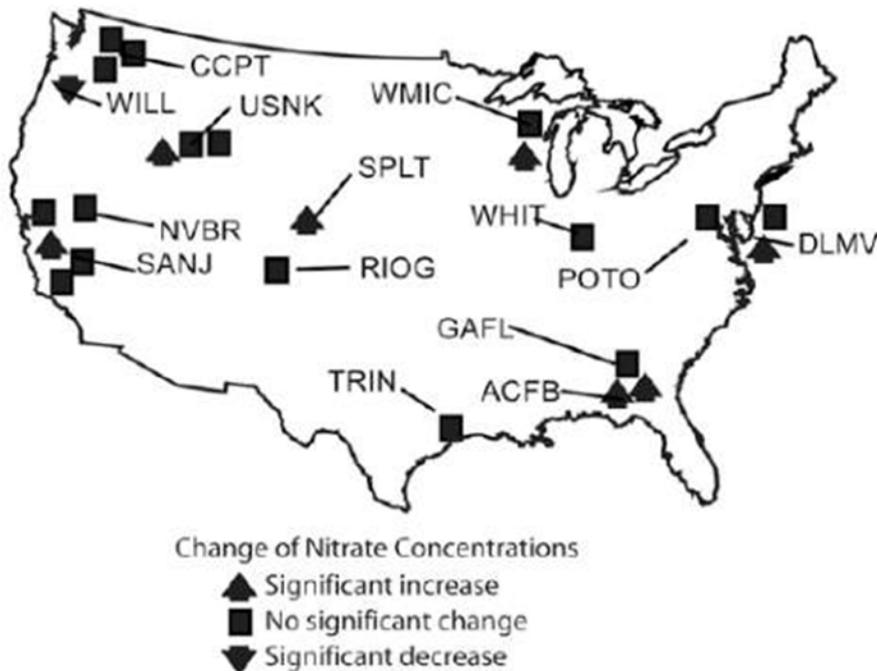
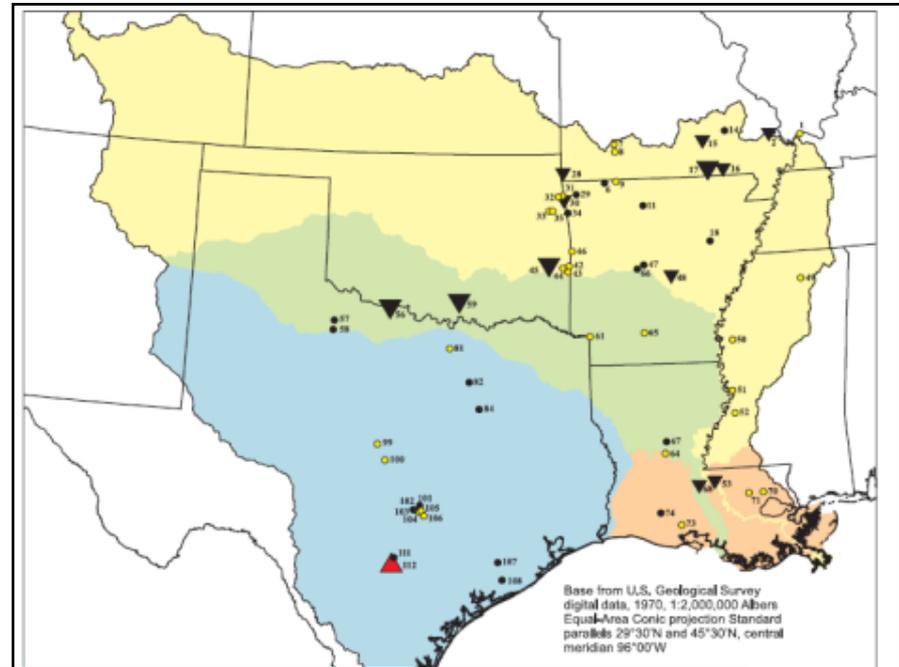
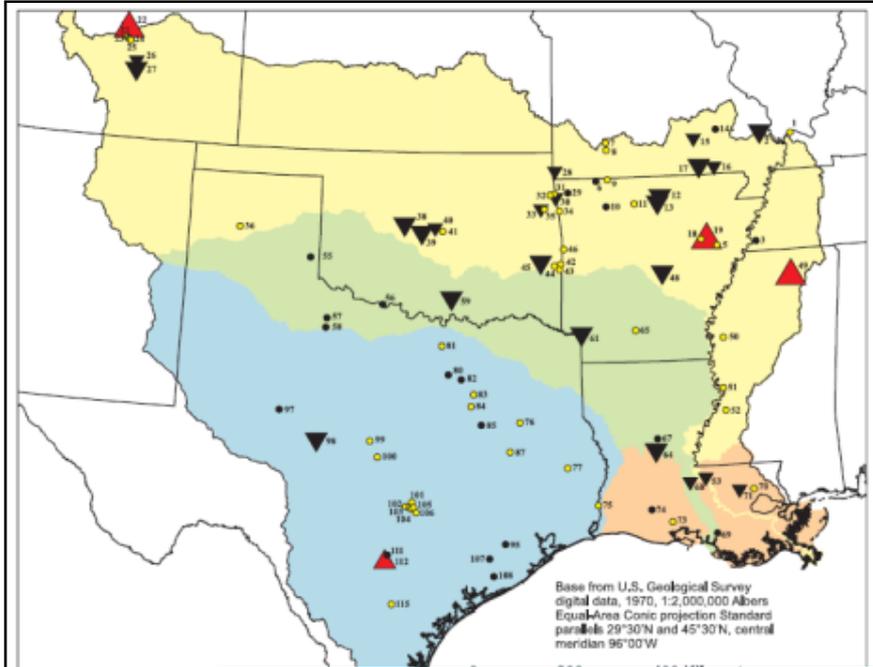


Fig. 1. Locations of U.S. Geological Survey National Water-Quality Assessment Program study units and well networks with and without significant decadal-scale trends of nitrate

**Trends In Nutrient and Sediment Concentrations and Loads
In Major River Basins of the South-Central United States,
1993-2004**



“Notable increasing trends in nitrite plus nitrate and total nitrogen at selected study sites were attributed to both point and nonpoint sources.”

NO₃-N loads

Total N loads

- EXPLANATION**
- Mississippi system
 - Atchafalaya system
 - Louisiana-Gulf/Pearl system
 - Texas-Gulf system
- Trends in percent per year**
- ▲ ≥10
 - ▲ 5 to <10
 - ▲ 0 to <5
 - ▼ 0 to >-5
 - ▼ -5 to >-10
 - ▼ ≤-10
 - No trend
 - Attempted, not analyzed

- Texas-Gulf system
- Trends in percent per year**
- ▲ ≥10
 - ▲ 5 to <10
 - ▲ 0 to <5
 - ▼ 0 to >-5
 - ▼ -5 to >-10
 - ▼ ≤-10
 - No trend
 - Attempted, not analyzed

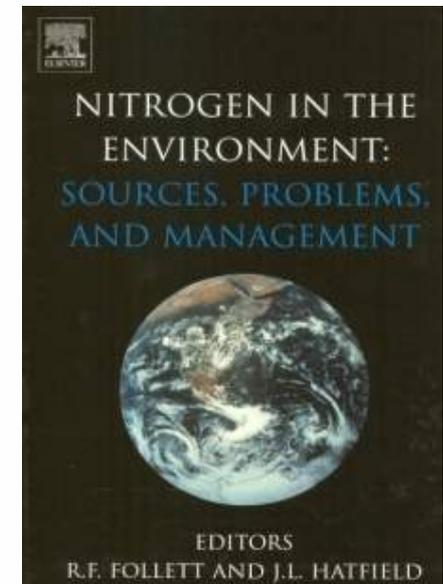
Figure 14. Trends in nitrite plus nitrate loads at study sites, 1993-2004.

Figure 18. Trends in total nitrogen loads at study sites, 1993-2004.

Kitchen and Goulding (2001) *in* Nitrogen in the Environment: Sources, Problems and Management



- “ **nitrogen use efficiency**
...rarely exceeds 70%
often ranges from 30-60%”
- “conversion of N inputs to
products for arable crops **can**
be 60-70% or even more”



We can improve Nutrient Use Efficiency & Effectiveness

**by implementing
Fertilizer BMPs**

**Right source @ Right rate, Right time
& Right place**



4R Stewardship

Improving Fertilizer N Use Efficiency (NUE)



- **Proper rates and sources - best placement and proper timing**
- **Nitrification inhibitors** - slow the conversion of NH_4^+ to NO_3^-
- **Urease inhibitors** – slow conversion to NH_4^+ and reduce potential NH_3 volatilization
- **Slow release N fertilizers** - release N over the growing season, matching availability and crop needs
- **Site-specific applications**
 - Variable rate, and possibly variable source
 - In-season sensing and variable rate/place application

How Do You Define and Rate NUE?



Nutrient Use Efficiency and Effectiveness in North America: Indices of Agronomic and Environmental Benefit

By C.S. Snyder and T.W. Brulzeema, International Plant Nutrition Institute

MINERAL FERTILIZERS have made it possible to sustain the world's growing population, sparing millions of acres of natural and ecologically-sensitive systems that otherwise would have been converted to agriculture¹. Today, economic and environmental challenges are driving increased interest in nutrient use efficiency. Higher prices for both crops and fertilizers have heightened interest in efficiency-improving technologies and practices that also improve productivity. In addition, nutrient losses that harm air and water quality can be reduced by improving use efficiencies of nutrients, particularly for nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P).

The world's population, growing in both numbers and purchasing power, is projected to consume more food, feed, fiber, and fuel—increasing global demand for fertilizer nutrients². Since fertilizers are made from non-renewable resources, pressure to increase their use efficiencies will continue. At the same time, efforts should increase to enhance fertilizer use effectiveness for improved productivity and profitability of cropping systems.

System Efficiency

Efficiencies are generally calculated as ratios of outputs to inputs in a system. The "system" can be defined in many ways, depending on the interest of the observer.

Agricultural cropping systems contain complex combinations of components, including: soils, soil microbes, roots, plants, and crop rotations. Improvements in the efficiency of one component may or may not be effective in improving the efficiency of the cropping system. Efficiency gains in the short term may sometimes be at the expense of those in the long-term. Short-term reductions in application rates increase nutrient use efficiencies, even when yields decline. However, in the long-term, lower yields reduce production of crop residues, leading to increased erosion risks, decreased soil organic matter, and diminished soil productivity. Sustainable system efficiency demands attention to the long-term impacts.

Best management practices (BMPs) focus on the effectiveness of fertilizers and keeping them in the field for use by the intended crop in adapting cropping systems to the economic and environmental challenges noted above. Effectiveness is maximized when the most appropriate nutrient sources are applied at the right rate, time, and place in combination with conservation practices such as buffer strips, continuous no-till, cover crops, and riparian buffers within intensively managed cropping systems that achieve both increasing yields and diminishing nutrient losses³. This approach ensures that improvements to the nutrient use efficiency of the components contribute toward improving the efficiency of the entire system.



Many components contribute to the efficiency of a cropping system.

Because a cropping system includes multiple inputs and outputs, its overall efficiency depends on the science of economics. To maximize profit is to obtain the maximum value of outputs per unit value of all inputs. At the rate where the net return to the use of one input peaks, the input is making its maximum contribution to increasing the efficiency of all other inputs involved. Rates of nutrient application optimal for economic yields often minimize nutrient losses⁴.

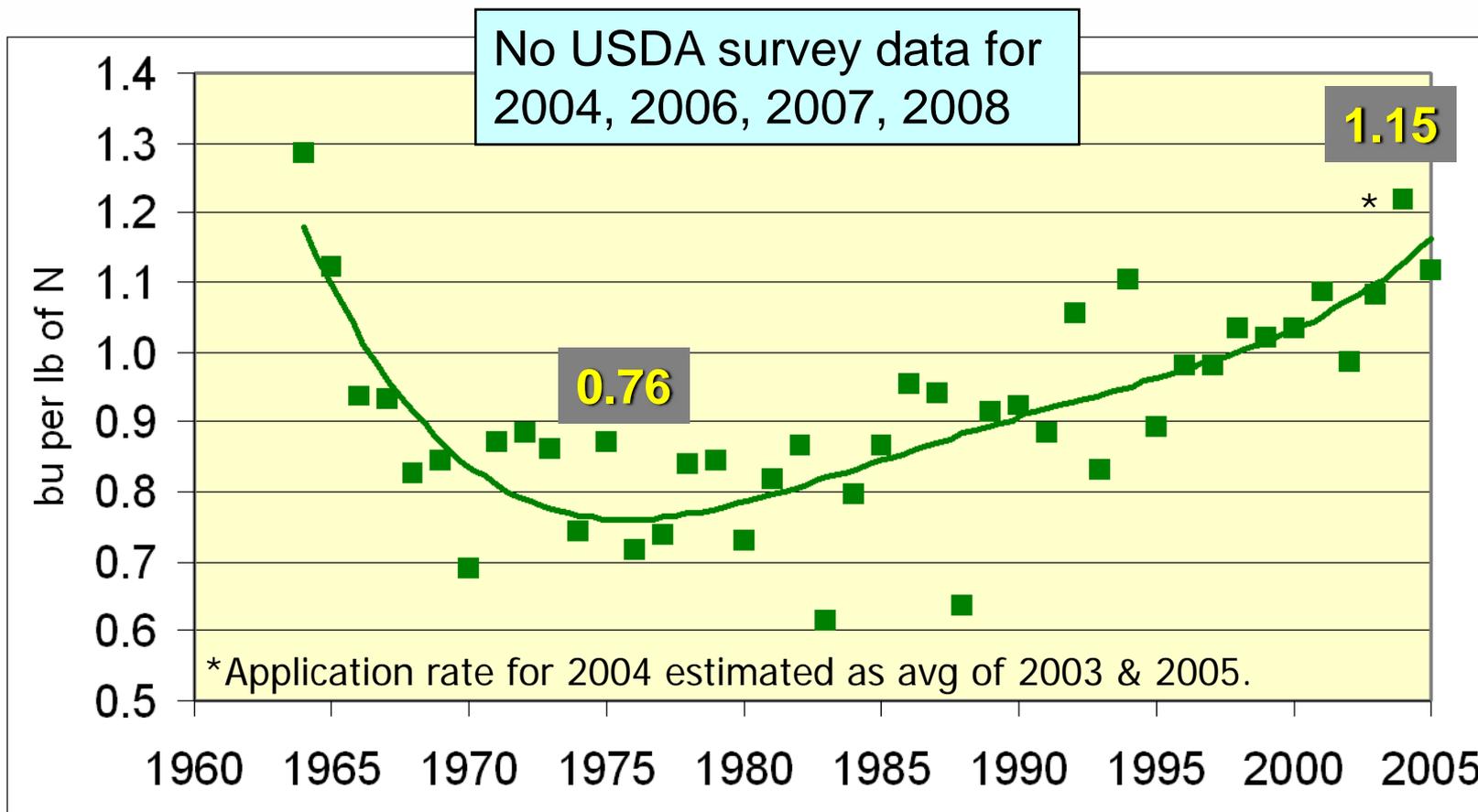
Component Efficiencies

A recent review identified no fewer than 18 different definitions and calculations of nutrient use efficiency⁵. Even the most useful component efficiencies require careful interpretation if they are to contribute to effective nutrient use in cropping systems. In Table 1, we

NUE Term	Calculation	Reported Examples
PFP - Partial factor productivity	Y/F	40 to 80 units of cereal grain per unit of N
AE - Agronomic Efficiency	$(Y-Y_0)/F$	10 to 30 units of cereal grain per unit of N
PNB - Partial nutrient balance (removal to use ratio)	U_H/F	<p>0 to > 1.0 - depends on native soil fertility and fertility maintenance objectives</p> <p><1 in nutrient deficient systems (fertility improvement)</p> <p>>1 in nutrient surplus systems (under replacement)</p> <p>Slightly less than 1 to 1 (system sustainability)</p>
RE – Recovery efficiency of applied nutrient	$(U-U_0)/F$	<p>0.1 to 0.3 - proportion of P input recovered first year</p> <p>0.5 to 0.9 - proportion of P input recovered by crops in long-term cropping systems</p> <p>0.3 to 0.5 - N recovery in cereals-typical</p> <p>0.5 to 0.8 - N recovery in cereals- best management</p>

F-amt. nutrient applied, Y- yield of harvested portion with applied nutrient, Y_0 - yield of harvested portion with no applied nutrient, U_H –nutrient content of harvested portion of crop, U –total nutrient uptake in aboveground biomass with nutrient applied, U_0 –total nutrient uptake in aboveground biomass with no nutrient applied

Corn grain produced in the U.S. per unit of fertilizer N used, 1964 to 2005.



Since 1975: 51% increase in N efficiency
12% increase in N fertilizer use



Climate Change - Greenhouse Gas Emissions



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Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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[2008 Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks](#)

Preparation of greenhouse gas estimates and sinks report also discusses emission estimates.

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Energy Information Administration

Official Energy Statistics from the U.S. Government

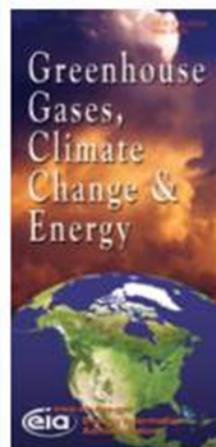
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Energy Information Administration Brochures

Brochure # DOE/EIA-X012
Release Date: May 2008
Next Release Date: May 2009

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Greenhouse Gases, Climate Change, and Energy

What Are Greenhouse Gases?

Many chemical compounds found in the Earth's atmosphere act as "greenhouse gases." These gases allow sunlight to enter the atmosphere freely. When sunlight strikes the Earth's surface, some of it is re-radiated back towards space as infrared radiation (heat). Greenhouse gases absorb this infrared radiation and trap the heat in the atmosphere. Many gases exhibit these "greenhouse" properties. Some of them occur in nature (water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide), while others are exclusively human made (certain industrial gases). Over time, if atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases remain relatively stable, the amount of energy sent from the sun to the Earth's surface should be about the same as the amount of energy radiated back into space, leaving the temperature of the Earth's surface roughly constant.

Why Are Atmospheric Levels Increasing?

Levels of several important greenhouse gases have increased by about 25 percent since large-scale industrialization began around 150 years ago (Figure 1). During the past 20 years, about three-quarters of anthropogenic (human-caused) emissions came from the burning of fossil fuels. Concentrations of carbon

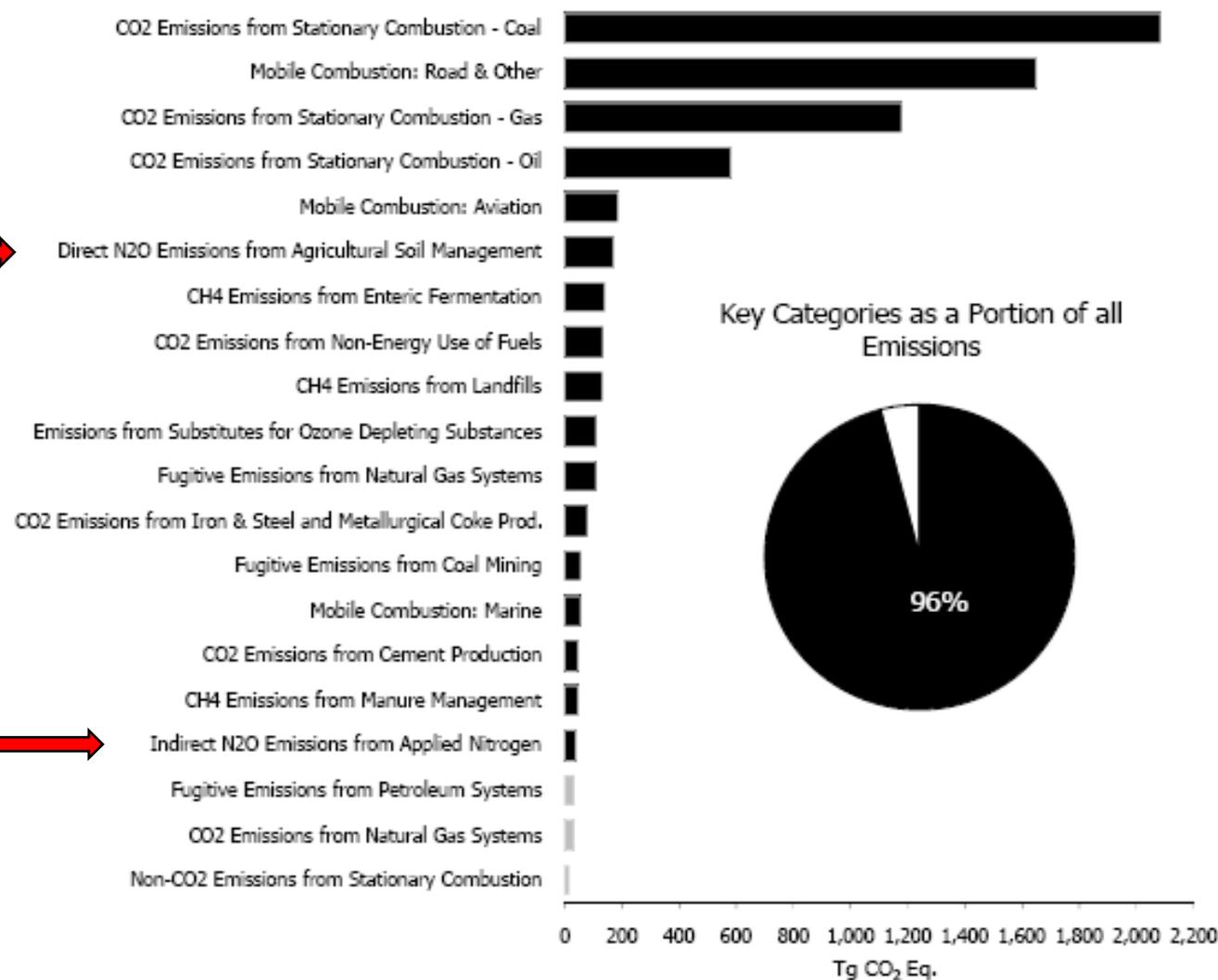


Figure ES-16: 2007 Key Categories

Notes: For a complete discussion of the key source analysis, see Annex 1.

Black bars indicate a Tier 1 level assessment key category.

Gray bars indicate a Tier 2 level assessment key category.

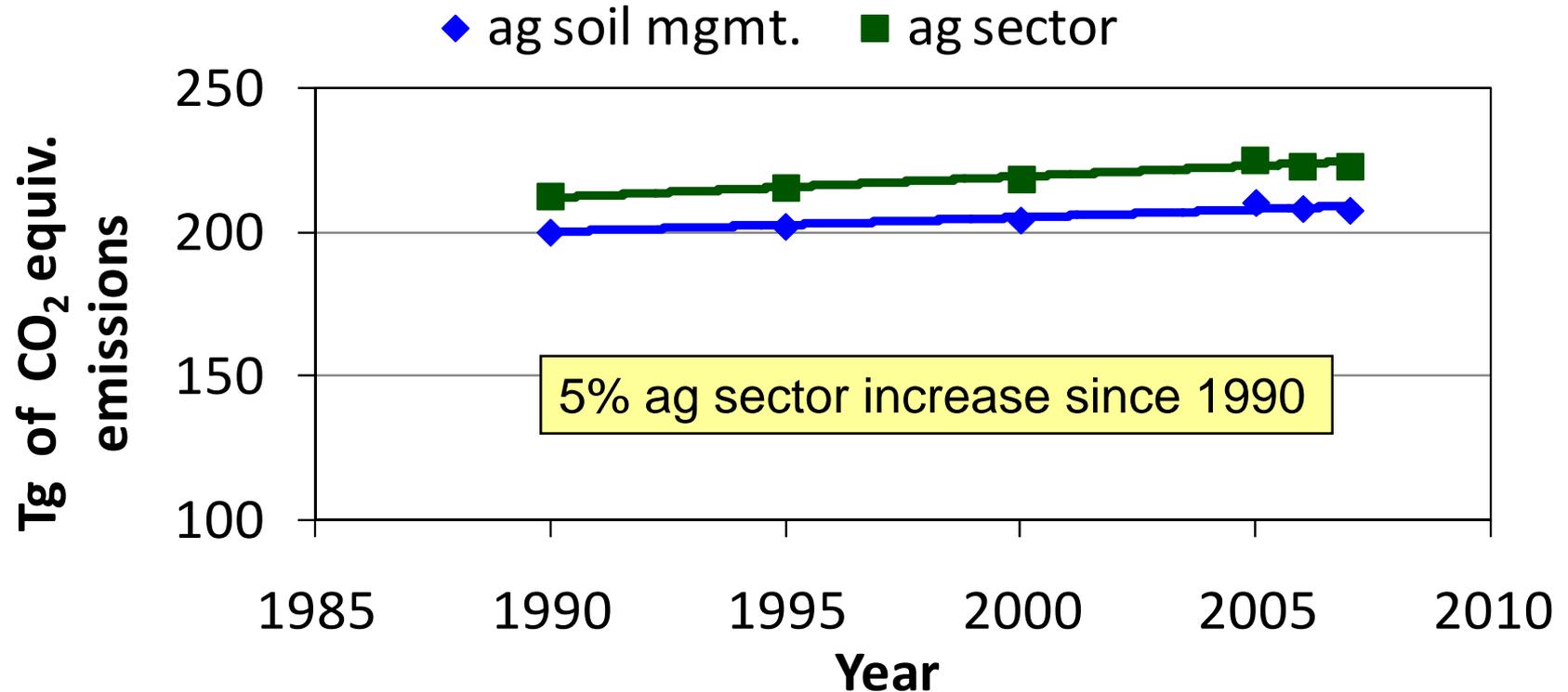
(EPA final April 15, 2009 U.S. GHG inventory, 1990-2007)

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/usinventoryreport.html>

N₂O Emissions Trends: Ag Soil Management and Ag Sector



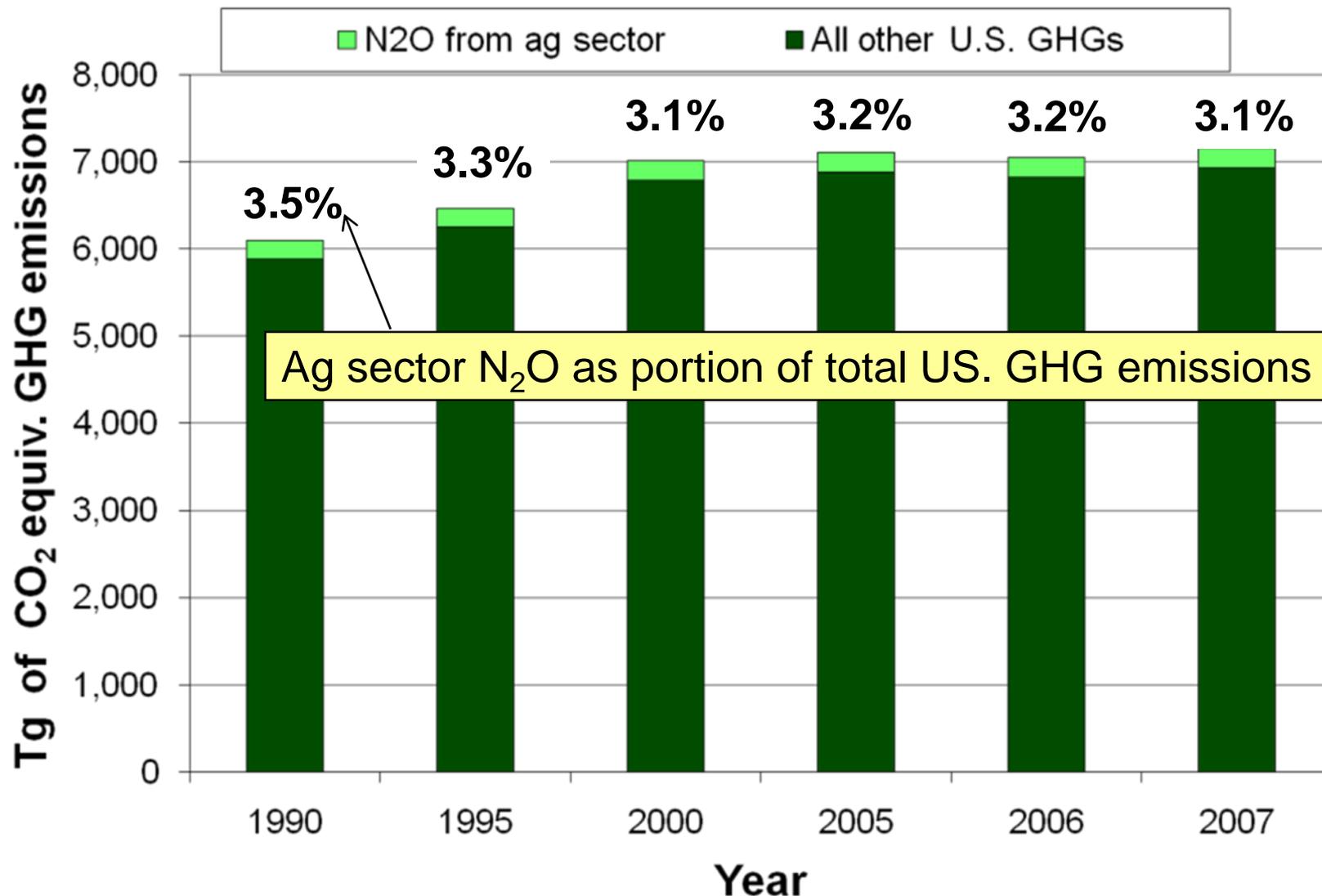
(EPA final April 15, 2009 U.S. GHG inventory, 1990-2007)



Total U.S. GHG Emissions & N₂O from the Ag Sector – CO₂ Equiv.



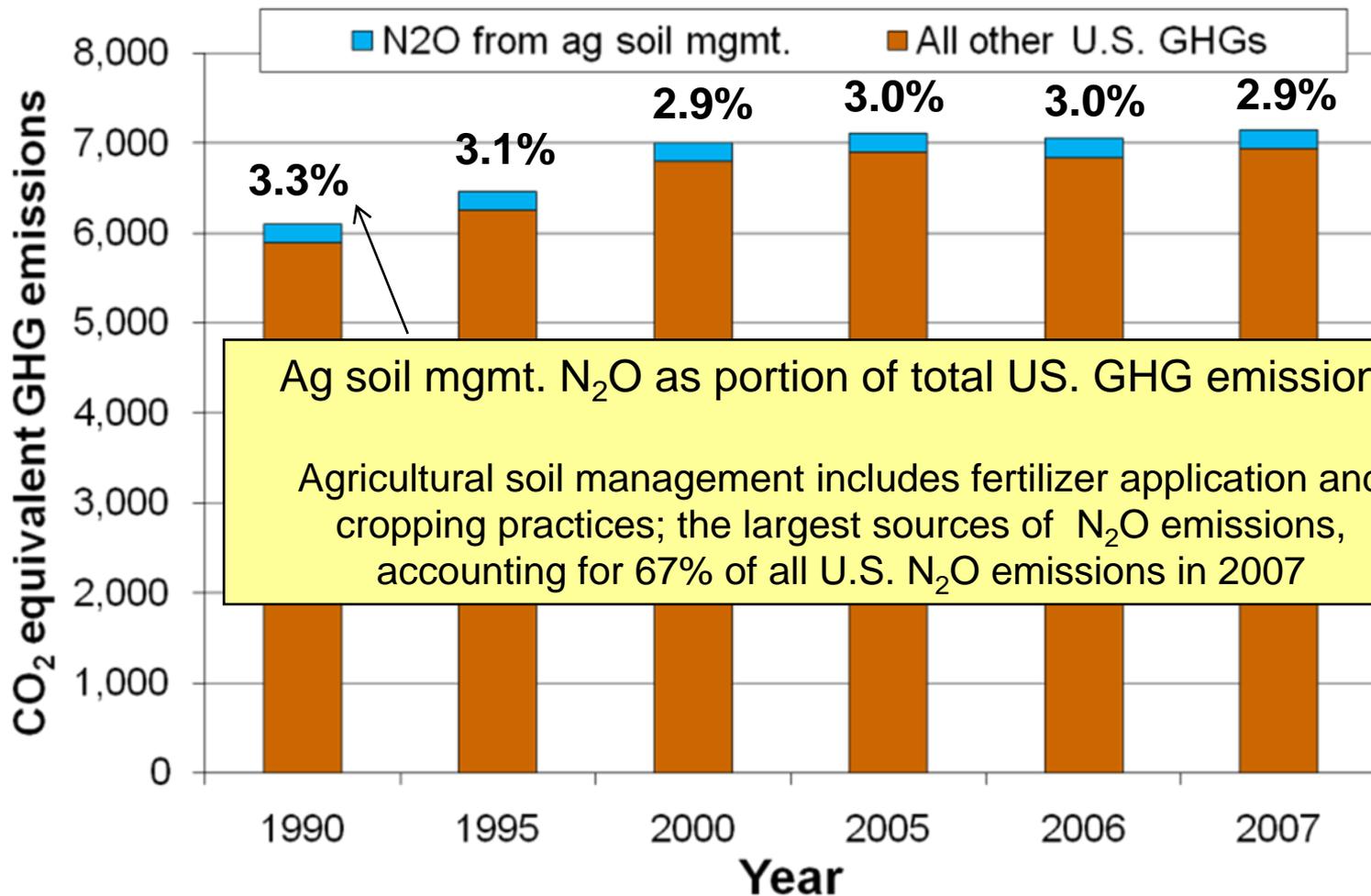
(EPA final April 15, 2009 U.S. GHG inventory, 1990-2007)



U.S. GHG Emissions & N₂O from Ag Soil Management – CO₂ Equiv.



(EPA final April 15, 2009 U.S. GHG inventory, 1990-2007)



Right Product, Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place...the Foundation of BMPs for Fertilizer

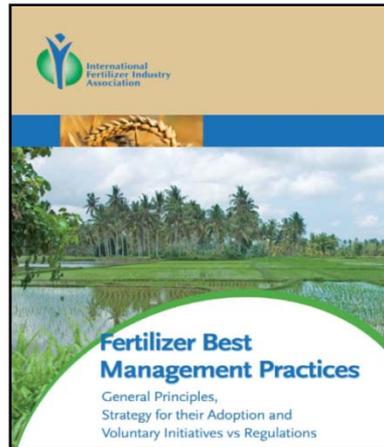
By Terry L. Roberts

This article was originally presented as a paper at the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) Workshop on Fertilizer Best Management Practices, March 7-9, 2007, in Brussels, Belgium. It is reprinted here with permission...see reference below¹.



New IPNI Practical Guide: Fertilizer Nitrogen BMPs to Limit Losses that Contribute to Global Warming

<http://www.ipni.net/bettercrops>



<http://www.fertilizer.org>

Fertilizer BMPs —

Apply the "Four Rights" for Cotton Production in the Midsouth and Southeast

By C.S. Boyer, A.R. Phillips, and U.W. Brindley

There is a lot of discussion about best management practices (BMPs) for agriculture, motivated by increasing energy costs and economic pressures. Farmers interested in BMPs is motivated also by the increasing awareness that how we manage our soils and landscapes can have a large impact on the surrounding environment. As stewards of the land, farmers in the Midsouth and Southeast USA implemented soil conservation practices to improve their soil and water quality. Increases in soil erosion and increased nutrient concentrations have led to higher crop plants and enhanced waterborne nutrients.

Fertilizer nutrients play a major role in meeting the crop yield and quality goals of modern agriculture. Better crop and soil management has resulted in higher crop yields. Higher yields, in turn, have increased the need to explore the nutrients removed by the larger crop harvests. How we handle those nutrients might provide the foundation for fertilizer BMPs and positive economic returns from fertilizer.

There are several considerations during the development and implementation of BMPs, but there are four major fertilizer principles that apply to all crop management BMPs, including fertilizer:



Fertilizer Best Management Practices

Table 1. Relative effectiveness of management scenarios, shown as advantage of "Scenario 1" over "Scenario 2", in reducing N losses and greenhouse gas emissions. Effectiveness rating represents estimate of the relative potential N loss reduction, on-farm and within-watershed.¹

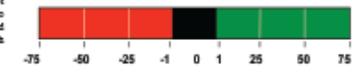
N Source ²	Fertilizer N Management Practice	Indirect effects on N ₂ O emissions:		Direct greenhouse gas emissions ³ N ₂ O
		Water discharges as NO ₃ ⁻	NH ₃ volatilization	
Right agronomic N rate		Leaching	Runoff	
	Scenario 1	Scenario 2		
All Sources	Accounting for soil N supply and other input sources (e.g. manure, irrigation water, etc.)	No such N accounting (assumes over-application)		
All Sources	Site-specific N management (variable rate and/or source)	No site-specific management		
Right N timing				
	Scenario 1	Scenario 2		
AA	Applied in the fall after soil temp. below 50 °F for spring-planted crops	No waiting		
AA, AS, RA, U, UAN	Spring application, for spring-planted crops (e.g. corn)	Fall application		
AA, AS, RA, U, UAN, AN, PN	Spring split or sidedress applied, for spring-planted crops	All preplant applied		
AA, AS, RA, U, UAN, AN, PN	Spring or split fall-spring application, for fall-planted crops (e.g. wheat, corn)	All fall applied		
AA, AS, RA, U, UAN, AN, PN	Nitrification inhibitor used	None used		
U	Controlled release technology used	None used		
Right N placement				
	Scenario 1	Scenario 2		
AS, RA, U, UAN, AN	Subsurface incorporation	Surface broadcast		
U, UAN	Surface banded	Surface broadcast		
AS, RA, U, UAN, AN, PN	Shallow sidedress band - 1 in. (2 cm)	Sidedress band deeper than necessary - > 4 in. (10 cm)		
U, UAN	Surface applied with urease inhibitor; abundant crop residues	No inhibitor		
U, UAN	Surface applied with urease inhibitor; minimal crop residues	No inhibitor		

¹ Relative percentage (%) advantage of "Scenario 1" over "Scenario 2" estimated from available literature and unpublished observations. This rating scheme does not identify the quantity of N loss, which can be relatively small (<1 to 2 lb/A (<1 to 2 kg/ha) in some conditions). Relative effects do not include emissions associated with manufacture or transport of inputs. Ratings are subject to change with research progress.

² N sources: AA=acidic ammonia, AS=ammonium sulfate, RA=predominantly ammonium containing, U=urea, UAN=urea ammonium nitrate solution, AN=ammonium nitrate, PN=predominantly nitrate-containing.

³ Data insufficient to allow ratings for emissions of the other two principal greenhouse gases, CH₄ and CO₂.

Legend for ratings in table:

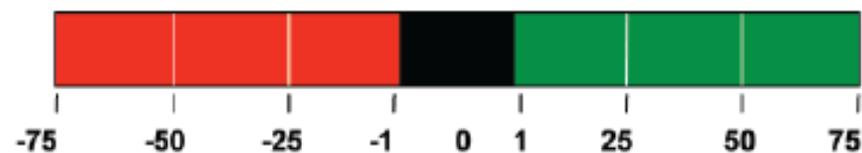


Ratings can represent broad, multiple ranges (e.g. negative to positive), or a single quartile. The rating scheme is based to some extent on a conservation practices rating scheme in Table 17 in (IFA SA) (2005).

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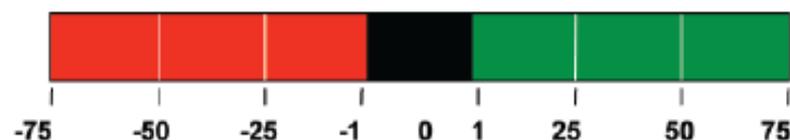


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AA, AS, PA, U, UAN	Spring application, for spring planted crops (e.g. corn)	Fall application			
AA, AS, PA, U, UAN, AN, PN	Spring split or sidedress applied, for spring planted crops	All preplant applied			
AA, AS, PA, U, UAN, AN, PN	Spring or split fall-spring application, for fall planted crops (e.g. wheat, canola)	All fall applied			
AA, AS, PA, U, UAN, AN, PN	Nitrification inhibitor used	None used			
U	Controlled release technology used	None used			

²N sources: AA=anhydrous ammonia, AS=ammonium sulfate, PA=predominantly ammonium containing, U=urea, UAN=urea ammonium nitrate solutions, AN=ammonium nitrate, PN=predominantly nitrate-containing.

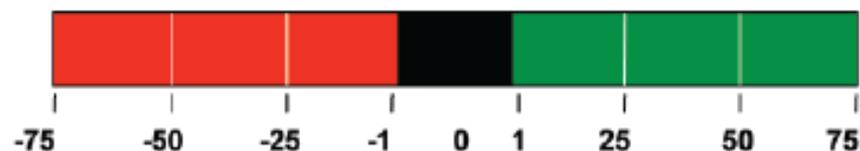
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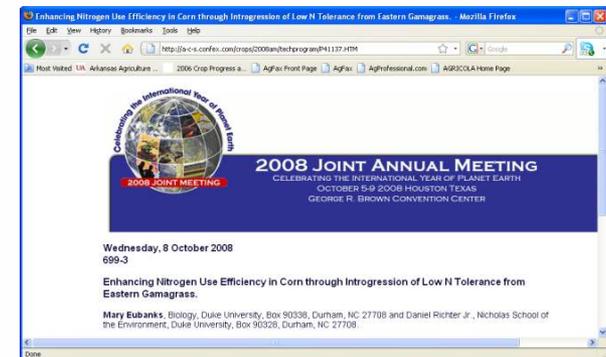
- **Fertilizer N BMPs can help minimize the potential for residual $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ accumulation & losses**

- **N source, rate, timing, and placement which may include**
 - Urease inhibitors
 - Nitrification inhibitors
 - **Slow-release materials**
 - **Controlled-release materials**
- **In combination with appropriate, site-specific cropping system and conservation practices**
 - (e.g. conservation tillage, cover crops, vegetative buffers, managed drainage, wetlands, bioreactors, etc.)

New Tools, Technologies, Opportunities ??



- John Deere - hi-speed (10 mph) anhydrous ammonia applicator
- Agrotain & Lange-Stegmann - \$20 million Urea and Stabilized Nitrogen Center in St. Louis, MO
- Corn hybrids with improved N uptake/redistribution characteristics ???



Thank You

Better Crops, Better Environment ... through Science

www.ipni.net

