#### Proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> Nutrient Management Conference



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# Lessons from Battling Nutrient Losses in the Western Lake Erie Basin

## **Dr. Lindsay Pease**

Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Nutrient & Water Management Department of Soils, Water, and Climate University of Minnesota - Northwest Research & Outreach Center



# Phosphorus Management

- Don't use your soil as a bank
- Over-application of P fertilizer isn't economical

To reduce loss risk:

- Fertilize for each crop
- Band or incorporate P fertilizer



4 11-10 NORTH DAKOTA MINNESOTA Minneapolis AKOTA VERMONT Kingston Green Bay NEW Rochester HAMPSHIR Oshkosh Toronto Sioux Falls MICHIGAN Rochester Mississauga 🦻 Albany MASSACHU NEW YORK Hamilton Madison Milwaukee Grand Rapids Buffalo • London Sioux City Detroit Rockford CT Cedar Rapids Ann Arbor EBRASKA Chicago Des Moines Iowa City Cleveland Toledo New York Omaha Lincoln Naperville Fort Wayne PENNSYLVANIA Philadelphia Peoria es ٢ NEW JEF OHIO Pittsburgh Indianapolis Springfield Washington 3D Columbus Kansas City Columbia 20 KANSAS Cincinnati Lawrence St. Louis WEST Google Louisville VIRGINIA Wichita Richmond Camera : 2,025 km 37°27'32"N 72°10'55"W MISSOURI Google Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO INEGI Landsat / Copernicus

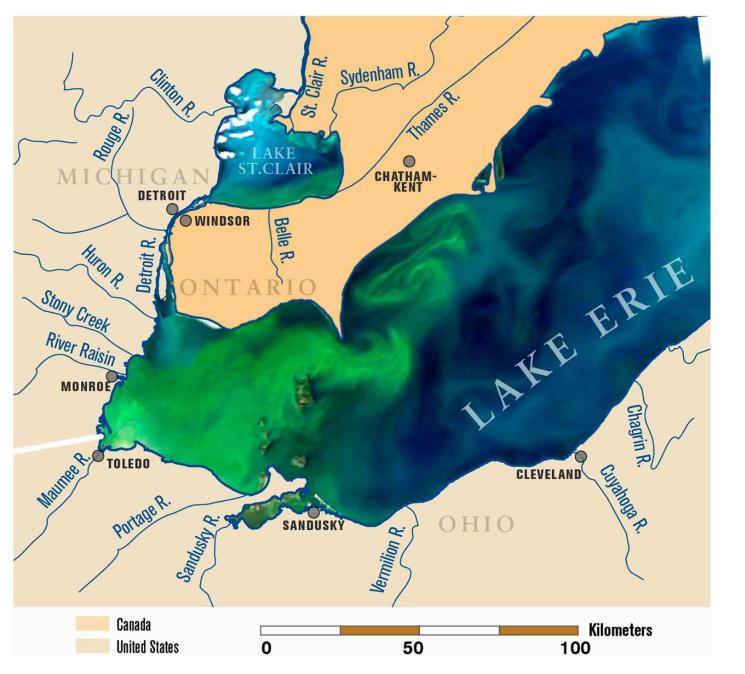
100% 🔇

<u> 75</u>









Michalak A M et al. PNAS 2013;110:6448-6452 ©2013 by National Academy of Sciences

MODIS satellite Image of Lake Erie on September 3, 2011







"400,000 in Ohio without drinking water" -Chicago Tribune, 8/3/14





#### DANGER

AVOID ALL CONTACT WITH THE WATER

ALGAL TOXINS AT UNSAFE LEVELS HAVE BEEN DETECTED

> FOR MORE INFORMATION GD TO: WWW.OHIOALGAEINFO.COM OR CALL 1-866-644-5224

Have fun on the water, but know that blue-green algae are in many Ohio lakes. Their toxins may be, too.

Be Alert! Avoid water that:

- looks like spilled paint
- · has surface scums, mats or films

is discolored or has colored streaks

• has green globs floating below the surface



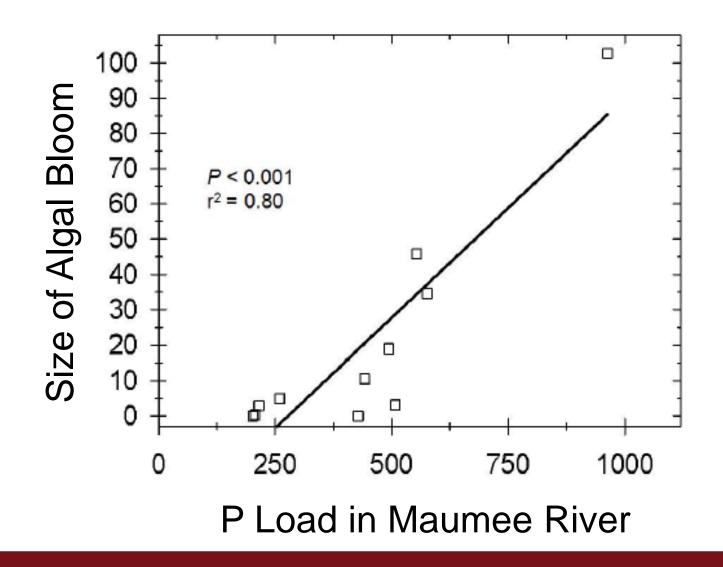
#### Avoid swallowing lake water.

For more information, visit ohioalgaeinfo.com or call 1-866-644-6224.



## **Phosphorus Load Predicts Algal Bloom**

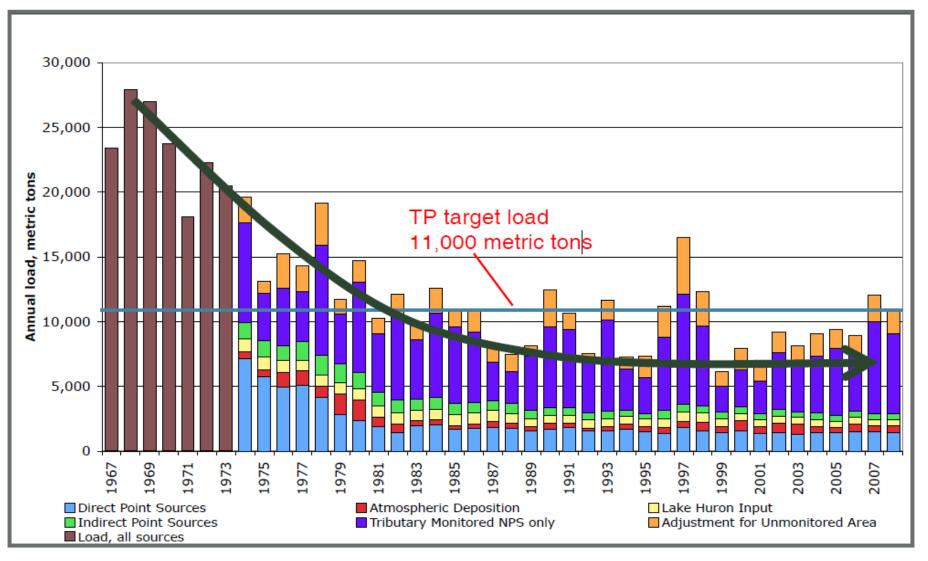
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Kane et al. 2014



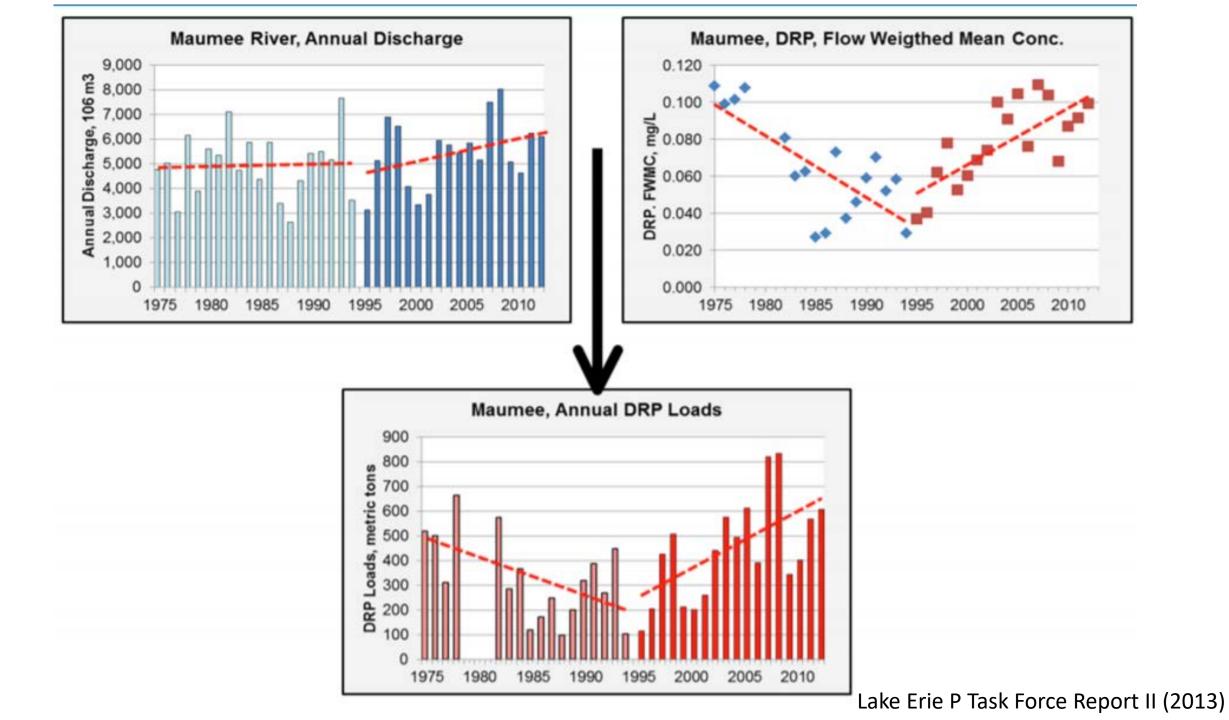
# Lake Erie Eutrophication: Historical Success



Source: Baker and Richards, Heidelberg University

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# What is causing the Algal Blooms?

## Agriculture

- Fertilization Practices
- Manure
- P Stratification
- Tile Drainage
- Ignoring soluble P
- Larger farm size
- Larger equipment

## Urban

- Combined Sewer
  - Overflow
- Stormwater Runoff
- Leaky septic systems

## **Other Theories**

- Glyphosate
- Acid Rain Reduction
- Invasive Species
- Zebra Mussels
- GMOs

"What is Causing the Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Erie?" Smith et al., Journal of Soil and Water Conservation, 2015



#### Algae covers stretch of beach on Lake Winnipeg

f 🄰 🥶 in

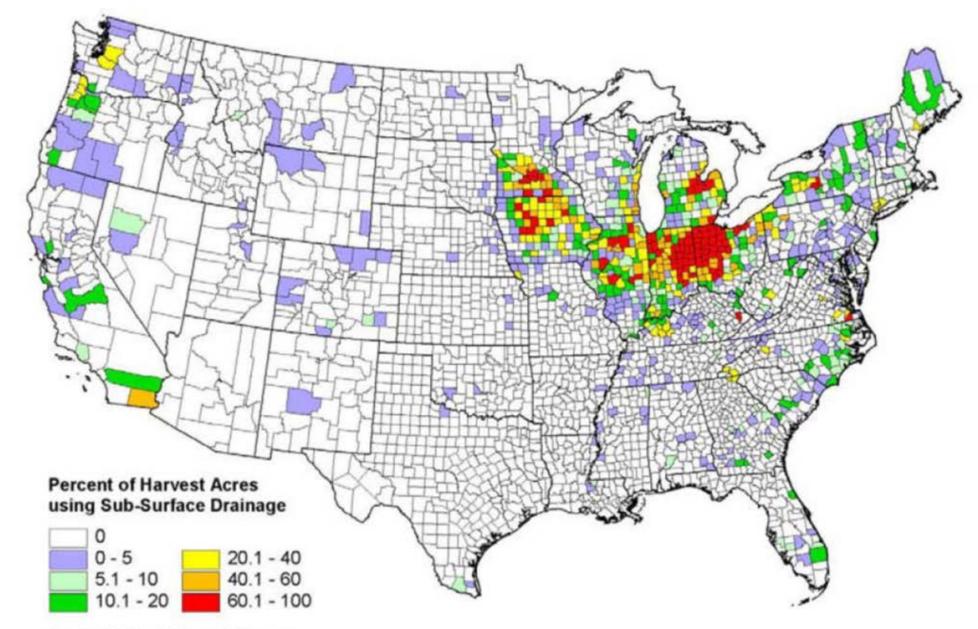
Beachgoers say Grand Beach was covered in green sludge on Monday Holly Caruk · CBC News · Posted: Aug 15, 2016 9:59 PM CT | Last Updated: August 15, 2016





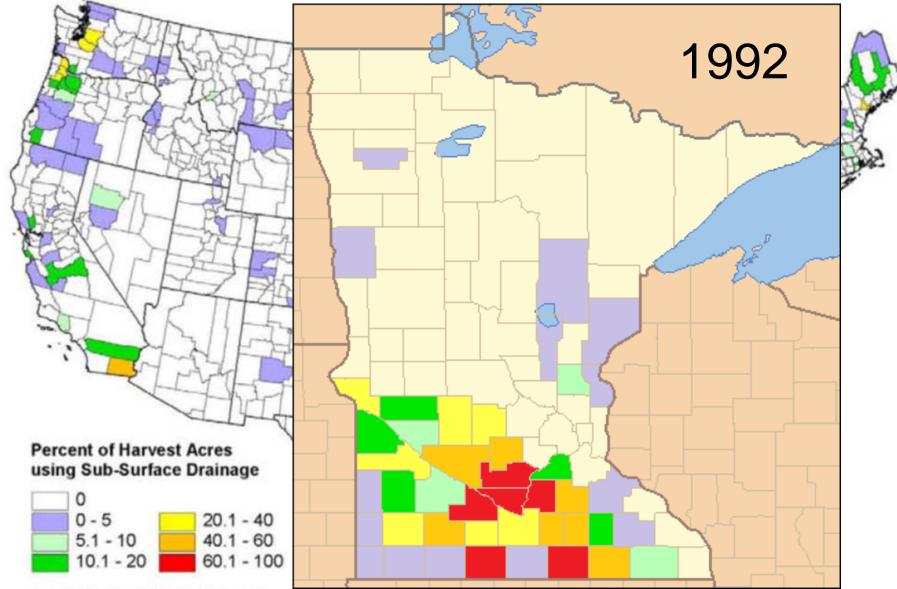






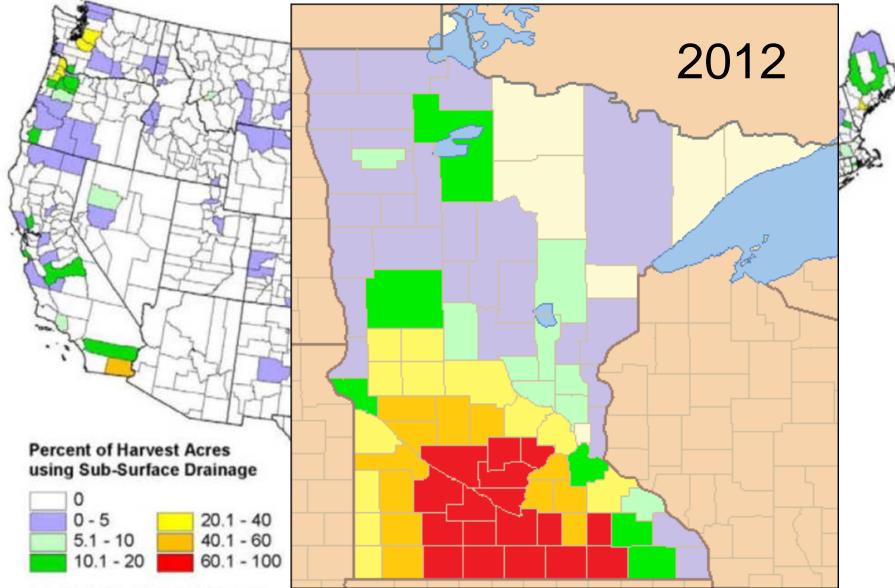
Source: 1992 NRI; 1992 Census of Agriculture

Figure 28 — Percent of harvest acres in the United States using subsurface drainage in 1992. (NRI Census of Agriculture, 1992)



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# **USDA-ARS EDGE-OF-FIELD RESEARCH NETWORK**

## 20 Paired Field Sites



Surface Runoff

Subsurface Drainage







## SOIL DRAINAGE RESEARCH UNIT

# **USDA-ARS EDGE-OF-FIELD RESEARCH NETWORK**





## SOIL DRAINAGE RESEARCH UNIT





# Potential Sources of Phosphorus: Surface Runoff vs Tile Drainage



# Surface Runoff vs Tile Drainage



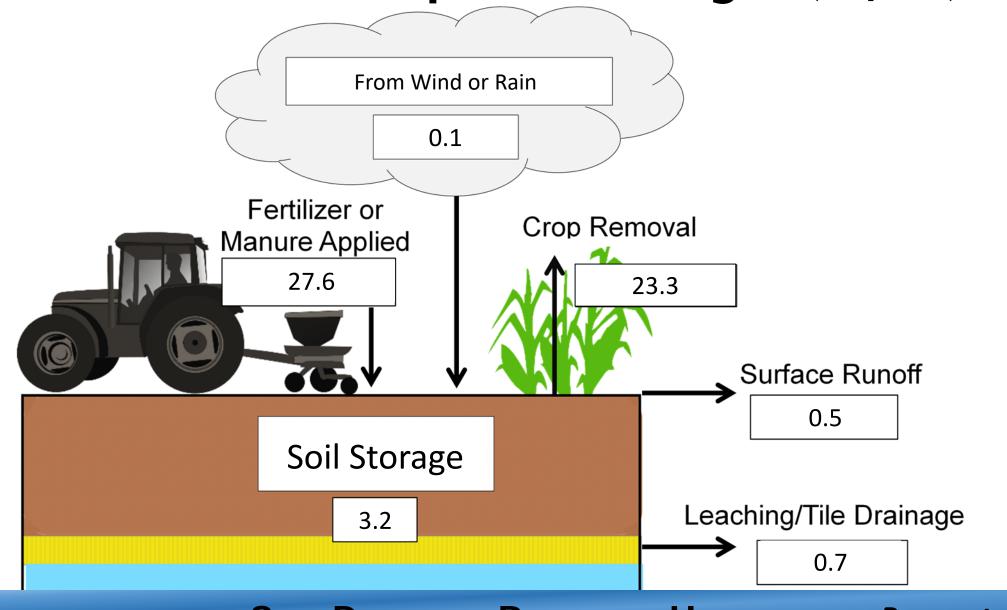
- High flows
- Infrequent
- High P
- Fast, intense
  P loss



- Low flows
- Daily
- Low P
- Slow, steady P loss



# Ohio Total Phosphorus Budget (lb/ac)



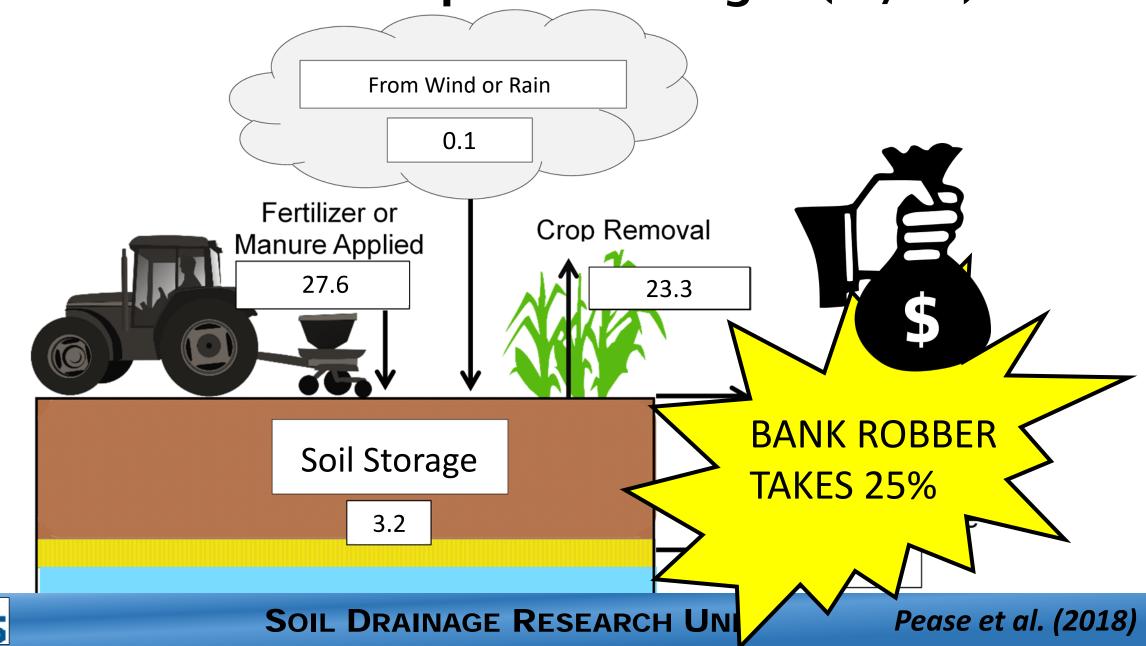


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*Pease et al. (2018)* 

# Ohio Total Phosphorus Budget (lb/ac)



## 4R Principles of Nutrient Stewardship

# FRILIZER OF AND A CONTRACT OF A CONTRACT OF

#### **RIGHT SOURCE**

Matches fertilizer type to crop needs.

#### **RIGHT RATE**

Matches amount of fertilizer to crop needs.

#### **RIGHT TIME**

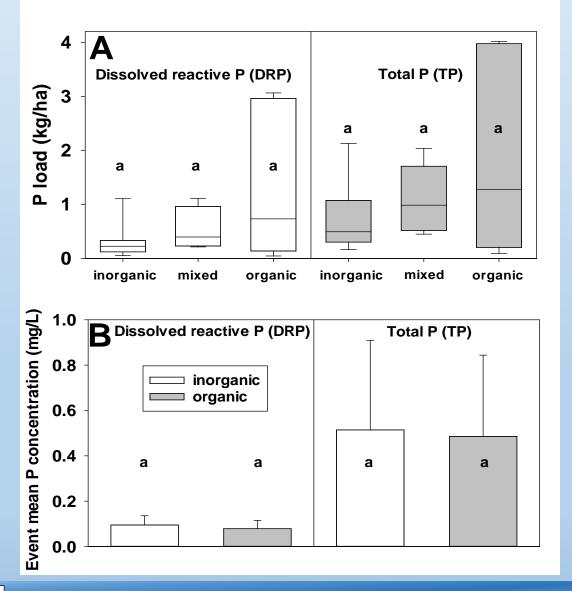
Makes nutrients available when crops need them.

#### **RIGHT PLACE**

Keeps nutrients where crops can use them.

Image from: nutrientstewardship.org

## Fertilizer Source & Rate: Account for P in Your Soil









## SOIL DRAINAGE RESEARCH UNIT

## King et al. (2018)

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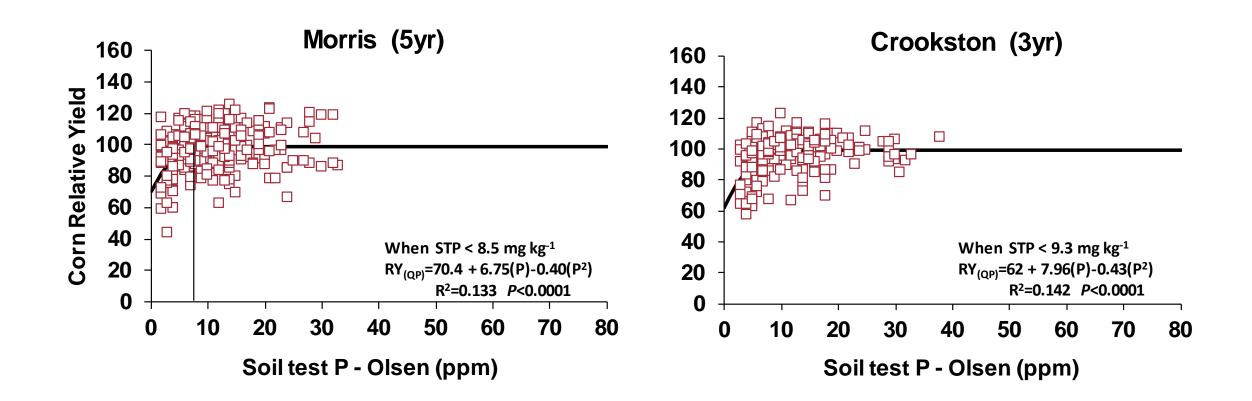
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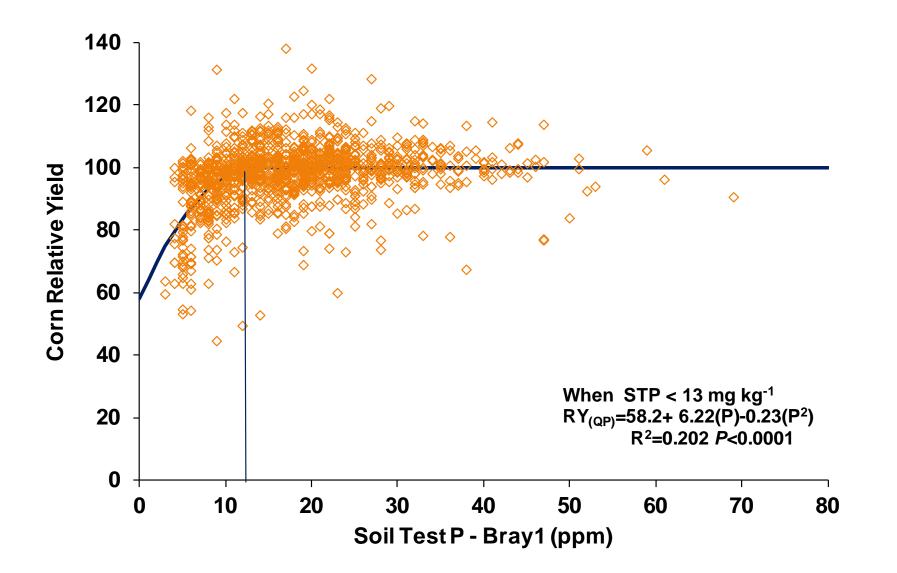
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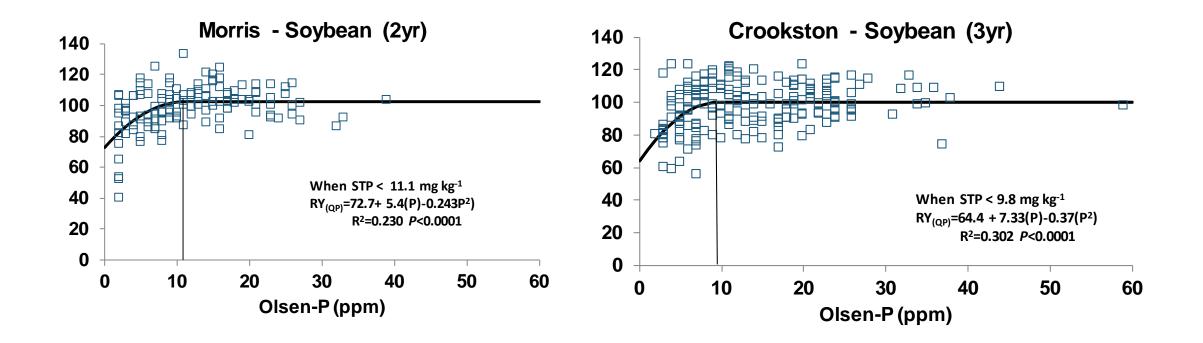
# **Relative Corn Yield × STP**



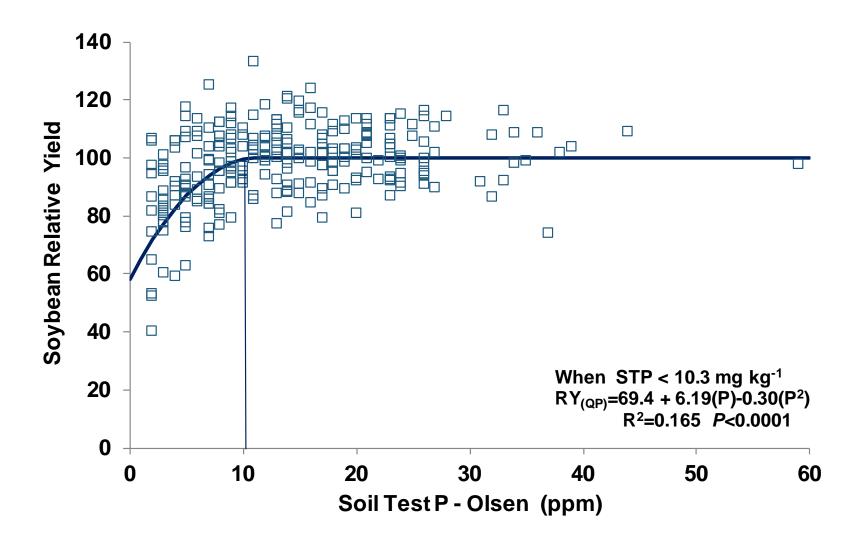
## **Relative Corn Yield × STP**



## **Relative Soybean Yield × STP**



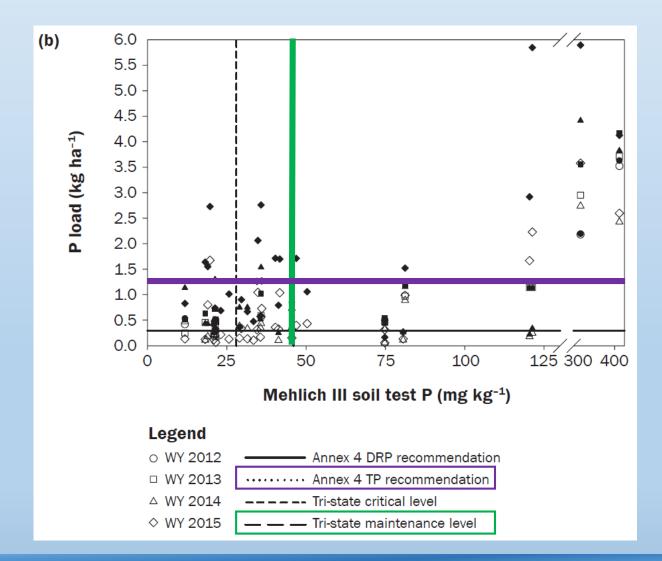
## **Relative Soybean Yield × STP**



Soil test phosphorus (P) Interpretation Classes and associated extracted-P concentrations used in Minnesota.

	Minnesota STP Category				
Extractant	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
	ppm P extracted				
Bray-P	0-5	6-11	12-15	16-20	21+
Olsen-P	0-3	4-7	8-11	12-15	16+

## Soil Test P is One Indicator of P Loss Risk

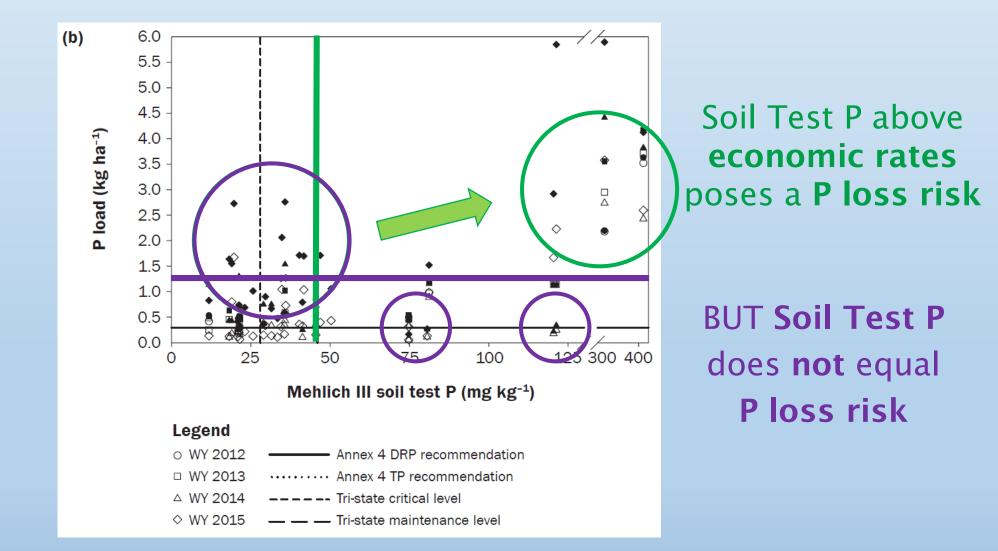




### SOIL DRAINAGE RESEARCH UNIT

Duncan et al., 2017

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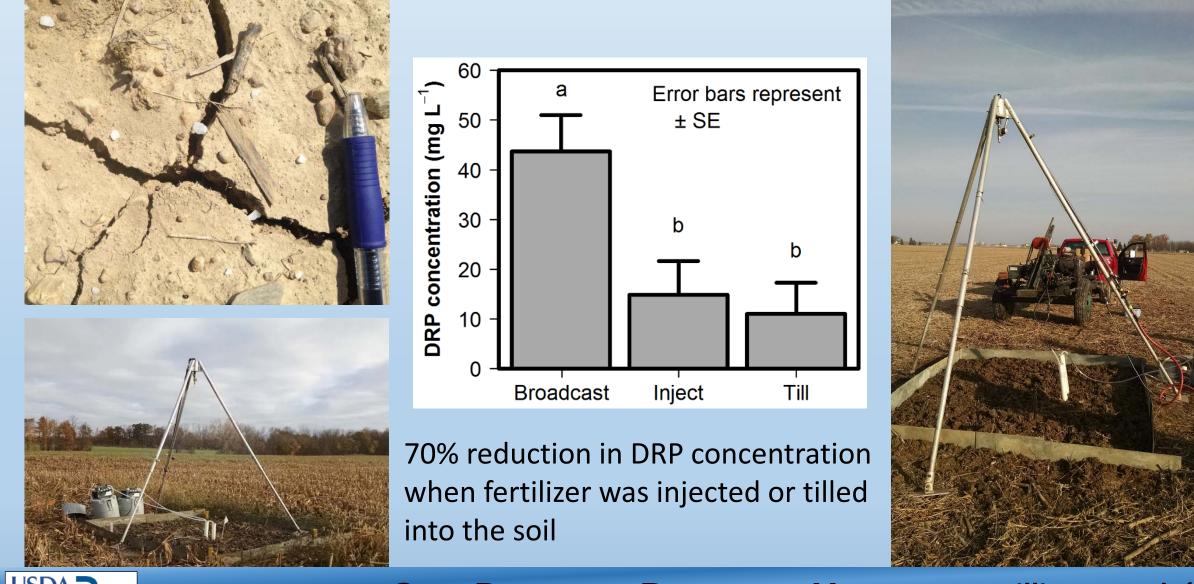
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Image from: nutrientstewardship.org

## **Fertilizer Placement**





## SOIL DRAINAGE RESEARCH UNIT

Williams et al. (2018)

# **Preferential Flow Pathways**





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