

**The Illinois Nutrient Research & Education Council (NREC)** is a collaborative effort by Illinois farmers, the fertilizer industry and the Illinois Department of Agriculture to address issues related to fertilizer use in Illinois.

Created by state statute in 2012, NREC is funded by a 75-cent assessment on each ton of bulk fertilizer sold in Illinois. These funds are invested in research projects and educational programs designed to optimize nutrient use and protect the environment.

A 13-member NREC Council annually solicits, reviews and funds projects that fulfill the organization's mission. Environmental organizations provide input to the Council.

## **NREC Council Members**

### **Executive Committee**

**JEFF KIRWAN**  
ILLINOIS FARMER (CHAIRMAN)  
*Illinois Farm Bureau*

**ED CORRIGAN**  
BRANDT CONSOLIDATED (VICE CHAIRMAN)  
*Fertilizer Dealers*

**CHUCK CAWLEY**  
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
(SECRETARY)  
*Illinois Department of Agriculture Designee*

**JENNY MENNENGA**  
ILLINOIS FARMER (TREASURER)  
*Illinois Soybean Association*

### **Council Members**

**ROBERT MULLEN**  
POTASH CORPORATION  
*Fertilizer Retailers*

**MATT DUNCAN**  
CROP PRODUCTION  
SERVICES  
*Fertilizer Retailers*

**CHRIS MATLOCK**  
FS CUSTOM TURF  
*Specialty Fertilizer*

**TOM KELLEY**  
SYNGENTA SEEDS  
*Certified Crop Advisors*

**DON GUINNIP**  
ILLINOIS FARMER  
*Illinois Corn*

### **Advisory Members**

**ALLEN GROSBOLL**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW POLICY CENTER  
*Environmental Group*

**CINDY SKRUKRUD**  
ILLINOIS CHAPTER  
SIERRA CLUB  
*Environmental Group*

**GERMAN BOLLERO**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
ILLINOIS AT  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
*Research Station*

**TREVOR SAMPLE**  
ILLINOIS  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
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*Illinois EPA Designee*



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**Illinois agriculture's  
investment in the  
safe, efficient use of  
crop nutrients**

## The NREC Mission

NREC is committed to helping farmers and other users of fertilizer products get the best performance possible from their nutrient applications. To accomplish this, NREC sponsors research and educational programs that have three purposes:

- ◆ Ensure adoption and implementation of best practices that optimize nutrient efficiency.
- ◆ Ensure soil fertility.
- ◆ Address environmental concerns related to fertilizer use.

## Funding Decisions

Each year, NREC solicits proposals that address nutrient efficiency, improved crop production and water quality. Each proposal is evaluated by the NREC Research Committee and a team of outside peer reviewers. The Council ranks projects on their merit and availability of funds.

## 2020 Project Funding

Since its formation in 2012, NREC has invested more than \$23 million in research projects.

For 2020, we funded \$3 million in renewal projects.

Grant partners include:

University of Illinois  
Southern Illinois University  
Illinois State University  
Purdue University  
The Wetlands Institute  
Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association.

## Research Priorities

NREC focuses on three main goals when considering research projects:

- ◆ Maximize Efficiency
- ◆ Minimize Losses
- ◆ Mitigate Negative Environmental Impacts

These goals are pursued by sponsoring projects that examine the effectiveness and economic viability of farming practices that will reduce losses of nitrogen and phosphorus to water

without being detrimental to yield. Areas of concentration include:

## Nitrogen and phosphorus management

- ◆ Impact of N management systems on N utilization, including
  - Optimum N rate
  - Timing and method of application
  - Evaluation of efficacy of fertilizer additives
- ◆ Management of nitrate reduction to ammonium for nitrate retention
- ◆ Cover crops
- ◆ Comparison of N utilization from DAP/MAP to Triple Superphosphate
- ◆ Evaluation of tillage and placement and timing of P applications
- ◆ Impact of gypsum applications in Southern Illinois

## Tile and Conservation Systems

- ◆ Evaluation of drainage water management practices, including tile depth and drainage water recycling
- ◆ Bioreactors, buffers and saturated buffers

## On the web

A complete list of 2019 projects and the most recent Annual Report can be downloaded from the NREC web site:

[www.illinoisnrec.org](http://www.illinoisnrec.org)