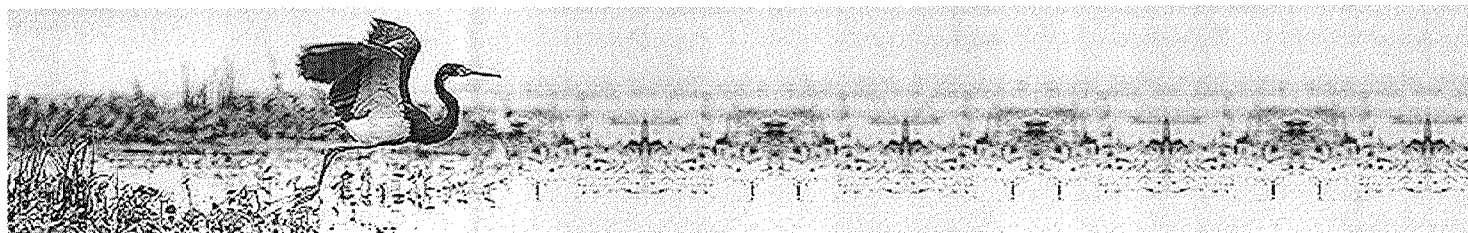




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NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION & WATER ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION JOINT NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact:
Mark Lambert, lambert@ncga.com, (636) 733-9004
Carrie W. Capuco, ccapuco@werf.org, (571) 384-2097

NATIONAL WATER QUALITY DATABASE RELEASED TO ADDRESS NUTRIENT CHALLENGES

ALEXANDRIA, VA (November 19, 2015) -- The National Corn Growers Association and the Water Environment Research Foundation announced the completion of the Agricultural Best Management Practices Database today at the American Water Resources Association's Annual Conference on Water Resources.

Along with other project sponsors, such as the United Soybean Board, this database was developed to create a centralized repository of agricultural best management practice performance studies related to water quality in agricultural areas.

“The goal of the database is to provide farmers, agricultural advisors, planners, and consultants with information that enables them to implement cost-effective water quality improvement solutions,” said NCGA Production and Stewardship Action Team Chair Brent Hostetler. “Currently, many conservation practices and pollutant reduction measures are being voluntarily adopted. However, until now, the effectiveness of various practices has been uncertain due to the limited availability of comprehensive and comparable field-scale data. The Agricultural Best Management Practices Database addresses this problem by providing a comprehensive set of monitoring and reporting protocols and a clearinghouse for collecting, storing, and evaluating agricultural best management practice performance information.”

“WERF appreciates the proactive approach that NCGA and USB are taking with creation of the Ag BMP Database,” explained WERF Research Program Director Theresa Connor. “Having a clearinghouse of meta and performance data for agricultural conservation practices will assist both growers and watershed managers make more informed decisions on the impact of their conservation practices on water quality, and as information is available, costs and crop yield. Bringing the many available, diverse research projects into one data system can ultimately help growers more effectively implement conservation practices and researchers share information.”

The database includes performance data and metadata that document the many variables that affect BMP performance. These variables include geographic area, field conditions such as soils and slopes, tillage and nutrient management practices, and the existence of buffers, constructed wetlands, and other edge-of-field practices. The database’s initial release focuses on row crops, particularly corn and soybeans, and its primary analytical focus is on phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment.

The project data summary, appendices, and database are available at <http://www.bmpdatabase.org/agBMP.html>

About NCGA

Founded in 1957, the National Corn Growers Association represents more than 40,000 dues-paying corn farmers nationwide and the interests of more than 300,000 growers who contribute through corn checkoff programs in their states. NCGA and its 48 affiliated state organizations work together to create and increase opportunities for corn growers. For more information, visit www.ncga.com.

About WERF

The Water Environment Research Foundation, a nonprofit organization formed in 1989, is America’s leading independent scientific research organization dedicated to wastewater and stormwater issues. For more information, visit www.werf.org.

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