

## Upper Mississippi Nutrient (Loss) Reduction Strategies: Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota



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A report generated for the Walton Family Foundation by the Center for Watershed Protection, Inc., has been issued titled:

*Upper Mississippi Nutrient (Loss) Reduction Strategies – Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota (“Report”)*

The authors of the *Report* are Reid Christianson, PE, PhD; Carol Wong, PE; and Moira McDonald.

The *Report* is intended to highlight similarities between nutrient reduction or nutrient loss strategies for Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. The nutrient reduction and nutrient loss reduction strategies are focused on the nutrient reduction goals for the Gulf of Mexico for these three states.

The strategies are intended to respond to the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan. That plan is focused on the 12 states (Arkansas is one of the 12 states) within the Mississippi River basin. The plan’s goal is stated to be the reduction of nutrients to the Gulf of Mexico by 45%.

The three states are stated to have spent significant time and effort (including assistance from scientists and professionals) in developing state-specific plans to reduce nutrients leaving their states. It is noted that:

... these plans have to account for statewide differences in local climate and agricultural practices, the underlying assumptions and methods used to develop BMP efficiencies should align to ensure their cumulative effectiveness will meet the Gulf Hypoxia Reduction Goal. Further, establishing a consistent Best Management Practice (BMP) currency among states will allow gross tracking in addition to helping multi-state funding programs accurately prioritize resources and uniformly measure progress. State credit trading programs are also dependent on regional markets with consistent trading currencies.

Comparison of the three state strategies representing the Upper Mississippi is projected to help states begin the dialog on how the respective approaches can be better aligned and to identify gaps in knowledge as well as focus areas for future research.

The *Report* is stated to highlight discrepancies between state efforts “as a point of discussion in an attempt to potentially determine real differences between states and to gain consensus on assumptions, data sources and methodologies that can make state strategies more robust.”

The components of the Report include:

- State Strategies

- Comparing Agricultural Best Management Practices (Including Practices that Reduce Nitrogen and Phosphorus)
- Practices that Reduce Nitrogen Only
- Practices that Reduce Phosphorus Only
- Cost Estimates
- Recommended Consensus

The appendices include:

- State Strategy Teams
- Iowa
- Minnesota
- Illinois
- Nitrogen Reductions by Practice Location
- Phosphorus Reductions by Practice Location

[A copy of the Report can be downloaded here.](#)