

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #501.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 7:45 AM

Name Brandon Vorthmann

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to ask you to fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. It is important to have a science based program that recognizes voluntary conservation practices instead of a mandate from the EPA.

On my farm, I have already implemented practices to decrease nutrient runoff and conserve soil. Those practices include: reduced tillage systems and no-till, terraces, grass waterways, CRP filter strips, variable rate application of phosphorous and potassium, and GPS assisted application systems that prevent overlaps in application. In the future, I also hope to implement variable rate nitrogen application.

Please fund a program that recognizes these practices and encourages their continued and expanded use. Brandon Vorthmann

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #502.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 7:53 AM

Name Arlyn VanZante

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As a concerned farmer I urge you to support a science based nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production. Those who advocate an adversarial government mandate approach generally have little or no knowledge of agriculture or the conservation problems farmers face, plus the fact they do not even agree on what practices should be implemented. Today's farmers are intelligent enough to realize that it pays to conserve nutrients and top soil.

We need to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects.

I have added a mile of grassed waterways and added tile drainage all in an effort to reduce nutrient runoff all done voluntarily Arlyn VanZante

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #503.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 8:18 AM

Name Craig Stallman

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to you today to urge your support for the voluntary nutrient reduction strategy put forth by IDALS and the DNR. We as farmers want to do the right thing, we are making great strides to conserve nutrients. What we don't need is the E.P.A coming in here and telling us the best way to handle this situation. The E.P.A's answer will be a one fits all solution that is not science-based.

With the surplus at the state level, I don't think it is too much to ask you to fund conservation programs. These programs are on a cost-share basis and would do much to help our situation.

No one is against clean water, help us to do a better job, this needs to be a voluntary program, with your help. Thanks for listening. Craig Stallman

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #504.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 8:32 AM

Name Richard Rickelman

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I strongly support the recently announced Iowa Nutrient Strategy. This is designed as a voluntary, targeted conservation program. This type of program will be more effective than a one-size-fits-all type that would result from more regulations. The Iowa Nutrient Strategy was developed by IDALS and IDNR with a science assessment by Iowa State University. This is a great example of different State agencies working together to develop a real world comprehensive assessment that shows what can work in various areas of our state. Iowa is a very diverse state, even some counties can have extreme diversities in soil types or topography. There are many cases of voluntary actions by farmers as individuals or working in groups to protect certain watersheds and having tremendous success that can be measured. On our own farm we have built several miles of terraces and have experimented with different cover crops without government help and some with. Bickering and pointing fingers and demanding more rules for the other guys is just more of the same thing we see in Washington. Let's make real progress by doing what works in different areas that is implemented by people with skin in the game. Richard Rickelman

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #505.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 8:36 AM

Name Denis Heatherington

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy as well as the states other conservation cost-share programs. Adequately funding these programs now will avoid more costly fixes in the future. Denis Heatherington

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #506.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 9:14 AM

Name Gregory Freshwater

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I strongly encourage you to support the plan to retain nutrients. As a pork producer I hear alot about the nutrient issue and run off from manure spreading and I feel that this would help make the publi more aware of the fact that we as farmers are trying to conserve our natural resources.
Gregory Freshwater

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #507.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 9:14 AM

Name Roger Hawkins

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I think voluntary conservation and science is by far the best way to handle this problem. Roger Hawkins

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #508.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 9:16 AM

Name Joe Olson

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I want to express my support for state nutrient reduction strategies that are science based and recognize the importance of voluntary conservation practices. As regulations on nutrients and conservation will continue to increase in the future its important that the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy is funded to ensure we are implementing sound conservation projects.

With the high value of farmland and concern over future overregulation farmers and landowners want to voluntarily implement conservation practices and funding to help the projects is important. Joe Olson

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #509.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 9:18 AM

Name Jim Mitchell

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please accept my comments concerning the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. I think it is quite clear that that we as Iowa farmers need to be good stewards of the land. I think it is also goes without saying that Iowa's farmers want to do everything they can to reduce nutrient losses on their fields. It is not only an environmental benefit but also an economic benefit to eliminate runoff.

I urge you to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other cost-share programs that help us reduce nutrient runoff. Much of this money is used by farmers to fix/enhance waterways in our fields that trap these precious nutrients and topsoil, build terraces to stop erosion, and add buffer strips along creeks and streams. Many of us use manure to build soil tilth and also reduce our cost of production. We are very aware of the sensitivity of our waterways and want to ensure runoff of these vital nutrients is minimized. Jim Mitchell

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #510.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 9:27 AM

Name Jacob Hackman

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to you today to support the voluntary conservation practices that Iowa is doing today to help reduce nutrient reduction. I feel farmers know their land the best and what works in the different parts of Iowa. My family and I have over 100 acres in a CRP program, it is nice to see all the wildlife that is out in those fields. We are trying to do our best to maintain agricultural production. Thank you for your time.
Jacob Hackman

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #511.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 9:28 AM

Name Keith Kroneman

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to ask you to support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production. On our farm we are using minium till, notill, grass waterways and grass strips along steams to help our farm and the enviroment. PLease help adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost share programs. Keith Kroneman

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #512.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 9:43 AM

Name Soo Greiman

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like to express my support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

I urge you to fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. In the past, Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs has delayed needed conservation projects.

As a part of a family farming operation I can assure you we have implemented a variety of conservation practices to benefit our farm and the surrounding environment including minimum tillage, crop rotation, construction of earthen berms and terracing. Soo Greiman

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #513.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 9:52 AM

Name Arvin Boote

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I believe that it is vitally important produce crops on our farms and maintain or build up our soils. We all have experienced what happens when the weather doesn't cooperate and we have poor yields. We need a combination of resources and methods to provide best management practices in protecting the environment and producing food, fiber and fuel for our world.

Please use the science-based methods and not pie in the sky thinking. Also, provide the funding necessary for cost share programs. Many farmers are waiting for funds to be available. I use contour farming on my own fields that helps to keep my soil and nutrients in place. I can't afford to have them be wasted. We need a variety of production methods because Iowa's farmland varies from county to county and field to field. A one size plan will only fail. Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Arvin Boote

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #514.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:10

Name Richard Kerr

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a science based nutrient reduction strategy that will recognize voluntary practices. We are still repairing and putting new waterways into use every year to help reduce runoff and stop erosion. I fertilize based upon crop removal and use technology to help place nutrients where they are most beneficial. I do not like to see my money run off the field.

Please fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy adequately as well as other conservation cost share programs. Richard Kerr

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #515.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:13

Name Leon Kessel

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I encourage you to support the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and cost-share conservation programs. These programs are a great benefit to farmers as we try to preserve Iowa's rich soils and water quality through the stresses that recent weather conditions have placed on the state. Leon Kessel

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #516.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:17

Name Ronald Underwood

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Considering the advances that modern production agriculture has made in a such a short and important time and how the demands on all of us have changed in regards because of this, does it not seem it would be ridiculous not to use good science based strategy to manage nutrient reduction" Being a livestock producer and grain farmer nutrient management is an important part of our management scheme. That being said its important to us as well as all of the stake holders in this that decisions are based on good logic and not on emotion. Ronald Underwood

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #517.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:22

Name David Wrage

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would ask that you please consider a voluntary program for nutrient reduction. I have been practicing this for several years and have found that I can better manage my farm and my production. I would also encourage you to make sure adequate funding is available to fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, along with all conservation cost share programs. Iowa farmers firmly believe in conservation practices to preserve our natural resources in addition to trying to reduce our input costs. David Wrage

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #518.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:32

Name Lori Heemstra

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

I urge state lawmakers to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects.

My husband and I have switched from conventional tillage to vertical tillage to help reduce soil erosion. And we have also added some CRP waterways. We have manure management plans according to the p-index and we always knife our manure into the ground in the fall. Lori Heemstra

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #519.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:34

Name Scott Tholen

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please support a state run science based nutrient reduction strategy that relies on voluntary conservation practices. On my own farm I have started using covercrops to help control erosion and build soil quality. One of the many benefits of this is the covercrops ability to scavenge extra nutrients in the soil which will prevent them from entering the rivers and streams. This was a voluntary action on my part with no farm program or state help. I just wanted to improve the ground I farm. Voluntary action like this is the cheapest and possibly the most effective way to improve soil and water quality while still being able to achieve maximum agricultural production.

Cost share programs funded through the state have also beneficial and will also help improve soil and water quality. The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy should be adequately funded. The benefits gained through that system can be used as an example of success and reflected upon when encouraging a voluntary conservation system. Lead by example. Thank you for your time. Scott Tholen

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #520.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:34

Name John Finley

City Elkader

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

General comment on the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, this is a very positive move by all parties involved to address an important issue up front before EPA writes laws. This is a very common sense approach that involves the correct parties in the state of Iowa to work on an important environmental issue important to all. Making more laws is not necessary these days we have more than enough on the books and having Washington D.C. EPA folks make rules for Iowa is not good business. Let the good people of Iowa work the nutrient reduction strategy and solve their own issues! John Finley, Elkader, Iowa

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #521.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:38

Name James Rodebush

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a science based Nutrient strategy and encourage the adoption of voluntary conservation practices. Putting science and farming know who can solve the problem. Letting government and agencies set the regulations and tell others (farmers) what to do will create more problems than it will ever solve. James Rodebush

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #522.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:38

Name Russ Davis

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please support the measures adopted by IDALS, IDNR and Iowa State re: the nutrient management plan to conserve our states nutrient and soil resources. The plan they have put forth is scientifically supported and worthy of funding by the state. I am encouraged as I see more efforts being made by local farmers to conserve our nutrients, i.e.soil testing, cover crops, buffer strips, reduced tillage, precision fertilizer application, precision farming, high tech seed etc., all having a positive effect on our resources and the farmers bottom line.

Thank you! Russ Davis

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #523.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:40

Name Herbert Scott

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As a farmer in the rolling hills of central Iowa, it is obvious to me that there is a tremendous variation in topography, soil type, drainage, viable tillage practices, crops/roughage needs for a given farm operation, etc.

Gumbo on the river bottom likely demands more tillage and has less erosion and nutrient loss potential than the Tama soil on the hills. A one-size-fits-all approach could be expected to thrust upon us if a science-based, flexible voluntary approach is not promulgated.

Please adequately fund the proposed Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and the conservation cost-share programs that will provide the needed development of the multiple effective practices that farmers will readily adapt when they are demonstrated to be viable and effective on their operation.

We already utilize no-till, grassed waterways, headlands, crop rotation, GMO seeds and GPS fertilizer application as ways of maintaining needed food production with maximum utilization of nutrients and minimum loss of water and nutrients.

Help us to continue to move forward with the proposed Nutrient Reduction Strategy by adequately funding this well thought out strategy to facilitate a better future for all of us. Herbert Scott

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #524.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:49

Name Brian Lensch

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like express how important it is to support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

We practice voluntary conservation in our own operating with buffer strips and grass waterways to control runoff. Farmers in our area are very conscience of the water we drink we all want to make sure the nutrients we use for our crops do not get away because that costs us money. I believe a government has a place to give farmers tools such as cost-sharing to help them make the decisions what is best for their farm and the environment. A broad brush approach by creating more regulations on farmers is not an effective way to control nutrient runoff.

I urge you to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects. Brian Lensch

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #525.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:54

Name Max Vandelune

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I have watched four generations farm: My Grandfather,Dad,two Brothers, and Nephew. I have watched in the fifty years I have farmed the changes in the way we farm. The one thing that many non-farmers don't understand is farmers strong feeling that we want to leave the land and enviroment a better place for the generations to come. We are closer to the enviroment as farmers than just about anyone.

We have gone from heavy tillage to a no-til program. We have moved to modern technology such as GPS, grid soil testing, varible rate application, Seed that help us cut back on the chemicals, and the use of conservation structures such as the 20 plus miles of terraces we farm. ALL done voluntarily. Some conservation practices were cost shared and some on our own. Our next project is to move the inlet pipes next to the terraces so the modern wide equipment can be utilized.

I would ask you to support and fund a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy. Farmers are like a rope. They are better pulled ahead by leadership, education, peer examples, and voluntary cost share programs. They like the rope that is pulled not pushed by a mandated program. Thank you for your hard work in making a difference in peoples lives. Max Vandelune

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #526.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:56

Name Denise Crock

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production. Denise Crock

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #527.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 10:59

Name Steven Langland

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As a conservation farmer I am encouraging you to adequately fund any and all conservation programs and in particular the Nutrient Reduction Plan. The past delays in funding programs has delayed needed conservation programs in all parts of the state.

I am a third generation farmer who's roots in conservation efforts go back to my grandfather during the days of the CCC setting contour lines on this farm. My father and my late uncle continued to build on those efforts and now I and my retired father are continuing practices, esp as part of the Bear Creek Watershed project. We had done many projects over the years, but one in particular would help with nutrient run off and that would be putting in two retaining ponds and a diversion terrace below our present feeding area for our beef cows. The preliminary work has been done, but the future of the project is uncertain and may never be done without additional and consistent funding.

Almost all farmers are eager to participate in programs of conservation if there is adequate funding to participate on a voluntary basis, so let's please continue this effort now and into the future. We presently have enough rules and regulations, so any enforced mandates only complicate and frustrate matters.

I would invite anyone of you to contact me for more information and also if interested a personal tour of our farming operation. Steven Langland

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #528.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 11:05

Name Heath Greiner

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

We do not need more government in our lives especially in farming. Follow the ISU guidelines recommed practices and give it time and farmers will adapt when they see and understand the benefits of the practices. Maybe add rewards to following and showing prof of the practices. Its easier to pull than push cattle.. Same goes with people. Heath Greiner

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #529.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 11:09

Name Larry Foley

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and I am asking for your support also. As a farmer in north central Iowa, I believe the work IDALS, DNR, and ISU put into this program should be utilized. ISU has developed practices which I can follow to put in place conservation practices on my farm. These would be scientific, reasonable, and cost-effective. Again I support the strategy and hope you would too. Larry Foley

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #530.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 11:17

Name Gerald Morgan

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and state's other conservation cost-share programs. We need voluntary conservation practices. Gerald Morgan

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #531.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 11:19

Name David Fordyce

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

This is just a short note about nutrients and how we are trying to incorporate these nutrients in our soil to enhance our farms soil profile. Through many years and decades of work we are able to apply our nutrients from our dairy operation into the soil and use the benefit of our crop rotations to keep our soil alive. This program works for us...but I am not sure if would be good for others. They should have a right to choose. I would encourage you to continue to let this be a voluntary choice we have. David Fordyce

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #532.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 11:24

Name Stephen Pacha

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As the proud owner of some of the most valuable farm land in the world, I do my utmost to preserve and protect that land and its value. What bureaucrat in Des Moines or Washington D. C. knows better than I do, how to do that" Stephen Pacha

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #533.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 11:32

Name Lynn Jenkind

City Des Moines

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

I have seen the specifics on what some farmers have done to reduce nutrient runoff and I have been impressed. I don't see how a voluntary program will address the problem sufficiently in the short term or the long term. I recall the state logo Iowa you make me smile. The policies and practices that have led to removing slews, draining wetlands, clearing every tree and bush from fields, drainage ditches along roadsides and tiling without any barriers to creeks and rivers does not make me smile. My quality of life has taken a big hit. The natural beauty driving along country roads is gone. Lakes and streams are not fit to swim in or fish. We all know how little land has been set aside for public use in Iowa. We should at least have some standards for keeping public lands and right of ways in Iowa protected and we should not be polluting other states or the gulf.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #534.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 11:35

Name Dennis Meints

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am asking you to support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices. I feel we need to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other conservation cost-share programs. Needed conservation projects will be kept on track with these funds.

Thanks for your support. Dennis Meints

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #535.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 11:46

Name Gary Boswell

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like to tell you that I strongly support the proposed Nutrient Reduction Strategy and urge you to support it as well. Science based strategies that can be implemented site-specifically are the most effective in helping reduce run-off into our lakes and streams. As farmers we know our individual fields, and how they react to weather events. We can most effectively determine the most beneficial efforts to improve nutrient run-off. I personally have been nearly 100% no-till for the last 17 years, even on the river bottoms. I also use field turn borders that my father used since the 1940's to prevent endrows not following a contour. Soil conservation is critical for our society to flourish into the future.

I would encourage more funds to be available for conservation practices in the future. There never seems to be enough money for structures. In particular, I would like to see some funds for stream bank erosion protection. I have witnessed on my farm the erosion of 70' of stream bank lost along the Middle Nodaway River. The buffer width of 66' seeded in 2001 was completely eaten away after 10 years and did nothing to stop an estimated 110,000 Tons of nutrient rich bottomland soil from entering our water ways. We need to focus on what works, not what feels good. Thank you. Gary Boswell

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #536.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 11:48

Name Dick Bishop

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Farmers need no more regulations of any kind, they are good stewards of the land now. Dick Bishop

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #537.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 12:10

Name Daniel Cramer

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like to add my voice in support of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

I am a farmer and grew up on a farm. I remember we used to plow soybean ground! Now corn ground is hardly plowed. I have a no-till drill. I have buffer strips. I have planted cover crops. I have seen the yellow side hills turn brown and the brown side hills turn black as the soil continues to improve.

It was called the "muddy Mississippi" before row crop farming had the present impact on the watershed. I was in New Orleans a year ago--the National Park Service guide explained that a big part of the problem is there is not enough silt coming down the river to replenish their wetlands.

Farmers do the right thing with the right tools and the right information. A voluntary, science based approach to dealing with water quality issues is a great way to produce our food, maintain our farming economy and water quality. Daniel Cramer

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #538.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 12:10

Name Clark BreDahl

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I hope you will support the implementation and funding of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other voluntary conservation cost-share programs during this session of the Iowa Legislature. This science-based, voluntary approach to soil and water conservation and pollution prevention has been used successfully by Iowa farmers for years.

On our own farm, it has allowed us to construct intake terraces, install waterways and implement nutrient management strategies on our cropland and implement rotational grazing with improved water distribution to better utilize our pastures.

Let's stick with programs proven to work and recognize that change comes faster and in bigger increments applying a carrot rather than a stick.

Thanks for your consideration. Clark BreDahl

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #539.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 12:41

Name Brian Rosburg

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please fund the nutrient reduction strategy. There is not a "one size fits all" strategy to solve this problem. With science and technology based research, IDALS, DNR, and ISU have found that voluntary conservation practices have the greatest benefit to water quality in Iowa. I am a Iowa Farmer, on my farm we have different strategies to make sure we are not contaminating the water and some I know that for some strategies it is very costly, that is why I also ask you to fund other conservation cost-share programs so us farmers can do the best we can to help. If I were to contaminate the water with the fertilizer or chemical that I purchased (at high prices) to benefit my crops, my farm would lose the money it paid. I apply what the crop needs in that crop production year to reduce the amounts lost. Contamination not only hurts water quality it hurts my profits. We strive to be stewards of the land and protect what we have been given on this earth so our future generations can enjoy it too. Thank You. Brian Rosburg

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #540.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 12:53

Name Jason Folsom

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support Iowa's nutrient reduction strategy. Farmers like myself want to be part of the solution when it comes to reducing pollution. I applaud a voluntary program and would be happy to participate in it. But we are going to need ample funding if we are going to implement these practices. All of the strategies in the world don't mean a thing if we can't implement them. We have the best farmers in the world. Please give us the opportunity to show it. Jason Folsom

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #541.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 1:01 PM

Name Mark Bausch

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I know the importance of having clean water in our state. I believe farmers have and are being conservative with field tillage and are making efforts to reduce water runoff. I also believe they are not over applying crop nutrients.

Please adopt the nutrient reduction strategy as written. Also, continue to fund cost-share conservation programs as well as this nutrient program.

I don't feel that it is necessary at this point to regulate commercial fertilizer use. Mark Bausch

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #542.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 1:06 PM

Name Norbert Kruse

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I strongly urge our State Lawmakers to support the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy along with our State's other Conservation Cost-Share programs.

I am confident that the UNI, the Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, along with the DNR and our Iowans involved with Agriculture within our state can & will determine and implement practices that are best for the land that they live on and take care of.

Who could know better than the persons actually caring for the soil and waterways within our state" Norbert Kruse

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #543.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 1:13 PM

Name Steven Yaley

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like to voice my support for a science based stat nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices.

I urge you to adequately fund this program and other conservation cost share programs. Steven Yaley

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #544.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 1:34 PM

Name Raymond Foerster

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing in support of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. I believe that a state specific, science based approach to properly manage nutrient application to cropland is the best way to meet the water quality mandates of Iowa. We, as producers, need to be able to use this science based approach to maintain production that keeps both crop and livestock farmers in business. Adequate funding of this project is extremely important. In the past inadequate funding has delayed needed conservation projects. Please support both the adoption and funding of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

, Raymond Foerster

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #545.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 2:06 PM

Name Kim Hicks

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

All Iowa farmers need to be good stewards of their own land, rented land and their neighbors land.

I think we all could work and help each other out by implementing nutrient reduction in regards to our soils.

I do think that the research is needed to take care of the environment, as well as helping the farmers maximize their yields.

There are WAY TOO many farmers coming here from out of state that do not give a hoot about the ground they are renting. They are in there ripping everything up, hurting the land and everyone around them. We need some sort of task force to scout these farms and not depend on whistleblowers. As long as these non-conservationist farmers (but still collect direct payments) are still out there much of this land does not stand a chance.

My family follows the conservation plans, no-tills, uses buffer/filter strips etc...

What more can we do "" Kim Hicks

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #546.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 2:08 PM

Name Joyce Brincks

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

My family supports a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

I request your support to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects. Joyce Brincks

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #547.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 2:11 PM

Name Randy Barnard

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Iowa's farmers have been involved with voluntary conservation practices for decades. It has been determined that erosion and chemical runoff can be reduced voluntarily. I live in Clarke County and we have experienced decreases in the pollution of West Lake due to voluntary practices in the past.

It is very important that these programs continue and are adequately funded at the state level.

Please help Iowa's farmers to continue to take care of and improve the natural resources we have been given. Randy Barnard

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #548.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 2:15 PM

Name Raymond Ransom

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I fully believe that a large majority of farmers have taken steps to use resources to the best use mainly due to economics . We have cut down on applications to become more efficient Raymond Ransom

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #549.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 2:42 PM

Name David Rydstrom

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I ask for your support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

I would ure you to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects. David Rydstrom

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #550.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 2:48 PM

Name Kevin Frank

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I work in the agriculture retail working with many growers and their seed, chemical, fertility, and sometimes even talk some about different tillage practices.

I know for a fact that farmers want to do what is right and help the environment. Farmers know that anytime they are losing their soil they are also losing fertility, and given the chance to save their soil and farm in a way that is environmentally friendly they will.

However, farmers also sometimes need to be educated on how to do that, but once they know the facts they will do what is right.

I believe that if we make some programs available that growers will voluntarily change and farm in a way that is friendly to the environment.

So please support any possible voluntary Conservation, this would far out weigh any regulation, and farmers would receive it well. Kevin Frank

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #551.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 2:59 PM

Name Phyllis Vander Linden

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy so conservation projects can be accomplished. Voluntary conservation is the way to go . We do not need more government regulations!

We had waterways put in 40 years ago and they have served us well. Especially when we have a heavy rain.

Farmers care about their land and know best how to take care of it properly. Phyllis Vander Linden

Name Veronica Lack

City Iowa City

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

I now live and farm downstream from an on-going point source pollution plume of anhydrous ammonia, atrazine and high lead that continues to endanger more lives by draining land in Mitchell County Iowa down a line of sinkholes. This pollution plume starts in a sensitive karst aquifer recharge area with no legal drainage outlet south of St Ansgar Iowa that was written about in the past by Robert Libra. It was later altered from a Wetland (where the Section 10 Cedar (W) Township used to be under water) since the water table there was above surface at places and perforated with sinkholes in that huge swale area. The Iowa DNR attorneys and Russ Tell and Paul Sweeney the then director of NRCS could not believe that Mitchell County would condone the building of these up-grade flood drainage channels through lines of sinkholes in this karsted area. But the plans were on Jim Hyde's, Mitchell Co Engineer's, office wall in 2006 and 2007.

In 2004 after we had had our well test results withheld from us for 12 years because I had complained about the semi loads of dead animals in between Dean Sponheim's and Bradley Johnson's farmsteads in 1993, I received two letters warning that the IDNR had known about our aquifer's being polluted so bad that no one not even animals should be drinking the water. The DNR sent along one of the polluters well drilling record, Bradley Johnson's, who had had the former Mitchell County Engineer out to dig ditches to the Echo Ave box culvert. This digging through the karsted limestone in the bedrock by Bill Groskurs the former Mitchell Co Engineer opened a sinkhole north of Bradley Johnson's house where the new ditch formed a Y. The land around that Y started draining back down that sinkhole and even Dean Kleckner's (the former head of the Farm Bureau's) land to the west of my farm was draining west down that sinkhole too. I complained as did Carl Christiansen and others downstream as the manure from the two feedlots at Brad Johnson's and his cattlelot to the north were washing down the two ditch extensions to the NW and SW and down the sinkhole. Unbeknownst to me the governments program to prevent high animal loss numbers paid for Bradley Johnson, the polluter, to have a new well, and Dale Adams the DNR agent that I had argued with to get a test done on my well did come back in December of 1993 and did do a test after the effluent washed through as he claimed, there was no polluting. If the DNR had given me a copy of that 1993 well test report I and Carl Christiansen and Ruth Morishe could have had a new well drilled then to protect our families and our animals would not have died or been docked when they did make it to market for miscellaneous masses and tumors. The Nitrates tested at 78 to 95ppm in 2004 and I didn't get the 1993 well test result until late 2009. Then this last fall I received the copies of the Ammonia Nitrogen as (N) test results done on the wells in that plume that had been tested downstream after I had filed the original complaint in 1993 and the second complaint in 2004. The Anhydrous Ammonia in the Olsen's well just downstream from me was highest at 12.2 and varied mostly by the time of the tests compared to when applications of Anhydrous Ammonia had been done on Section 10. (Both of the Olsen's died after cancers.)

Iowa's economy and the lives of it's people depend on protecting our natural resources. High quality water and topsoil are vanishing with the proliferation of unsustainable planting of corn on corn. Wetlands are being drained by ditches into the Upper Cedar Valley Group Aquifers in Mitchell County, Iowa, Cedar (W) Township, Sections 10 and 11 and other areas without legal drainage outlets.

Government agencies (the IDNR and Mitchell County's Sanitarian, L G Wagner) failed to provide test results from 1993 and later despite my complaints regarding the water quality. When IDNR's 1993 test result was finally provided in 2009 the levels were comparable to the test results for the Minnesota dairy farm family in the documentary film "Troubled Waters A Mississippi River Story". That family farm also suffered livestock death, causing them to drill a new well as they got their well test report given to them. This film illustrates some sustainable farming practices for applying Anhydrous Ammonia which was the biggest pollutant in our wells and the cause of the Dead Zones in the Gulf. We need Mandatory enforcement of the Clean Water Act as leaving it up to these polluters has killed my husband and neighbors and our animals downstream from them. Yet the polluters benefit yearly with incomes gained from draining their wetland down sinkholes into the drinking water of Iowan's downstream. My renters well downstream is now polluted with anhydrous ammonia and nitrates in Bremer County. And even the City of Iowa City's water that I now use tests positive for Anhydrous Ammonia. Why does the IDNR keep hiding this on-going point source pollution and protect those polluting our water? Everybody I know drinks some water even coffee that may be from a city or private well. We deserve to raise our children on water that doesn't have AG chemicals in it. It is easier to keep the man-made chemicals out of our aquifers than to filter them out. Des Moines Iowa installed multi-million dollar nitrate scrubbers to keep the total of the Anhydrous Ammonia and the Nitrates test below 10. It is getting harder and more expensive to keep those tests' total below 10 for the EPA. This was a factor in why the Zenia Rural Water system is going broke. Do public well utility's inform users of their anhydrous ammonia contamination? Not that I know of in Iowa City, the hygenic lab employee that first got me a copy of my \$160 group of tests on my kitchen faucet water, said they were glad I had kept trying to get some attention to this big issue.

I repeat we need Mandatory and strict enforcement of the Clean Water Act because the State of Iowa audited the IDNR and found in about 2009 that there was no enforcement of 16 of the Clean Water Act laws. The IDNR continues to allow this particular point source pollution to continue because of statements like Jon Tack's IDNR attorney, "I can't help you Veronica I'm related through my wife to Bruce Johnson" My reply was who is Bruce Johnson? And we all drink water, don't we?

Anhydrous Ammonia and CAFO pit manure should be banned from application on drained wetlands or areas with such minimal soil depths that allow for any applied chemicals to wash right down through the karsted limestone into our drinking water. The USDA-NRCS could add Anhydrous ammonia fertilizer to the ROSOL II evaluations NRCS does for the DNR manure management plans. Then a computer programmer could add criteria to the ROSOL II evaluations that checks for soil depths and sets buffer distances from sinkholes, swales, waterways, rivers and all streams (including intermittent and rising). This could make directions to keep not only the sustainable farmers on task in preserving their soil and water quality, but also help correct the polluters. This years Farm Bill needs to do away with direct payments and fund sustainability programs not line the pockets of the same people that dig ditches to sinkholes and pollute the ground water for the Iowan's downstream from them.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page **2** of comment #**552**.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 3:07 PM

Name Veronica Lack

City Iowa City

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

This domestic terrorism deserves jailtime, even though no one is held accountable when their actions cause deaths in this self-centered Iowa, even in on-going and wide pollution cases. So the pollution will get worse and if there is ever a Clean Chemical Act maybe AG chemicals will have to be tested safe for the environment they are dumped in now. And the Koch brothers and the big oil companies that produce Anhydrous Ammonia may go broke paying for the clean-up? LOL, not likely that anyone will clean it up and what will that do to property values? Man-made chemicals don't die off in the cold and dark of an aquifer like the biological manure fertilizer. They (Anhydrous Ammonia fertilizer and Atrazine) are showing up higher in the well tests while the bacteria tests go back to nil when the sinkholes are not taking on water.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #553.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 3:22 PM

Name Daniel Elliott

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

We farmers ask you to fund science-based state nutrient reduction strategy. Farmers want what is best not only for them, but also for the soil. Science-based strategies help everyone. But nobody wants to be told what they have to do. Please continue to fund a cost-share program. Thank you for your service to the state of Iowa. Daniel Elliott

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #554.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 3:27 PM

Name Charles S Helland

City Huxley

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Hi,

I am a Farmer in central Iowa and we are trying to help soil and water quality by using buffer strips, terraces, and no till planting soybeans in standing corn stalks.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #555.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 3:50 PM

Name Charlie Schafer

City Adair

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Congratulations to everyone involved in the creation of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Iowa has long been a worldwide leader in agricultural production with a sincere concern for our natural resources.

I am excited by your vision to create off-farm water quality benefits through on-farm conservation practices, in an effort to hold down future point-source-compliance costs and pay for environmental performance that is measurable and meaningful.

With the advancement of this bold strategy, you demonstrate a commitment to position Iowa as a leader in developing and implementing a market-based solution to finance, construct, maintain, and manage agronomic and structural conservation practice on working agricultural lands.

Our nation's current cost-share based conservation delivery system has served us well to this point, but the credit trading section you have included in your strategy indicates to me that you clearly recognize that innovative funding streams are necessary to incentivize private landowners to move to a new level of conservation stewardship.

We encourage you to provide the leadership required to develop an environmental credit trading program to efficiently and cost effectively improve water quality, reduce flooding, improve wildlife habitat, support our agricultural industry, and improve the quality of life for current and future generations of Iowans and our downstream neighbors.

Respectfully,

Charlie Schafer, President

Agri Drain Corporation

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #556.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 3:57 PM

Name Tyler Schildroth

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

It is imperative to fund The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy because accurate data can not be collected without a solid, science based strategy. Remember, farmers are not the only individuals applying nitrogen. What about the individuals who apply nitrogen on their lawn, who don't know how to read a label" Do you think they always know how much to use, or think more is better" Hard data needs to be collected from run off of city streets, water treatment plants, and fields. That is why I believe a plan can not be implemented without data being collected through this strategy. Tyler Schildroth

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #557.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 4:14 PM

Name Jeff Goodell

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would just like to let you know that I encourage your support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy. This strategy would entail voluntary conservation practices that we need to maintain agricultural production.

By supporting this strategy we need funding for these programs and other programs that support conservation practices. Jeff Goodell

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #558.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 4:16 PM

Name Daryl Haack

City Primghar

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

I am a farmer and I am in favor of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. I use no till and strip till on all of my crops on a voluntary basis because I believe I save soil and money and get comparable yields. I also use chemicals only when necessary and do not apply nitrogen until the soil temperature has dropped below 50 degrees and is forecast to stay there. I believe with some education and perhaps some initial cost share money more farmers would also use these practices.

Daryl Haack

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #559.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 4:39 PM

Name Lennon Brandt

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Farmers in Iowa are continuing to voluntarily improve their conservation practices. I began no-tilling soybeans in 1991 and now I also do fall strip-till for my corn. All of my fertilizer and manure are applied under the surface to protect its value as a nutrient and also prevent any run-off. So I along with other farmers do these practices for two reasons, increased profits and to protect the environment. Your support for a science-based Iowa nutrient reduction strategy will be more beneficial to Iowa than just more pages of regulations. Please fund Iowa's conservation efforts. Thank you, Lennon Brandt

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #560.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 4:40 PM

Name Brandon McHugh

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I just want to let you know that I would like to see the state move for a more science-based nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

I want to urge you to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects.

I currently use no till and minimum till where needed in my farming operation.

Thank you for listening. Brandon McHugh

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #561.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 4:40 PM

Name Alan Jensen

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I strongly suggest your support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that includes voluntary conservation practices that we as farmers need to maintain top agriculture production while reducing N P pollution of our waters. I urge to read the scientific studies done by Iowa State University, Iowa Department of Agriculture, and the DNR. This plan is so important to reduce the hypoxia that is continually affecting more of the Gulf of Mexico every year. I was very impressed to find that this is a joint effort by all three entities to address a very important situation scientifically instead of finger pointing and mandating "one size fits all" type regulations.

I also urge you to support and adequately fund not only this program, but also other cost share conservation programs that would reduce nutrients leaving our soil through erosion and excess water run off. I like most farmers believe in saving our precious top soil as well as keeping our state's water sources from being polluted. When there are adequate funds available for conservation programs farmers will voluntarily apply these practices, decreasing the need for stricter regulations.

I am continually taking advantage as cost share programs such as CRP, water ways, filter strips, and whole-farm CSP programs. Without the cost share funds, some of these practices would not be affordable to me. Please consider supporting this nutrient reduction strategy. Alan Jensen

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #562.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 4:41 PM

Name Tim Palmer

City Truro

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary Northey and Director Gipp,

The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy is a huge step forward to address the environmental concerns of the state and the Mississippi Basin. However, not all of the problems with nutrient delivery to the Gulf of Mexico can be blamed on ag land or municipalities. The land that is controlled by easement or owned by county, state or federal governments for road and parks also contribute. It is not uncommon to see classic gullies formed along roadsides.

I believe it is very important that Iowa Department of Transportation and the county governments are involved to ensure that public lands are also included as we try to address the many ways that sediment is moving through our watercourses to the Mississippi River. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are uniquely positioned to work with county government to identify and help to develop practices and management that will help abate erosion and nutrient movement.

Respectfully,

Tim Palmer

Truro, Iowa

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #563.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 4:55 PM

Name Hans Schnekloth

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I think a science based voluntary nutrient protection plan is the only sustainable option. All other strategies will fall short. Thanks for your time.
Hans Schnekloth

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #564.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 5:03 PM

Name Jon Bakehouse

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am encouraged to see that Iowa is putting together such a common sense nutrient reduction strategy, and I am eager to apply and improve our farming operation's reduction strategies already in place. I hope the money needed to kick this plan into action is readily available, and I trust that you will do everything in your power to see this strategy come to fruition. Thanks for all of your hard work. Jon Bakehouse

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #565.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 5:05 PM

Name Randy Caviness

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

My wife , 16 year old son and I operate a 4,000 acre Family Farm in south west Iowa. Over the years we have installed over 4 miles of terraces , in stalled buffer strips, filter strips and have been avid no till farmers for over 25 years. We have our fields grid sampled in 2 1/2 acre grids to insure proper nutrient application. Conservation and keeping our soil and nutrients on our farm is very very important to us.

We would like to ask for your support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

We urge state lawmakers to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects. Randy Caviness

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #566.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 5:19 PM

Name Doug Lansink

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As a lifelong family farmer I know the importance of good conservation practices. To maintain the vital productivity of our farms we must be vigil in keeping our soil and water recources in the best condition that we can. I want to urge you to help us by supporting the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strataegy as well as other state cost- share programs . Without these programs some of the conservation measures needed would be to costly for any one farmer to shoulder alone. Please adequately fund these conservation programs to help maintain a good recourse for funds to provide good conservation projects in our great state. On our farm for example we seeded a rye cover crop on the acres that were harvested as silage last fall. That cover was well established going into winter and should protect the soil from any erosion next spring before the next crop can be seeded. That is just one example of good conservation practices we try to use on our farm . Thank you for your support.
Doug Lansink

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #567.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 5:23 PM

Name Douglas Beckman

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

wish to encourage you to adapt the Iowa nutrient reduction strategy as proposed by idals, dnr and isu.

Science based voluntary conservation practices work. I use contours Douglas Beckman

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #568.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 5:39 PM

Name Betty Cruze

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I'm writing to express my views concerning the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

I support the strategy of science-based nutrient reduction that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices.

We need to fund this strategy along with conservation cost-sharing programs.

We have a small farm and do what we can to conserve our soil and water. Betty Cruze

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #569.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 5:40 PM

Name Douglas Beckman

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

.I wish to encourage you to adapt the Iowa nutrient reduction strategy proposed by idals, dnr and isu. Voluntary conservation practices based on science work. I use contours,terraces,grass waterways, and notill. Sometimes practices require funding help get practices in place. Please fund this project adequately. Douglas Beckman

Name Courtney P. Allen**City** Panora**State** Iowa**Providing comment on the following sections:** **Executive Summary** **Nonpoint Source** **Policy** **Point Source**

COMMENTS

There has been a quiet revolution in Iowa agriculture that started about 1995 and an explosion of large waterfowl that began about 1990. The revolution concerned the farmers changing from a practice as old as the state of Iowa, using the moldboard or chisel plow, to not using that plow at all. I believe that the revolution is just about complete. The explosion of resident Giant Canadian geese is equally amazing and potentially very damaging to the efforts of the Nutrient Strategy of lowering P and N. My comments concern those obvious facts.

It was gratifying to read in Table 2 (pg. 6) that no-till farming reduced P by 90% (17) and that chisel versus moldboard was 33 (49). Since P is associated with silt, and thus siltation, suggests that no-till reduces siltation by 90% (17) as well. I would expect that the Strategy group would mention the fact that our Iowa farmers have changed their method of farming over a period of time equal to the time it took to get farmers to use hybrid corn. Neither of these revolutionary changes was brought on by government regulations, only the farmer's interest in profits. Our experience at Lake Panorama when measuring nitrates, fecal bacteria and turbidity in the summer months of 2000-2003 was that N increased with turbidity and thus was apparently highly correlated, leading one to assume that like the P, much of the N was surface-related rather than perhaps from tiled water. This is suggestive that Table 1 should have a moldboard vs. no-till source study report by going back and reexamining the P data of the comparison.

As livestock production is moved to more confinement and less pasture, the fecal materials are better controlled and carefully utilized. The reduced pressure on the land formerly used as pasture, such as woodland and marsh, allowed other animals to use the grasses and multiply in numbers. The ones that probably impact the Nutrient Strategy are the waterfowl because they live and survive on the waterways of Iowa. The species that has literally exploded is the Giant Canadian Goose on many, if not all, of Iowa's waterways.

An interesting article appeared in the Ohio newspaper "The Plain Dealer" titled "Goose droppings might be raising bacterial levels in Northeast Ohio waterways" which was first printed in March 23, 2009 and updated in June 25, 2010. Fecal material has bacteria, and also P & N. The scientist studying this problem found that a Canadian Goose will defecate 10 times a day and excrete about a pound a day. On the Middle Raccoon River in 1990, the goose was sporadically spotted and probably was migrating. Hard to tell a migrating bird from a residential one in the spring and fall but the winter-only residents remain. I can believe that we have 25,000 residential geese on the Middle Raccoon from Carroll to Des Moines in January 2013 and could become 50,000 by the winter of 2014. If these numbers are correct, the geese this past year deposited over 9 million pound in or near the source of Des Moines drinking water. Next year it will be 18 million pounds needing 456 loaded tractor-trailers to move the load. This is a huge source of bacteria, and P and N.

Courtney P. Allen

One of the first trustees of the Panorama Rural Improvement Zone

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #571.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 5:47 PM

Name Eudene Lund

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please support the funding of the IDALS and DNR conservation program it will benefit everyone Eudene Lund

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #572.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 5:55 PM

Name Leon Vanden Bosch

City Rock Valley

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

There cannot be one size fits all. We use precision ag with everything we do, variable rate planting and fertilizer, automatic shutoffs with sprayer. We also only put on what we need with the use of Elevate, a program that shows what you need for every input you put on your ground. We use one pass tillage to leave as much residue on the ground to prevent erosion and to prevent fertilizer and chemicals from getting in the ground water. Something nobody talks about is the removal of bean stubble and corn stalks from your ground, there is a noticeable difference on how much water runs off the ground with a hard rain. To implement a standard rate of fertilizer with all type's of soil would be detrimental to trying to feed the world in which we live in, there is a major difference in the yeilds that are produced from 1 mile to the next. Farmers spend a lot of money and time to be good stewards of the land. One last thing regulations cost the government a lot of money and land up having very little value in what they are trying to accomplish. Thanks Leon

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #573.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 6:33 PM

Name Carl Palmquist

City Lawton

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

I am a former Soil and Water District Commissioner very familiar with the PL 534 Little Sioux (and several other watershed projects) that have lost their luster with each turnover of "conservation administrative priorities". The 1940's agency staff advocated, designed, and provided assistance to introduce educate landowners and the general public to land based conservation improvements! Today's agency staff has not kept pace with the technological advancements utilized in current Iowa agricultural activities.

Controlled water management is the key to environmentally sound soil AND water utilization on every Iowa acre. Recent advancements in LIDAR x.y. and z position information coupled with software analysis greatly improves major project planning efforts. The potential alternatives generated make sense as they comparable projects are visually presented to select the most appropriate land improvement project retaining Iowa's major resource.

Agren in Carol, Iowa for topographic planning change proposals and Agrem in Anchor, Illinois for subsurface water management proposals are two examples of private firms that developed speedy but widely adaptable conservation planning tools. The experienced technician (public or private contractor) and modern technology can provide uniform cost projections serving both Iowa landowners and cost share agencies. Land improvement cost contrasts between adjacent districts within the same watershed will become transparent.

Most Iowa farm operators use recently developed technology to improve their level of productivity, precision, and reliability for many routine tasks. The nutrient and water standards Iowa farmers will be accountable to and the tools that advisory and/or regulatory agency staff require uniform evaluation standards. Current agency utilization of modern technology is outdated and inferior.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #574.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 7:00 PM

Name Sarah Black

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Our family has been practicing ridge till , no till, for 32 years this spring. We recycle oil, we have switch grass buffers along our dredge ditches. We compost animal,yard and house waste. We recycle about 95% of all metal, glass, aluminum and plastic that we use in our farm operation and our home.

As conservationists, we are in support of a science-based nutrient reduction strategy. We ask that you fund this strategy and other conservation cost share programs adequately so these programs can move forward.

We will continue to monitor our land and eliminate or reduce nutrient runoff by implementing conservation practices.

Thank you for funding a science based nutrient reduction strategy. Sarah Black

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #575.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 7:35 PM

Name Anthony Janssen

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Soil erosion control and water quality are very important on my farm. This is why I have switched to strip-till and deep banding fertilizer as a way to preserve both soil and water quality.

I would ask that any changes made to Nutrient Reduction Strategy be based on scientific proof and voluntarily implemented as needed. A one-size-fits-all regulation doesn't work as every farm is different in its needs.

Please fund these programs as they are necessary to preserve our land and water and keep unnecessary regulations from happening.

Anthony Janssen

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #576.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 7:41 PM

Name Barb Schomaker

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please support the nutrient reduction strategy. This science-based state nutrient reduction strategy recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

As a farmer, I don't want prescribed regulation from EPA. Myself we have been no tilling for many years now. By no tilling, it not only holds the moisture longer but it keeps the dirt from blowing and washing plus it increases your organic matter over time. Conservation measures that work on some one else's farm may not even be necessary on my farm.

Farmers have proven that we are willing and able to do more voluntary conservation work if funding and sensible state and federal programs are available. Increased conservation funding will improve water quality, trim nutrient loss and reduce erosion, but we will need additional resources and a realistic timeframe to implement effective, targeted strategies in the future.

I am urging you to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects. Barb Schomaker

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #577.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 7:42 PM

Name Joy Reinert

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Farmers are very concerned and are conscious of the need for conservation practices. But we want those practices to be based on sound scientific-based strategies that support nutrient reduction practices. And we want them to be voluntary programs.

Please remember to adequately fund these nutrient reduction strategy programs. Lack of cost-share funding in the past has resulted in delays in conservation measures.

Everyone benefits from funded voluntary scientific-based conservation practices that benefit our farms and the environment. Joy Reinert

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #578.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 7:53 PM

Name Dustin Johnson

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I believe it is a huge win for Iowa and for Agriculture when the EPA LIKES something that we are doing. The Nutrient Reduction Strategy is a huge win for everyone and the Legislature would be foolish not to support it.

Farmers across the state participate in voluntary and self funded conservation practices every day and every year. But there is more that can be done. Some of these projects are very costly and cost sharing helps to make sure the project is done correctly and utilizes planning resources from the NRCS. Essentially helping plan and size structures and find best practices.

I hope that you will find a way to help fund the Strategy. Thank you for your time and service. Dustin Johnson

Name Russell Doorenbos**City** Boyden**State** Iowa**Providing comment on the following sections:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

My response is driven by the phrase - "The goal is difficult, but achievable."
"• No silver bullets; few, if any, win-win solutions."

I am following my Grandfather Vander Haar's vision of nutrient conservation and soil preservation that he practiced on his SW Minnesota farm. My Vander Haar cousins talk about his farm operation using a term "he wasn't much of a farmer". The same ugly term was used about my farm operation after my mother, a Vander Haar daughter, required the assistance of a legal representative. The lawyer and farm manager came over to our farm on two hours advanced notice and informed my wife and I that we may have to move, based on the information they had been given. After we opened up our books and talked about the tile problems that I could not solve as a tenant for the family trust, we were given permission to stay for one year, and only under the auspices of a farm manager. This year is 27 years since that day, and I confess that I have not been able to match the productive maximum that my immediate neighbors describe.

The success that I do enjoy includes mellow soil, less fertilizer, less pest control, and less herbicide cost.

To accomplish my production strategy, I engaged a soil quality consultant, beginning in 1977. I have used deep fall tillage, a small amount of conventional fertilizer as sidedress w/planter followed by the majority as sidedress w/cultivator application. Other ideas that I have tried but did not have immediate positive responses include: biological amendments, micronutrient packages, foliar sprays and discrete herbicide applications. These strategies have taken place in various combinations, not all at once. I wish that I could report that any idea worked well.

Initially, the hoop-house manure was very responsive in the block treatments that I laid out. After a couple of years, we discontinued the block treatments and spread it one area. Something has changed in the 15 years since we began to buy this dry manure; since there is a limited manure volume; the dry manure is applied to less than the field size. The last few years the yield monitor found less yield wherever the hoop-house manure was applied.

To complicate my management decisions, my STP values have always been in VH/H range and yet the corn leaves have yellow streaks which indicate a phosphorus deficiency in the plant. I have tried various treatments to increase the mobility of the soil phosphorus, with no success.

So, where am I at today? I feel disappointed because I could not wrap my decisions and research projects into a package that allowed me to match my neighbor's 'production success'. My neighbors are 'income' and 'yield' maximizers, hence, I have earned the reputation "he is not much of a farmer", which is a function of my failures to match their successes.

Back to the beginning phrase, I wonder, if the win-win box is very small, then, how many producers will be classified in the lose-lose box? Furthermore, I struggle to understand where the money to pay for the \$20,000 farm ground in my neighborhood, will come from in the future, before counting the extra cost for nutrient reduction, unless there is serious inflation. This initiative sounds great, but I believe the success of it will come with great anguish and pain.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #580.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 8:09 PM

Name Ray Dittmer

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to voice my support of a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy. Iowa State University has done research specific to Iowa soils and conditions that would best conserve our resources. With this valuable information, farmers will voluntarily implement these practices. The land owners have the most at stake to protect their resources.

Please support these conservation efforts by providing adequate funding for these cost-share programs. Farmers, like other businesses, are willing to invest in their operation but they need some consistency in funding conservation efforts.

On our farm we practice minimum tillage, keep highly erodible fields in grass, rotate crops and dam up ditches to slow the water runoff. With adequate funding I would like to add more terraces to our property. Ray Dittmer

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #581.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 8:10 PM

Name Brent Renner

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to express my support of the nutrient reduction strategy. Its important that our state remain a leader in science based efforts to improve our water quality. Please fund this program adequately so farmers like myself can continue to add filter strips, build terraces, and improve wetlands. Voluntary conservation projects like these are the best way to show we can maintain agriculture production and improve the environment we live in. Brent Renner

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #582.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 8:10 PM

Name Terence Murray

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production. I also feel that we have passed up a great opportunity to find the true amount that agricultural practice can contribute to the reduction of nutrients to the watershed. When will we again see such a small amount of runoff from ag land for the entire mississippi river watershed again. If it is one of the next two years, we should be ready to study and document that event.

I would like to urge state lawmakers to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects. The public and most farmers have shown support of the funding of these programs.

I have in the past participated in cost share programs for terraces and waterways on my own farm.

I am very open to projects and practices that will keep fertilizer and soil on my own land where it can maintain my current productivity for years to come.

Some of the practices I use on my farm is planting soybeans in 15 inch rows because they canopy the soil much earlier than 30 inch rows protecting the soil from raindrop impact erosion. We also plant crosswise to side hills as much as possible to hold as much water as possible in the implement tracks. We minimum till corn into soybean stubble leaving residue undisturbed over winter to protect the soil in spring snow melt. Deep tillage is done only after corn when there is adequate residue to protect the soil.

These are only some of the practices we have adopted voluntarily because we feel they are the right thing to do to protect our farm while maintaining superior agricultural productivity.

I intend to put in filter strips along the two creeks that pass through my land when I finish repairing and stabilizing the banks as well as removing fallen trees and soil from the creeks that block and divert flow in the stream.

Voluntary programs are working. We need some time and patience as well money to get things done during the small windows of time when it's right to do things like reshaping and reseeding waterways for example.

Thank you for reading my letter. Terence Murray

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #583.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 8:38 PM

Name Andy Hinnah

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

The strategy is a science and technology based approach developed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Iowa State University (ISU) to encourage the adoption of voluntary conservation practices that will have the greatest benefit for water quality in the state. It uses ISU research to determine which practices are most effective when applied to Iowa's unique landscapes. The strategy outlines these efforts in a scientific, reasonable and cost-effective manner, an approach supported by Farm Bureau members.

Some groups and individuals are already saying the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy won't work. They believe voluntary conservation practices on farms do very little to protect water. They're calling for more regulation of farms, similar to the costly one-size-fits-all regulations imposed on farmers in the Chesapeake Bay area.

Farmers know better! They want to continue to be part of the solution, but they know that new regulations aren't the answer. Andy Hinnah

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #584.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 8:39 PM

Name Craig Recker

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Farmers are good stewards of the land especially with a little incentive from the state to help fund some of the conservation projects. I believe we could make a real difference voluntarily. I live in the Hewitt Creek water shed, which is a voluntary program that has made a real difference proven by results. Craig Recker

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #585.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 9:02 PM

Name George Baitinger

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I want to request your support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

Because of the concern regarding the potential for Iowa Water to impact the Gulf, I think we need to proactively implement practices that are both effective and economically viable, and that will not happen if we fail to act and adequately fund the Iowa nutrient reduction strategy. Further regulation of farms, similar to the costly one-size-fits-all regulations imposed on farmers in the Chesapeake Bay area, are not an acceptable alternative to those of us involved with production agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important request. George Baitinger

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #586.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 9:20 PM

Name Nick Larson

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I believe farmers want to maintain good water quality. They want the nutrients applied to their fields to stay there and benefit the crops. I also believe with the support of IDALS, DNR and research by ISU together in a scientific approach to making improvements is the best way to go. Cost-share programs along with farmers efforts will benefit the environment. Nick Larson

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #587.

Timestamp 1/11/2013 9:42 PM

Name Ken Lane

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like to take a minute to express support for the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. I feel it is important that lawmakers fund the Nutrient Reduction Strategy as well as other conservation cost-share programs. I feel that if we all work together we can achieve the goals that everyone wants to achieve. Ken Lane

Name Tim Recker**City****State****Providing comment on the following sections:****Executive Summary****Nonpoint Source****Policy****Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

The Land Improvement Contractors of Iowa applaud the efforts of the Nutrient Strategy committee. The Iowa LICA is a group of 400 contractors that put conservation programs and practices in place on Iowa's fertile landscape.

Iowa is the leader in food, fiber and fuel production. Iowa farmers and LICA contractors work together every day to implement conservation practices on Iowa's working ground. If Iowa wants to be leader in conservation, they need to invest in technology similar to how agriculture has invested in technology. This investment in conservation technology needs to accomplish two things; first it must allow a faster delivery of conservation plans and design. Farmers do not want to wait months for a design specification. Secondly, conservation technology needs to simplify the process in order to engage the private sector in conservation planning. We need software that the private sector can implement in days instead of months or years.

The nutrient strategy calls for increasing the delivery of conservation and nonpoint source programs in a straightforward and flexible manner. Iowa farmers and contractors understand practices available for nutrient reduction but lack technical support for non cost share programs. Fortunately, we have a home grown company that is on the cutting edge of conservation technology. Agren, located in Carroll, Iowa has been developing software for the last 6 years that speeds up and simplifies the process of conservation planning and design. What now takes hours and days to design can be done in minutes, and is simple enough to attract private businesses to begin providing services.

The Iowa Land Improvement Contractors Association has reviewed Agren's tools and support this technology. It is cutting edge technology that would speed delivery of conservation services and get more conservation practices implemented.

Currently government offices cannot keep pace with requests for conservation practices. Every day Iowa LICA members receive requests from Iowa farmers to build waterways, before having a proper design. Farmers are not willing to wait months or years for those designs. With this new software waterways can be developed in minutes. Along with the traditional paper designs for waterways, the Agren software can provide an electronic file that contractors can load in to their blade control systems and build waterways with very little additional assistance.

Putting new technology in the hands of existing staff is far more cost effective and efficient than hiring new staff. The combined agencies of IDALS, IDNR, and NRCS need to take advantage of Agren's software development by forging a public-private partnership with Agren to develop a full suite of conservation planning tools that will increase the rate of delivery and allow the private sector to offer conservation services. Tim Recker

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #589.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 7:06 AM

Name Scott Heater

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Soil conservation and nutrient reduction have been a major program at our farm for the last 20 years. As you drive by our home on Highway 61 just 4 miles south of Wapello, you can see that we take conservation practice seriously. We have planted over 10,000 trees to control soil erosion and have removed tiling that allowed direct drainage into the county drainage ditch that flows directly into the Iowa River just 1 mile from our home. These programs are all voluntary programs that we implemented working with our local NRCS and DNR offices. I feel very strongly that a voluntary program can and does work. The hardest part of this program will be educating farmers the value that these programs bring to their land. Scott Heater

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #590.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 7:31 AM

Name Brad Jesse

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

The best way to have better nutrient reduction is to offer voluntary conservation practices.

Agriculture needs to maintain current production level here in the U.S. and doesn't need to be strapped with regulations that are not voluntary and science-based.

Farmer will do these voluntary practices if offered. I have many buffer strips on my land to filter out nutrients that may be running off with rain water.

Again support voluntary conservation practices. Brad Jesse

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #591.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 7:40 AM

Name Randolph Kernen

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I encourage you to adopt a voluntary science based nutrient reduction strategy. Best practices vary from farm to farm and a one size fits all policy will not work.

Funding for these policies is key to their success. If not funded these policies just will not accomplish their goals. Randolph Kernen

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #592.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 7:42 AM

Name Terry Naig

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I strongly urge you to provide funding for the nutrient reduction plan that the state of Iowa is proposing. By adequately funding the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and the related conservation programs and projects, Iowans will be able to voluntarily begin to reduce nutrient discharge rather than to be forced into practices not supported by science. Farmers are the first to be blamed for nutrient discharge when in fact many sources are involved. This plan is a great place to start but funding is critical. Terry Naig

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #593.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 7:44 AM

Name Carl Palmquist

City Lawton

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Last evening I submitted submitted my first comment. I realize that today is several hours beyond your designated extended response period, but reflective thought usually magnifies or at least focuses more clearly any proposal. Please consider these thoughts as well.

Each level of the "AGENCIES" and the wide range of education and/or training of their respective staff at the farm owner and/or operator contact zone fail to recognize their dialect and/or images have built in biases. This is not the place to amplify my personal experiences, but soil and water proposals that involve major land owner and/or agency recognition and financial support are most often proposed by the entry level NRCS technician. The many alternative design considerations and their relative cost/benefit ratio available with the Agren software ability to quickly consider those alternatives and the way each proposed project fits with both the watershed and individual cooperator conservation plan is a WIN-WIN situation. The parameters however need to be authorized by each agency and recognized by all AGENCIES!

Respectfully submitted after a long night of study and reflection.

Carl Palmquist

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #594.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 7:56 AM

Name Kurt Moffitt

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Iowa State University have developed a Nutrient Reduction Strategy for the state of Iowa. This voluntary strategy is scientific, reasonable and cost-effective. I encourage your support of the funding needed to put the strategy in place. Implementing this plan on a voluntary basis will save Iowa farmers from increased regulations and mandates, and yet will improve and benefit for water quality in the state. Kurt Moffitt

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #595.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 8:16 AM

Name Joe Dierickx

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to ask for your support of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy that the Secretary of Agriculture and many other interested parties have worked on and proposed. It is a well thought out well written document that should reduce nutrients going in our bodies of water and is science based in regards to the strategies it outlines for stakeholders to do.

As with any program, it needs to be funded properly so it can be effectively implemented. There are conservation cost share programs that will also help with nutrients flowing to our streams and rivers that need adequate funding. Use the unspent balance to help bridge this gap.

I put in grass strips and waterways to slow the flow of water off of my fields. I also do as much no-till farming as I can each year to build up the carbon in my soil which makes it more productive.

Please support this voluntary, science based approach to nutrient management. Joe Dierickx

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #596.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 8:29 AM

Name Randy Beichley

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I ask your support for voluntary science-based nutrient reduction strategy. Maintaining agricultural production is vital to Iowa's economic health. Voluntary conservation practices are important and need your support. I am likely to embrace a voluntary, science-based strategy, rather than being mandated certain practices.

Funding for the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other conservation cost-share programs is extremely important. I recently heard that Iowa's lakes still show signs of sediment/run-off, despite current conservation practices. Our state's failure to adequately fund conservation cost-share programs may have contributed to this problem.

I personally no-till my row crop acres and see many benefits, including decreased water and soil-runoff. My father installed terraces that have been farmed for over 40 years, however improvements to those terraces are necessary, and would better serve my operation and the environment if upgraded. Adequately funding conservation cost-share programs will help facilitate these improvements and other conservation projects being implemented.

Continued soil testing will ensure proper nutrients are being applied. I raise hogs and apply manure and inject the lagoon effluent. I want to continue to raise crops and livestock and ask that you support science-based nutrient reduction strategy to keep my farm and Iowa's environment at its best. Randy Beichley

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #597.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 8:41 AM

Name Carol Raasch

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing in support of the VOLUNTARY program advanced by Governor Branstad that calls for a scientifically based nutrient reduction strategy. Iowans and, more specifically, the farmers who have tilled the soils of Iowa know what needs to be done to conserve their most valuable input - the land. We have constructed terraces, gone to minimal or no tillage, and grown buffers and waterways to implement best usage of our water supply, the chemicals we purchase, and to preserve the soil. I petition you to fight for the funding needed for this voluntary program so that we can CONTINUE to be working toward a solution that is in all our best interests. Thank you. Carol Raasch

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #598.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 9:07 AM

Name Ann Bushman

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Agriculture production is important to everyone, whether they are farmers or not. It is important because it feeds the people of the United States, as well as those over seas, and in using good conservation practices, it helps maintain the soils nutrients and ability to produce good food. Therefore, I recognize the importance of individuals voluntary conservation practices and support a science-based state nutrient reductino strategy.

Projects such as the Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other conservation cost-share programs need to be adequately fund and I would urge you to support this. It is these kinds of projects that allow you the opportunity to go home at night and have a healthy and wholesome meal to consume each and every day. Without such programs, our farmlands could become wastelands. It is important that we unstand how to take care of the land we work.

There are the simple projects of consumers composting waste to raising their own red worms to help turn over soil, to larger practices of CPR set aside to terracing and grass water ways. As new chemicals are brought to the market for raising produce, we are not always certain to the effect they will have on the land or the water. Funding programs like the Nutrient Reduction Strategy will enable us to have a better understanding and allow us to make better decisions about our environment and how to handle them in the future. Ann Bushman

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #599.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 9:37 AM

Name Keith Meitner

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support voluntary conservation practices that are based on a sound science based nutrient reduction program.

We need to fund our states conservation programs to the fullest amount possible so that we can continue to keep our waters clean.

I have several grass waterways on my farm and I use no-till and strip-till practices in my farming operation.

Thank you for taking this important matter under consideration. Keith Meitner

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #600.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 10:03

Name Judy DeBord

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Iowa's farmers have a history of caring for the land and working together to solve problems to conserve and protect that land and the environment.

The Nutrient Reduction Strategy is key to keeping Iowa a national leader in conservation. The strategy is a science and technology based approach developed to encourage the adoption of voluntary conservation practices that will have the greatest benefit for water quality in the state, as well as down stream. It uses ISU research to determine which practices are most effective when applied to Iowa's unique landscapes.

I support a scientific, reasonable, and cost effective approach that allows farmers to make voluntary decisions and use of a combination of practices that will work best in our own individual area, instead of "standard" regulations that only work for some.

I ask state lawmakers to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects.

It is going to take all of us to make an impact and farmers want to continue to be part of the solution, because it is in our own best interest to implement practices that benefit our farms.

Please renew your effort to move forward together to better protect the water and land by funding the Nutrient Reduction Strategy approach, as well as, other programs that protect our land and environment in a reasonable way and encourages ag production. Judy DeBord

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #601.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 10:15

Name John Looney

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing in support of a science-based state nutrient reduction plan that would be centered around voluntary practices with regards to maintain ag production in our state.

This can only be accomplished by funding Iowa Nutrient Reduction and other cost share programs.

On our operation we use contour farming, waterways, field borders, no-till, and filter strips along streams. These practices have helped tremendously in controlling nutrient run-off into our local streams and it is voluntary practices like these that will help Iowa lead the way for responsible nutrient reduction. John Looney

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #602.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 10:36

Name Elwood Johnsonjr

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support the science-based state nutrient reduction strategy. It is the result of a number of agencies ,DNR, ISU and others to cover all bases so it will be well thought out and workable.

It needs to be fully funded,The Nutrient Reduction Strategy, so we can stay ahead of the Federal way of doing things that are not science based or efficient and elimanates most local input.

Contrary to a lot of loud voices that say farmers do not care, I have 50 years of memory that goes back to when we plowed every thing because we did not have planters and cultivators that could operate in a lot of ground cover. There used to be dust storms in the Spring. In the Winter the snow would be black with the blown dirt.

That does not happen any more except in very extreme conditions. Farmers care for their soil because that topsoil is valuable to the farmers to make a living. We would not have 200bu corn per acre if we did not have good topsoil to grow in and the farmers know that and want to know better and efficient ways to farm to even get better yields

We put in a water way on our farm back in the 60's and it has been well maintained since. Farmers do care a lot. Elwood Johnsonjr

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #603.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 10:46

Name Steve Swenka

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

I urge you to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects. Steve Swenka

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #604.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 11:05

Name Richard Schafer

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

The science based strategies to exercise conservation and clean water and air practices are good.

My concern is implementation. Those of us who subscribe to conservation will naturally employ new beneficial practices. Our farm employs no-till, strip till and buffer strips and is enrolled in CSP.

I have neighbors who have never conformed to their farm program based tillage agreements and have not been penalized.

I believe the answer to more acres in conservation practice is education based in FFA, community and state college ag curriculums and extension activities.

Education is key for increased voluntary participation. Richard Schafer

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #605.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 11:14

Name Leora Bandstra

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

My family and I are asking for your support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production. We beg of you to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. We cannot afford to delay needed conservation projects as we have in the past. On our farm we practice no till, edge of field buffers to protect our streams. We use soil samples so that only the needed nutrients are applied to our fields. We use GPS systems so that only the chemicals needed are applied and so there is no double coverage. We only apply N when soil is 50 degrees or cooling. We want the best for our country and will continue to upgrade needed systems. However, this is costly and so a good crop is needed to continue to grow in the direction needed. So please, once again, we need your support. Thank you for our time. Leora Bandstra

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #606.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 11:17

Name Landi McFarland

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

My family supports a science-based approach to encouraging voluntary conservation practices in Iowa. We feel these will have the greatest benefit to water quality in our state. This approach has been developed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Iowa State University, and we think it is a far superior solution to one-size-fits-all regulations.

My family has been living off the land in Union county for 157 years, and we want to leave our land in better shape for the next generation of our family. We take part in voluntary conservation practices. We have taken part in cost-share programs in the past, and hope to continue to do so if lawmakers adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other conservation cost-share programs.

Farmers care about our land and water resources - after all, we are active environmentalists, not environmental activists! Please help support the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Landi McFarland

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #607.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 11:43

Name Jerry Book

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like you to support state nutrient reduction strategy. Keep it voluntary. Remember each farm is different and the operator needs the flexibility to tailor the conservation practices to fit that farm.

Please make sure funding is there to help.

Our farm is a pasture farm, so we keep it that way with cows and hay production, no row crop. Jerry Book

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #608.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 11:46

Name Marcus Urelius

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I understand the need to reduce the nitrate and phosphorus runoff in the Mississippi river basin. However, I strongly believe that each farmers situation relating to nutrient conservation is different. Thus, any one size fits all practice imposed by the EPA would very likely be burdensome and inefficient.

Each tract of farmland is unique. We need to know that state funding will be available for us to enact the practices best suited to meet the common goal. I believe reaserch on ways to lighten the environmental footprint of production agriculture while maintaining production is also critical. Thus conservation and reserch programs should be properly funded if we are to avoid a federal takeover.

On my farm we employ buffer strips aroud drainage ditches and terraces to limit runoff into the river system, as well as CRP ground. Fall tillage is also limited to discing stalks, to leave a high residue ground cover through winter. N and P application is done in the spring ahead of the planter to eliminate winter runoff with the snowmelt. In the future I would like to move to summer side dress application to further reduce the time for the nutrients to leach out before used by plants.

I am willing to look at new conservation practices if they are proven effective by science. If a way can be found to meet the worlds food and energy needs, and reduce environmental impact, farmers will listen. Marcus Urelius

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #609.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 11:54

Name Lance Schiele

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

With EPA's every growing presence in this country it is important that lowans have a way to prove we are doing the right things. Water is important to all of us. I myself am a livestock feeder. I try to go above and beyond the laws and rules to look good for my neighbors. Please fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Lance Schiele

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #610.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 12:31

Name Jerry Schoenthal

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As I support less government run programs and more voluntary practices . I would strongly recommend that the state of Iowa adequately fund the nutrient reduction strategy .

Iowa farmers understand what needs to be done on their own farms to implement conservation practices to maintain agricultural production .

Cost - Share programs such as waterways,terraces,retention ponds,and set-a-side acres will need to be continued to make the nutrient reduction strategy program to work properly. Jerry Schoenthal

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #611.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 2:11 PM

Name Dallas Johnston

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I want to send a short note asking for your support of a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy. We need to use voluntary conservation practices. These programs need to be funded in order for them to be effective. I have been spending a lot of money the last few years trying to reduce erosion and improve water quality. These practices cost an incredible amount of money to implement and is not something that needs forced on us in agriculture. Helping with the cost is going to make it happen a lot faster than anything. Thanks for your continued support for those of us in production agriculture. Dallas Johnston

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #612.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 2:38 PM

Name Brian Klocke

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I feel the Iowa nutrient Reduction strategy is a very effective and cost efficient way of controlling excess nutrient from getting in our water sources. Why add more cost to a simple solution as a voluntary program that is being taught to farmers by IDALS and state universities. Brian Klocke

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #613.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 3:55 PM

Name Kevin Kelly

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Greetings,

With the high crop prices and more land being taken out of the CRP and other programs that help to keep nutrients out of our water this is going to be a tricky problem.

I would like to see a 150 ft buffer along every stream in Iowa that would be planted to trees, grass or hay to help keep this runoff water out of our streams, but it sure is not the whole answer to the situation.

Is there a way to stop all nutrients from reaching surface water--probably not except for turning Iowa back into a grassland and I and you know that will not happen.

I think the best thing we can do is some studies of ways different ways to test if or what is possible.

Thank You

Kevin Kelly Kevin Kelly

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #614.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 6:15 PM

Name Chris Wynia

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I was to express my support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

I urge you as a state lawmaker to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy as well as the states other conservation cost-share programs. I believe Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed conservation projects.

I am already using a soil conservative practice as well as a manure management plan. These both benefit the state of Iowa. Chris Wynia

Name Alex Cahill**City** Davenport**State** Iowa**Providing comment on the following sections:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to make comments to the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

While the proposal begins to address the troubling problem of excessive nutrient runoff from Iowa's streets, farms, and sewage plants, it does not go nearly far enough to ensure the state's waters are safe enough for future use. Of particular concern is the lack of a firm requirement in this strategy as to how much nutrient runoff will be reduced through the course of the life of the proposal. Without firm limits on how much nutrient can be discharged into the state's waterways from point and non-point sources of runoff, there is effectively no way meaningful reductions in nitrogen and phosphorous runoff will be achieved.

The strategy focuses on increasing voluntary efforts among farmers to plant buffer strips and utilize more effective methods to keep rainwater from departing the soil. Further, the strategy assumes that simply through education and discussion farmers will voluntarily implement the varied strategies identified throughout the paper to mitigate runoff. However, such a concept of purely voluntary efforts through education and outreach will undoubtedly fail. For instance, the high price of corn and soybeans by no means will provide an impetus for farmers to increase the amount of land set aside for grasses or native plants. Instead, high market prices impel farmers to ensure that every available piece of land is utilized in order to maximize their gain. The pollution runoff is by no means all the fault of farmers as the market and education do indeed play a crucial role. But for the report to believe that at a time when farmers are increasingly tilling up native prairie and other vital ecosystems needed to mitigate pollution, that farmers will somehow voluntarily comply with the message and spirit of this report is absurd. Only when a firm limit set by the force of law and regulation will all farmers throughout Iowa be able to compete fairly in the market as well as have firm knowledge as to the guidelines required to improve the state's water.

It should also be noted that the voluntary nature of the report assumes that farmers do indeed have an incentive to utilize effective pollution reduction strategies. However, this assumption is cast into doubt if the authors of this strategy were to consider why such pollution reduction strategies are not already being utilized. Many of the concepts outlined such as buffer strips, crop rotation, setbacks, etc. are not recent developments in agriculture. Indeed, many of these practices have been in use for many years. It would be helpful for the author's of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy to explain to the public why this new strategy is somehow going to change anything, particularly considering that if the beneficial nutrient reduction strategies were indeed so feasible, why would farmers not already be doing them? It stretches the imagination to believe that through a little education and outreach any substantial reduction will occur.

Additionally, the report does not cite nor provide substantial evidence of any past states where voluntary efforts have made any difference in nutrient reduction. It would be useful if the report could provide the public with more information as to why the voluntary efforts outlined in this report would have a high likelihood of success. Instead, as demonstrated through many years since the creation of the EPA and other significant environmental legislation, only when government at all levels takes affirmative action to set meaningful limits to pollution does positive and significant reductions actually occur. The state of Iowa and the authors of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy would do well to heed the lessons of environmental history and mandate a standard and create an enforcement mechanism that will actually curb the tremendous problem of nitrogen and phosphorous pollution.

I would also like to comment on the way by which this report was created. Instead of canvassing the state and having discussions with various constituencies about the best way to solve Iowa's nutrient problem, the Committee instead barely allowed for any voices in the creation of this strategy, except for the present comment period. Such a method is surely not the best way for the state to go about crafting important policy proposals, especially when the proposal seeks to promote education and outreach as a core component of its strategy. The state can surely do better.

In sum, the current approach taken by the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy will not make a substantial dent in the current water pollution. The strategy lacks a coherent method to ensure nutrient pollution is reduced and fails to provide the public with any assurances that the approach taken by the Strategy will actually address this substantial problem. I respectfully request and sincerely hope the Strategy is revised to focus more on the nutrient runoff from agriculture and that the Strategy create an enforceable mechanism and strict limits to solve this problem.

Thank you.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #616.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 8:42 PM

Name Todd James

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

We need a science based nutrient strategy plan and one that is not mandatory. It has been proven time and again that farmers will openly support regulations when presented to them this way. I would encourage you to fund all programs to meet these requirements.

Our operation voluntarily uses no-till, variable rate fertilizer prescriptions, contour farming and crop rotations to benefit the environment.

Thank you for time. Todd James

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #617.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 8:46 PM

Name Marvin Adolphson

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I believe a voluntary approach to conservation in Iowa is the way to go. We have so many streams and creeks with such a varied landscape that conservation must be tailored to these varied conditions. Therefore we need to fund the conservation programs and let the individual farms provide the conservation practices to the land. Let's keep and fund our current programs. Marvin Adolphson

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #618.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 9:16 PM

Name Mike Miller

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I have implemented many conservation practices on my farms. I no till and use terraces on my rolling ground. I have installed waterways where they are needed and have reduced the amount of fertilizer that I use to help protect the enviroment.

The current farm bill requires a conservation plan be followed. Many farmer do not follow their plans. I feel that instead of requesting funding for new programs we need to fund and enforce the programs that we currently have. Mike Miller

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #619.

Timestamp 1/12/2013 11:03

Name Chad Vanregenmorter

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am asking for support of a science based approach to nutrient reduction. Another important item to this is that it needs to be a voluntary practice to allow agriculture production.

Lets put common sense and economics to work, let people put there own style of conservation in place to make themselves better producers. And they will put into place what they feel is important and what they can afford themselves. Chad Vanregenmorter

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #620.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 6:28 AM

Name Jeff Reints

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would ask you to support the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. this approach is science and technology based and has been developed by IDALS,DNR and Iowa State University. Other groups are calling for more regulation and costly red tape. On our farm we have already implemented many nutrient and conservation practices. We use striptill for our nutrient management of placing fertilizer where the corn crop will utilize it best. Also we use notill planting for soybeans and maintain soil erosion practices like terraces and grassed waterways. What we don't need is another set of ineffective and costly rules and regulations. We as farmers do care about our enviroment and continue to be the best stewards of the land Jeff Reints

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #621.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 9:27 AM

Name Lon Tweeten

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As a farmer and a family that is concerned about making a living, producing crops and livestock to feed the world, and being very concerned with the way we received the land in our generation, and the way we leave the land (preserving the land for future generations and the environment). I believe that we need to base our decisions on nutrient management and conservation methods that are based scientific evidence that come from the University's I don't believe with the changing times that we need to become or listen to activists that are running on here-say and personal gains. Our goal in life is to be an active producer and preserve, yet better the ground for future generations. We want this to be a voluntary act

Thank you for your patients and consideration Lon Tweeten

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #622.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 9:50 AM

Name Louise Van Ersvelde

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Water quality is a very important issue for the State of Iowa. To achieve this goal a scientific and technology approach is the key to provide the best practices, procedures and improvements for best water quality. All producers should be stewards of the land for their future growth and for their next generations.

I continue to support the voluntary conservation practices by the producers that will provide water quality in the state. State funded programs are needed to achieve this goal with their continuous support for the future.

However, conservation programs, funding and education for the farmer is only the beginning in accomplishing the goals. The problem just doesn't lie at the farmers' door step by doing poor conservation practices or livestock production by farmers, the communities and industries along the watershed of our creeks and rivers are in fault, too. (In reference to the ongoing Little Bear Creek Watershed Study for information). The Poweshiek County commissioners consider Little Bear Creek Watershed as a priority watershed both because of its agricultural production and its connection to three Poweshiek towns. However, the funding for this project has been unavailable. Louise Van

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #623.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 11:08

Name David Nolte

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

We need your support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

We need funding for the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects.

I farm in Muscatine Co., doing so for the past 30+ years. i am using notill, grass waterways,filter strips, grid sampling/with variable rate fertilizer, and split nitrogen application.

The soil is there to plant/produce a crop, we need to feed/fertilize, maintain pest control, and harvest. For this to happen, farmers will save that very important part of the puzzle-soil. Thank-you for time. David Nolte

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #624.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 11:18

Name Adam Hill

City

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

With the availability of nutrients differing with a wide range of ph levels, how can a blanket statement of 20ppm for a soil test of Phosphorus be acceptable? (If a soil tests at a ph level of over 8, are we not going to short that ground of available phoshorus at a level of 20ppm of P? (Different ph levels will make for different availability of different nutrients, so a blanket test level of 20ppm of P accross all soil types may be flawed in my opinion.) Thank you. Adam Hill

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #625.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 11:27

Name Brad Feckers

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing you today to support the science based voluntary nutrient reduction strategy. A good way to implement this is through voluntary conservation practices. Today's farmers are more environmentally conscious than ever before and still able to maintain high productivity on their land.

We need your help to make sure adequate funding is in place to make these programs effective. Sometimes in the past needed conservation projects were delayed because funds weren't available.

We have used many voluntary conservation programs on our acres and plan to use more in the future if cost share is available. We use grassed waterways, creek buffer strips, minimum tillage and best management practices for applying fertilizer. Our biggest project has been installing a grade stabilization structure. This would not have been economically feasible without the cost share.

Please consider these points with your support. Brad Feckers

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #626.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 11:59

Name Steven Lee

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to urge you to support the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

Voluntary science-based conservation plans work to reduce soil and nutrient runoff.

On my farm I use grass waterways, terraces, grass headlands, some contour farming, reduced tillage and on a large share of my acres, no-till. I apply my nitrogen fertilizer in the spring, not fall, and am looking into using cover crops.

I also urge you to fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and fund other conservation cost share plans. Farmers have plans for conservation work, but need help with financing large projects.

Thank You Steven Lee

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #627.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 12:38

Name Gregory Alber

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am in support of continuing with cost share programs for conservation and funding of the nutrient reduction strategy. I have used the conservation programs and I know my land is better and more productive now then when I took over the land from the last generation Gregory Alber

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #628.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 12:58

Name Dan Elliott

City Minden

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Recently heard a presentation about the nutrient reduction strategy. I am glad there has been attempts to use science to arrive at possible solutions. I believe a combination of the strategies farmers can use will help. Most importantly, this needs to be voluntary. Farmers should not be told this is what you have to do. We do not want to have to get a permit to farm. I also believe there is going to have to be some funds given to help farmers implement these strategies.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #629.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 1:05 PM

Name James L. Murphy

City Runnells

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

We live in an area where people are buying small parcels of land to build beautiful country homes. It is also an area where livestock farming has decreased and the remaining land is being controlled by farmers who are federally subsidized and generally disregard

common sense practices related to soil and water conservation and control of excessive runoff. Five beautiful homes have built nice

ponds downstream from a neighbor who who blatantly disregards soil and water conserving practices. The neighbor closest to the pollution spent thousands last fall to have his large pond dredged and the silt spread out along the banks.

There is no rationale to using public funds to supplement the income of deliberate polluters.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #630.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 2:08 PM

Name Joseph Bahe

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

please support the nutrient reduction strategy. we already do alot voluntarily to minimize adverse enviromental impacts on our land Joseph Bahe

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #631.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 2:26 PM

Name Donald Christopherson

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like to take this chance to ask you to fully fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy plan. When we work through a science based strategy we get a much more reliable result. Voluntary conservation practice are necessary and are very valuable to the state of Iowa as we try to maintain agricultural production.

Thank you for your time in studying this issue. Donald Christopherson

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #632.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 4:11 PM

Name Christopher Ten Napel

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I wanted to write you about the nutrient reduction strategy. As a farmer I believe that this concept can be a huge benefit to Iowa and an example for other states to follow. There is no one out there that knows a farmer's field better than the farmers themselves. I do not believe that mandated practices from someone sitting behind a desk are the answer. With this science-based approach I believe that Iowa can be a leader and an example for many other states to follow in the coming years. I myself have already installed thousands of feet of grass waterways around several waterways in my fields. I did this not because I was made to, but because it is the right thing to do to help the environment. I am also switching to more no-till, to help conserve more soil, and nutrients. I believe with your support and help, Iowa can be a leader in voluntary environmental control. Christopher Ten Napel

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #633.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 4:22 PM

Name pat lynch

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

On our family farm conservation means longevity we understand that taking care of land, water and air is vital to our future. Please help us by funding the Nutrient Reduction Strategy its science based format along with current cost share programs and voluntary practices are what we need to continue our long term conservation goals. pat lynch

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #634.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 4:25 PM

Name Crystal Krapfl

City Ames

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

While I think a strategy that is formed in regard to improving water quality in the state is a great idea, it concerns me how most of the strategy is voluntary. I think the citizens and businesses that are polluting our rivers need to be held more accountable for the astounding damage they are causing. If politicians really want to improve water quality (which I think is vital for the future), they must implement changes that are mandatory, not voluntary. I understand that farming is essential to the economy, but I don't think that should or needs to come at the cost of healthy water. I think this strategy needs to be revised in a way that forces change, not encourages it. So, please revise it so the people polluting our rivers are held accountable and are required to make changes.

Thanks,

Crystal Krapfl

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page **1** of comment #**635**.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 4:47 PM

Name S Vance Hjelm

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am in total support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that will see the importance of voluntary conservation practices, plus still maintain our agricultural production. What I like the most about the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy is that all the stakeholders for both point and non-point source problems are at the table to come up with practical solutions for Iowa's soils and people.

Our family has put into place many conservation practices voluntarily that include taking out above-ground intakes and replacing them with "french drains", using some minimum and no-till practices, replacing a farm pond for livestock watering in the pasture, and installing field tile that helps with absorption of our big-event rainfalls. One of the future practices we are looking at to incorporate in our farming practices may be using cover crops on the highly erodible ground.

I would urge you to fund the Iowa State Nutrient Reduction Strategy fully, along with the state's other conservation cost-share programs. In the past, our failure to adequately fund these programs has delayed many conservation projects. S Vance Hjelm

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #636.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 5:13 PM

Name Kate Bason

City St. Charles

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

As I read the the nutrient strategy document, I started to think I was reading a Farm Bureau document (and later discovered that this was largely accurate). After a year of subscribing to a Farm Bureau publication, I found their talking points so one-sided and incomplete that I unsubscribed. The nutrient strategy document is, likewise, one-sided and incomplete. A few examples:

-Nutrient rich soils cited as the source - if our soils were that nutrient rich, why add so much fertilizer? Let's be honest.

-Stream scouring mentioned as a source, while defending fall application of anhydrous. Please cite amounts and sources. As it's clear N & P impacts to the streams follow the farming application periods, this statement lacks credibility.

-A cost analysis that fails to include the costs of impaired waters or the benefits of diversified crops.

-No commitment to measurable goals, even including the statement that well-known "nutrient reduction practices" such application timing/rate, buffer strips, erosion controls, etc) are not a recommendation. Why not? These practices are anything but new.

-The focus and suggestion is that voluntary compliance works. It has been shown that common sense, meaningful regulations are necessary to level the playing field. Education and technical assistance have been around for years; voluntary compliance has not worked. Indeed, many more acres have been turned under to grow corn for ethanol, making the outdated erosion numbers cited in the strategy meaningless.

This list of shortcomings is only a few of many.

The nutrient strategy document needs to be pulled back and reworked with water quality experts, including DNR staff, involved through-out the process, particularly the nonpoint portion.

The strategy is incomplete and unlikely to succeed unless inclusive of all stakeholders and unless meaningful, measurable goals, timelines and assessment measures are included.

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment and may we act as responsible adults, taking this responsibility to clean up our shared waters very seriously.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #637.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 5:31 PM

Name Brent Bierbaum

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing in support for Iowa's nutrient reduction strategy. Being a farmer, I know the importance of tailoring the practices to individual circumstances. One size does not fit all, and this is a good start to it. I also know the importance of reducing our fertilizer loss, not only for the health of the watersheds, but for our own financial wellbeing. Brent Bierbaum

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #638.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 5:43 PM

Name Ben Pullen

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to state my support of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other conservation cost-share programs. I must say I think Iowa is taking the right approach by using science backed policy instead of emotional responses. I also believe we have to be we have to be cautious with environmental programs that we do not end up in a position where we have one size fits all programs that do not help anyone. I believe in this situation we have taken experts that know what they are doing have drafted policies that leave freedom for area differences, and allow people to voluntarily participate which will lead to better participation. Ben Pullen

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #639.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 5:44 PM

Name Gary Zhorne

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

It is imperative that we use a science-based nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the use of voluntary conservation practices and the dire need to maintain agricultural production. It is important that lawmakers adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the other conservation cost-share programs. On our farm we are using water ways, farmable terraces and other common sense approaches to keep our soils in place. Cover crops could also help to keep our "N" from moving but I think we need a bit more research to find an economic crop to plant this far north. Please support this approach rather than having the E.P.A. come in with their smoke and mirrors they have been using for 20 years in the Chesapeake Bay area. Gary Zhorne

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #640.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 5:48 PM

Name Chris Prizler

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As a member of a family farm, I would like to express my concern in supporting the funding of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. I feel that as an Iowa farmer we need to stay on top of programs that protect water and soil quality. I feel that this program is key in staying ahead of regulations. If we can show improvement in EPA standards, we will steer clear of mandates that could be soon to come. I think everyone in the world is for clean water. Our farm is very conservation minded. We own dirt scrapers, dozers, and tiling machines. We have added many terraces, tile lines, grassed waterways and basins in the past years and intend to keep that stewardship going. I see my neighbors doing the same and with programs such as this, more will follow. Chris Prizler

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #641.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 6:18 PM

Name Robert Witt

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I wish to express support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need maintain agricultural production. I also urge state lawmakers to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects. On my operation I have started with some terracing and tiling and hope to use some cover crops in the fall after the crop, to have feed for the cattle. Robert Witt

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #642.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 7:22 PM

Name Adam Gibson

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to ask for your support of a science based, voluntary state wide nutrient reduction program. I believe a voluntary approach helps showcase the efforts of Iowa's farmers that have been striving to preserve the land we farm for future generations.

Also I am writing to ask for your support to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy as well as other important state wide conservation cost-share programs. Without fully funding these programs, costly delays in conservation projects have occurred.

Thank you for your support. Adam Gibson

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #643.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 7:45 PM

Name Perry Parker

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

Iowa farmers are recognized leaders in agriculture. One way Iowa farmers have become leaders is by voluntary conservation practices and reduced use of fertilizers.

In order to keep Iowa farmers as leaders I am asking you to fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, and the states other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa has failed to adequately fund these programs in the past.

Help us keep these programs voluntary. Perry Parker

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #644.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 7:50 PM

Name Mark Recker

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I want to strongly encourage you to recognize the need for funding Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Implementing conservation projects is the surest way to positively impact the environment. Over the years I have employed terraces and buffer strips to reduce runoff and soil loss. Cost sharing these types of projects benefits farmers, consumers, and the environment. Mark Recker

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #645.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 8:14 PM

Name Kevin Sutcliffe

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I'm in support of a science based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices. On our farm we have many grass waterways that we have planted and bale hay off. These waterways could be planted to row crops, but we choose to voluntarily keep them in grass.

We also have over 100 acres in CRP ground. I urge state lawmakers to adequately fund the state's conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects.

In the future we plan on implementing more conservation practices to benefit our farm and the surrounding environment. Kevin Sutcliffe

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #646.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 8:43 PM

Name Joel Huber

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please support the science based nutrient reduction strategy. Funding for this program is needed to keep the EPA from making non-science based laws. Joel Huber

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #647.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 8:48 PM

Name Garry Zumbach

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am asking you to support and fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Farmers understand the need for conservation practices to improve water quality. With the help of ISU research, they can determine which practices are best for their farm. We use stream borders and field waterways to minimize runoff on our farm. I believe voluntary practices based on science and technology are the best approach to improve water quality. Garry Zumbach

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #648.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 8:48 PM

Name Kevin Sprung

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I strongly urge you join me in supporting the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy as developed by IDALS, the Iowa DNR and ISU. This science based voluntary approach allows farmers to adopt conservation practices best suited to their farms. Because I am concerned about water quality on my farm, I have been planting grass hay strips along drainage ditches and waterways to help filter storm water runoff. It is important for us, our children and future generations that you maintain funding for all conservation programs in Iowa. Kevin Sprung

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #649.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 9:16 PM

Name Mark Vagts

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I solicit your support for the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Funding is important to make this program work. Sound science is being provided and response will occur more favorably through education rather than regulation.

On our livestock farm, we have built terraces, some government supported, others by our own personal funding, to reduce soil loss. Half of our crop acres are planted to alfalfa. Of our remaining crop acres, we are increasing the amount of no till planting each year. We are currently no tilling corn into alfalfa, beans and rye, and approximately twenty five percent of our corn on corn acres. Rye is planted on the fall manure applied fields as a winter cover crop to reduce erosion and improve soil structure. Application of nitrogen is split between spring planting and a second application in late June for better plant utilization and to reduce leaching into the water system. It also allows us to reduce the total amount applied.

These practices are voluntary and have come from educational programs and seminars, and sound science; not because of regulation. Therefore I urge you to support the funding for the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and promote nutrient reduction in water through education and sound science, rather than government regulation. Mark Vagts

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #650.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 9:52 PM

Name Robert Siegle

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a voluntary conservation effort on the part of farmers to benefit water quality in Iowa. Fertilizer prices are high, and full usage by the crop is important to us. Personally, I monitor my fertilizer uptake and application. I have begun fall cover crop planting. I have had CRP Filter Strips at possible runoff areas for many years, and have renewed NRCS contracts for the same. My family, grandchildren and I drink the local ground water. I have a vested interest. I believe that voluntary conservation practices on farms are doing much for water quality. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Robert Siegle

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #651.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 10:20

Name Barry Anderson

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Today I would like to express my support for a science based state nutrient reduction strategy. To do this we would need voluntary conservation practices, as well as the need to maintain agricultural production.

I hope as lawmakers you understand the need to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, along with Iowa's other conservation cost share programs. Due to the failure to adequately fund these programs in the past there have been delays on needed conservation projects.

My father and I have added eight terraces to our ground to help with erosion, as well as using minimum tillage practices on our farm. I hope you will think about the definite need in this matter. Barry Anderson

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #652.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 10:52

Name Leo Stephas

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As a no til farmer for the past 25 years and using minimum tillage for 10 years before that I encourage you to support voluntary conservation practices rather than mandatory control. Too many mandatory rules and regulations are made on the basis of: I think, I feel therefore I know: rather than science-based decisions.

The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy is good beginning based on sound science, and I urge that adequate funding be made available for this program and other conservation cost-share programs.

I feel that we are on the verge of awaking a voluntary conservation movement with the Iowa farmer becoming aware of the problems facing them with mandatory regulations. The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy is a good beginning and needs to be continued. Leo Stephas

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #653.

Timestamp 1/13/2013 11:08

Name Brent Bronner

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I farm in Howard County and believe that a voluntary approach to conservation will improve our water quality and lower overall costs of government. We have maintained grass waterways and crop rotations which includes oats and hay on the Bronner farm for four generations and plan to leave the farm in better condition for the next generation.

Please fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other cost-share programs. A science-based strategy and conservation practices will help maintain agricultural production for the future. Brent Bronner

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #654.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 4:30 AM

Name Adam Ebert

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As the nutrient reduction strategy is forming, it's important to consider ways that will work. A strategy that is fact and science based will be the best perceived. Most farmers are great stewards of the land and par-take in voluntary conservation programs. A similar approach could be taken here as well, a cost- share program would work if properly funded. Adam Ebert

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #655.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 8:12 AM

Name Dan Dreeszen

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to ask for your support for a science based nutrient reduction strategy that will get consistent participation from producers using a voluntary approach as it allows continued maximum crop production. The program must be well funded to work. Increased regulations will push all costs onto producers and most likely limit crop potential thereby hurting producers and a fragile ag economy. I have used a couple wetland programs and reduced tillage based on conservation research to improve water and soil quality and retention on my farm ground.
Dan Dreeszen

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #656.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 8:26 AM

Name Marilyn Platner

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

We support your nutrient reduction strategy using science to determine which voluntary conservation practices work best .

Our farm has been in the family since about 1920 and we have used many voluntary conservation practices over the years including properly farming HEL soils, leaving buffer strips along streams, reshaping and widening waterways not only on our farm but with approval of the landlords, rotating crops including not only corn and soybeans but also alfalfa, oats and rye.

We know best how to handle the tillage of the soils on our farm. A science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production is always the best approach! Marilyn Platner

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #657.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 8:27 AM

Name Dwight Hobson

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As a SWCD commissioner, I can assure you that the voluntary approach Iowa has used to implement soil conservation is very effective. The demand for cost share outstrips our funding every year. The newer practices, cover crops, biofilters, etc. are in the beginning stages but seem to be effective and easily implemented. The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy will continue the mission we are applying every day. Keep this voluntary! Think what could be accomplished with a bigger commitment. If we are truly committed to reducing our N and P that escapes, I'm sure you'll support legislation that implements the reduction. Thank you. Dwight Hobson

Name barbara harre**City** davenport**State** iowa**Providing comment on the following sections:** **Executive Summary** **Nonpoint Source** **Policy** **Point Source**

As I reviewed the report and recommendations, I was struck by how much science, research and study was involved to reach the conclusions. This is a very complicated subject that obviously cannot be addressed by simple black and white rules. As we should also be aware in Iowa, statistical averages are only that. They do not hold fast year in and year out. What worked in 2012 was different than what worked in 1993. I truly believe that the majority of Iowa agricultural workers are very interested in stewardship of their land and resources. That is evident by the significant improvements that have been made in land management over the past 50 years. No change or changes will have miraculous effects in a short period of time. Our land is a living and interactive system. I believe the plan being offered is well studied and thought out. I believe that Iowa farmers will respond positively to implement the practices esp. if given support. I was raised by a farmer who implemented tile systems, terraces, drop structures, natural stream controls, etc. I have implemented limited till practices, soil testing with directed amendments, planted a riparian buffer system with 7000 trees, incorporated rotational grazing, limited animal access to streams, and am exploring crop cover. I sincerely care about the land and environment and have done so long before it became popular to do so. Encouraging, supporting and working with our farmer neighbors will be a lot more effective than heavy handed tactics that are not balanced in their approach.

I applaud the effort that went into this project and would support moving forward with this.

Name David White
City Charlottesville
State Virginia

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

January 14, 2013

The Honorable Bill Northey
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

The Honorable Charles Gipp
Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Dear Secretary Northey and Director Gipp:

I commend Iowa's leadership for proactively advancing efforts to reduce nutrient loss to Iowa's and the nation's waterways. It is absolutely critical for agriculture and other sectors to cooperate in developing a cost effective strategy on nutrient reduction. I believe your strategy, if designed and implemented correctly, will result in real and lasting reductions in nutrients in Iowa rivers and streams and, ultimately, to the Gulf of Mexico.

The science underpinning your strategy is impressive and provides a sound basis upon which to develop implementation actions that will provide dividends for the environment, for farmers, and for ratepayers in municipalities.

As you consider the specifics of building the program I believe there are four key steps for Iowa to lead the nation in this effort:

First, include clear, time-bounded goals. The overall strategy sets some ambitious, but achievable, objectives for both point and nonpoint sources, but clear goals, with reasonable timeframes, are vital to measuring progress and providing for adaptive management.

Second, reward agricultural producers and others who take action that results in reduction of nutrient loss to waterways. If someone takes action that results in offsite environmental improvements, for which they receive no economic or other benefit, the strategy should reward their efforts. Sound environmental actors should be rewarded for their actions just as we reward the production of other goods and services. Without linking an incentive to the implementation of practices that improve environmental outcomes there will be little reason to invest time and money in actions that result in improved water quality.

Third, foster cooperation between different sectors of the economy. If for example it is more cost effective to achieve reductions in nutrient loading through changes in agricultural practices than municipal or industrial sources, mechanisms should be set up to encourage those actions. Trading of environmental credits has been well documented to drive down the cost of achieving environmental goals. Increasing the choices available to achieve water quality outcomes lowers costs and reduces constraints on decision makers.

Fourth, seek simplicity. Too often nutrient reduction frameworks in other parts of the country are so complex that they have precluded trading or nutrient reduction actions from occurring. In other cases they have resulted in shifting nutrient loads from one watershed to another. Instead, Iowa can lead the country by adopting a common sense approach that rewards cost effective nutrient reduction actions without encumbering actors in unproductive and unnecessary red tape.

You have the opportunity to redefine how nutrient trading is done and cut through the confusion and clutter. Success will depend on a system that is practical, simple, and understandable by farmers; one that provides cost effective value to the 130 municipal and industrial facilities, and one that establishes clear time frames upon which to measure success.

Your strategy offers hope that, by fostering cooperation rather than confrontation you can achieve real and lasting progress in nutrient reduction.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page **2** of comment #**659**.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 8:35 AM

Name David White

City Charlottesville

State Virginia

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

With every best wish,

Dave White

Former Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service

1725 Mattox Ct.

Charlottesville, VA 22903

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #660.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 9:10 AM

Name Curtis Frazee

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like to encourage you to support funding for the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as conservation cost share programs. They benefit all lowans, not just farmers.

On our family farm we have used these types of funding over the years to construct new terraces to control sediment runoff, install grass waterways and filter strips, as well as construct a hoop building to feed cattle. This building replaced all of our open feedlots, eliminating all runoff that could have been a potential problem.

Please continue to support the funding for these programs, as they greatly benefit farmers and the general public.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Curtis Frazee

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #661.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 9:25 AM

Name Roger Pendleton

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing in regards to the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. As a farmer, I recognize first hand how the state needs to develop a plan based upon science. With solid science, farmers can utilize much of the information to voluntarily implement sound conservation practices.

Voluntary conservation practices have been a large part of my farming operation. Practices such as reduced tillage and no till have greatly helped our environment. We have even given greater grass setbacks next to creeks and waterways as a voluntary way to help.

So please fund the Nutrient Strategy. The benefits from it, can and will greatly aid us as a state and nation. Roger Pendleton

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #662.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 9:25 AM

Name Adam Gauger

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Lets make Iowa a leader in conservation by supporting the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. We need to fund a science based nutrient reduction strategy to avoid the one size fits all regulations. We all want to be part of a solution that is cost effective and will have the greatest benefit on water quality.

Please support funding the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

Thank you for your time and service to our state. Adam Gauger

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #663.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 9:28 AM

Name Lynne Rosendahl

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

While I am all in favor of reducing nutrient impacts on our environment we need to be careful of how we go about it, and come up with something that is equitable for both farmers and taxpayers. In the last 20 years we have seen a significant increase in tracts of land that are turned into wetlands when only a part of the tract really fits the bill. We lost such a tract 3 yrs ago that only 1/2 of it shouldn't be farmed and the rest of it now just grows flowers. On my home farm I have several hills that I only grow hay on and use it to feed my cattle. A friend has a beef cow herd and is being forced to cut his numbers in half because the pastures that he had are being turned into wetlands and can't be used. Using the land for growing things other than growing row crops might be a better approach than just following the land. Lynne Rosendahl

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #664.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 9:41 AM

Name Tim Hibma

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to encourage you and our state leaders in the adequate funding of the proposed Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. I believe through this strategy and the state's other cost-share programs, Iowa can lead the nation as an innovator in protecting our natural resources while continuing to feed the world through production agriculture.

By utilizing a science based approach and a voluntary program our state and its agricultural producers can craft programs and practices best suited for the state's vast and variable landscape while insuring we remain a leader in production agriculture.

Our family farm located in northwest Iowa operates on a variety and varying style of land. Ranging from nearly table top flat, gently rolling, to some with more slope than we would like, each farm is different and therefore requires we manage differently.

Through the use of terracing, waterways, CRP, buffer strips, no-till, and min-till practices we are able to manage our productive natural resources and protect them for further generations.

The soil and water of the state of Iowa are our most valuable assets, and through a science based approach can be protected and improved for a more productive, safe, and bright future. Tim Hibma

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #665.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 9:49 AM

Name Vicki Allen

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am sending to show my support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognized the importance of voluntary conservation practices.

As a Soil and Water Conservation District commissioner in Union County for the past 4 years I have seen how well voluntary conservation programs work. We consistently have more applications for cost share than we have cost share dollars. We have many farmers in our county that are using the low interest loan program to help where cost share dollars fall short.

Farmers are willing to do what is right and keep the soil where it belongs but with the high price of land they also need to use every bit of the land to raise a crop. With technical support and guidance conservation programs can be put in place to protect the soil and let the farmer profit from his land.

Adequately funding the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy as well as other conservation cost-share programs is a win win for everyone in the state of Iowa. Iowa has made a lot of progress in the last decade or so protecting our soil and water. We not only need cost share dollars to continue protecting our resource but we need the technicians and office staff to make sure the practices are appropriate for the land they are being placed on.

Thank you for your past and future support! Vicki Allen

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #666.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 10:15

Name Rebecca Hosek

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that will allow me to continue farming and following my conservation practices. I work closely with my NRCS in Tama county to make sure the tillage practices I use will result in the least amount of run off possible.

We need to make sure we adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, along with the state's other conservation cost-share programs. I am involved in an EQUIP Contract right now that is allowing me to improve my farm ground at minimal cost to me. I am trying to implement a rotational grazeing practice for my cattle to maximise the use of what little pasture I have. These improvements are benefitting me as well as the environment, and I know in the long run my children will appreciate my efforts as well. Please support our rights as farmers to do what is best for our land. Thankyou for believing in us! Rebecca Hosek

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page **1** of comment #**667**.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 10:25

Name Jay Hofland

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like to request your support for a science- based nutrient reduction strategy for Iowa. As a livestock producing farmer in Iowa, I work hard to implement sound management practices, and I take pride in my care for Iowa's environment while continuing to provide the food our state, country, and world needs. I have put in waterways, soil retention structures, and use my animals nutrients to their fullest potential to maximize their value while protecting the environment.

Please fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. This strategy along with other conservation measures will work to protect our environment. Iowa's failure to fund conservation programs has limited the ability of producers like myself to best protect Iowa's environment. Please work with livestock producers such as myself in a positive way to meet Iowa's nutrient management goals. Jay Hofland

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #668.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 10:32

Name Dale Farnham

City Ames

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

On Page 14, the top bullet point, there are some statistics quoted by The Fertilizer Institute. It says that there were 6.64 billion bushels of corn produced in 1980 using 3.9 pounds of nutrients per bushel produced. If I do the math, that equals 25.896 billion pounds of nutrients. In 2010, it says that there were 12.45 billion bushels of corn produced using 1.6 pounds of nutrients per bushel produced. That equals 19.92 billion pounds of nutrients. The statement then says that there was an 87.5% increase in production with 4% fewer nutrients. I agree with the increase in production number, but not the change in nutrients. My math says that the difference is 5.976 billion pounds of nutrients which would result in a reduction of 23.1% (5.976 divided by 25.896). Am I missing something, or is my math correct?

I also was disappointed to see the lack of any impact on N and P levels related to wildlife, in particular geese. Iowa has more than 250,000 acres (The World Almanac of the USA, 1996) of water, much of which is inhabited by waterfowl year-round now. Their direct discharge into these surface waters should not be ignored.

In addition, I'm disappointed that "stormwater" was not seriously considered either. Quoting the Executive Summary,

"No specific nutrient reductions have been targeted for municipal storm water discharges. Due to the intermittent nature of such discharges and their relatively small contribution to the statewide nutrient load this document does not address specific storm water reduction targets."

I have concerns that a significant amount of nitrogen and phosphorus applied in urban areas is not being utilized by turf and landscape plants. Quoting from a US EPA article on Polluted Runoff (Nonpoint Source Pollution),

"Researchers at Cornell University found that 60 percent of nitrogen applied to turf leached to ground water (Long Island Regional Planning Board, 1984). Shultz (1989) suggests that 50 percent of the nitrogen applications are leached out and not used by plants. A study completed by Exner and others (1991) showed that as much as 95 percent of nitrate applied in late August on an urban lawn was leached below the turf grass root zone."

In addition, the amount of fertilizer that is deposited on sidewalks and streets can be staggering at times. This results in a direct entry point for N and P into stormwater which is ultimately discharged into Iowa's rivers and streams.

I really feel these areas (wildlife and stormwater) should be addressed in the Nutrient Management Strategy.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #669.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 10:40

Name Brent Kuehnast

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

We own and operate a family farm in NC Iowa and encourage you to support the current science-based state Nutrient Reduction Strategy and to fund this and other such cost-share programs accordingly.

We believe in voluntary conservaton practices and have implemented a variety of them on our farm for many years. We are currently using GPS and VRT technolgy for better placement of commercial and manure programs. We use lower rates of chemicals in combination with mechanical practices for weed control. We are also doing more reduced tillage on our farm in both corn and beans.

We believe these practices prevent contamination by preventing runoff as well as reducing total lbs of products applied. In some cases we save money but more importantly protect our soils and water sources.

Thank you for your support of this initiative and its' funding. Brent Kuehnast

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #670.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 10:51

Name Jason Sallach

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please support a science based state nutrient reduction strategy and adequately fund it and other conservation cost share programs. Jason Sallach

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #671.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 10:53

Name John Fluit, Jr.

City Inwood

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

While not overly familiar with the whole Nutrient Reduction Strategy, I have a few simple comments.

I feel all environmental policy should be studied and approached on a cost/benefit basis. I would also like to strongly remind all parties involved that environmental policy is the biggest obstacle to young beginning livestock producers. Especially in livestock concentrated areas such as Lyon/Sioux County, Iowa. While most beginning producers can figure out a way to build or buy a livestock production facility, it is fast getting to the point of being impossible to get manure rights to any land in these areas let alone the astronomical figures land is bringing per acre.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Fluit, Jr.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #672.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 10:57

Name William Frazee

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy can be a very important part of Iowa's efforts to maintain and improve Iowa's agricultural production. It is a science based effort that recognizes the importance of Iowa's strong history of voluntary conservation practices.

We have done much in the state to reduce agricultural runoff in the state over the last many years. On our farm, we have installed terraces, waterways, gone to no-till farming, and eliminated our open cattle feedlot and replaced it with a hoop building.

I urge you to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, along with other cost-share programs. We need to keep Iowa moving forward by using these voluntary, science based practices instead of creating more mandatory regulation. William Frazee

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #673.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 11:14

Name Michelle Euken

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing to express my support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy. One that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practives, and one that will also maintain agricultural production.

We need our state lawmakers to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Rudction Strategy. We also need our state lawmakers to fund other conservation cost-share programs. If Iowa fails to adequately fund these programs, it will delay crucial conservation projects, which we cannot afford to do.

Please support and adequately fund a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy! Michelle Euken

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #674.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 11:14

Name Terry Lewis

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Excess nutrients are a problem that leads to the degradation of our waters and ends up costing everyone in the long run. I do believe that the voluntary nutrient plan developed with Iowa State University deserves your consideration before passing legislation that requires increasing the present size of regulators and penalizes all farmers.

If either voluntary or mandated reduction is going to be successful the programs need to be funded. My wife and I have spent and continue to spend thousands of dollars on conservation practices. Without cost-share much less would get done. If I had my way not a drop of water or grain of soil would leave our farms.

I do hope that there is a mechanism built into the program that offers some monitoring to show the success of the program and the source of the problems. I would be interested in knowing what cities are doing to clean up their act. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Terry Lewis Terry Lewis

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #675.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 11:48

Name Lenard Orth

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As a farmer, I rely on sound scientific practices to raise my crop. I appreciate that the main partners of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, Iowa State University, IDALS, and the DNR are moving forward on similar principles to resolve the issues of Gulf of Mexico hypoxia. Together with Iowa's farmers, we can resolve this going forward.

In order to accomplish this, I am asking for your continued support and funding of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. In addition to this, adequate funding for approved conservation practices is critical to implementation of this plan.

With the recent improvement of the state's financial condition, I ask that you keep the funding needs and importance of this task force in mind, so that they might continue to develop sound science practices which can be implemented on our farms. This will benefit our environment, without causing undue detriment to continued strong Iowa agricultural production. Lenard Orth

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page **1** of comment #**676**.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 12:11

Name Stacie Euken

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

As an agriculturalist, I recognize the need for conservation practices. Like most, I take the environment, our water sources, and water quality into account in all I do. When I have questions, I turn to research conducted by Iowa State University, the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources because I trust them to know what's best, not only for me, but for the world we live in.

I support science-based nutrient reduction strategies. It recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production. I ask that you also support such cause by adequately funding the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as Iowa's other conservation cost share programs. Failure to do so will only delay needed conservation projects.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Stacie Euken

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #677.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 12:22

Name Anthony Portz

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like to ask for your support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy to recognize the importance of voluntary conservation practices.

Production agriculture is extremely important to this nation and its economy as well as the health of our nations water supply. I myself implement many techniques by working with the county NRCS office to prevent erosion control and runoff. These practices help keep soil nutrients from entering our water supply increasing water quality.

I believe Iowa needs to be a front runner in funding the Nutrient Reduction Strategy Program as well as the states other conservation cost-share programs. These programs aid farmers with practices that improve our water quality.

Again, Thank You for your time. Anthony Portz

Name Veronica Lack

City Iowa City

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

I filed a discrimination charge in 2010 against Iowa's DNR for not giving me and others downstream our well test reports and not enforcing the Clean Water Act. They denied me for 16 years until 2009 and lying to me about those results for those 16 years so that the groups of Mitchell County Farmers could drain their land down sinkholes to grow corn on sinkhole prone karsted very limited soil depth aquifer recharge areas of Mitchell County Iowa. But with the help of a Sierra Club attorney I was able to get the test results for groups of contaminated wells later in 2012. The on-going documented pollution plume had continued into Floyd County as Ray Franna, former Osage NRCS worker, said in 2007, I should stop worrying about it since all the wells in the plume were contaminated down to the Floyd County border it was, as he said, Floyd County's problem now. My renters well in Bremer County is contaminated downstream and the water in Iowa City tests positive for it too. Why do we Iowan's have to pay with our health while the state agencies that are to protect our water and lives not enforcing the Clean Water Act against this known and documented point source pollution plume, just so this small group can profit? Mitchell County refused to answer court ordered supenas, because as their liability attorney claimed I would sue them if they did. Why is Mitchell County above the law and allowed to plan these sinkhole Flood drainage channels through lines of sinkholes? That is Point Source polluting and one way that I know of that directly channels Anhydrous Ammonia into our drinking water. Since I lost the case the IDNR said I had to file against the polluters who lied under oath that they were at my dining room table on 4/16/2003 (which they weren't) and that my dead husband had agreed for them to come back a year and apart after his death to dig a channel a mile long to dump into a National Wetland with 6 huge sinkholes to drain their land. Instead it was Dean Kleckner, the former head of Farm Bureau, in the police car on 4/16/2003, since I had charged him his contractors with digging through my north 80 west joint property line fence on 4/15/2003 and removing my topsoil and fence, to channel runoff water through sinkholes on Dean Kleckner's property across to mine. The Disposition of that trespass charge was Dean Kleckner had agreed to have Mayer's Digging Company replace my fence, and return my soil to its prior grade or field surface. The judge and jury in that Mitchell County courtroom that cost me \$47,000 in lawyer fees just to get into court were mostly from areas or owned land that did not have legal drainage outlets. The IDNR's lawyers had agreed that if I didn't file that suit on the suggestion of the IDNR and USDA-NRCS I could be charged with the flood damages and pollution of our aquifer if I didn't legally protest. I was up against a band of hornets with my son Adam's help we did prove in court that channel had not been their before and they formed a juantlet as we left the court room yelling that back at us, with the threat they were going to get this illegal practice "Grandfathered In". Seems hard to believe farmers could be so greedy to have my husbands body cremated without my permission before he was even seen by a doctor. They later said you can't prove he died because of the pollution because Gary was cremated. The worry that Gary was just in a coma when burned haunts me. But the greater haunt is I am dealing with the health effects of drinking that water and worry about all the others downstream that are now drinking the on-going and increasing polluting since this drainage ditching to sinkholes is now an allowed practice getting more unsustainable farmers to do it since it brings in Big Dollars. We cannot leave the protection of our drinking water up to the discretion of polluters. Look downstream to what it has done to the Gulf's Dead Zones. Watch the documentary film, "Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story". It shows some sustainable farming practices that could be part of the ways to limit the growth of this pollution because of the overuse and improper application of Anhydrous Ammonia on the Karsted, very limited soil depth, sensitive Recharge areas for our underground rivers (aquifers) that have been the source of good drinking water in the past for Iowan's. The last question Ursbatch, one of the polluters upstream asked me was, "Was why didn't I die from it? My Mayo oncologists are still working on figuring out why some survive it may be my chemotherapy for the cancer was that more adept at treating mine than Gary's or our immune systems were different in that I had never smoked? But Gary's high Potassium levels only went up when he drank more water as the Mayo oncologist had ordered, but the IDNR had withheld our well tests that Mayo now has copies of we did not know until after Gary was dead that our water was contaminated with Anhydrous Ammonia at levels 2 to 12.2 on the Ammonia Nitrogen as (N) well water tests and our Nitrate tests were at 78 to 95. Any way you total those two test results our wells were deadly. Please make an example of these lying farmers in Mitchell County and the Mitchell County Engineers (Bill Grokurs and Jim Hyde) who helped plan these connect the dots sinkhole drainage systems for farmers who had no legal drainage outlets.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #679.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 12:49

Name Cris Friedrichson

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary **Nonpoint Source**
 Policy **Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

On my farm, we already have seeded waterways and practice both strip-tilling and no-tilling on ALL of our crop acres to reduce runoff to the South Skunk River and nearby creeks.

It is my understanding, that a lot of the nitrates and P&K found in the Mississippi River are from water treatment plants and residential citizens trying to achieve a "greener" lawn!!! Less than 10% of all that is from a farmers runoff!!!

So, please support the Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other conservation programs so that projects can be immediately implemented when necessary. Cris Friedrichson

Name Chris Wilbeck**City** Rippey**State** Iowa**Providing comment on the following sections:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

IMPACT OF CONFINEMENTS NOT EVEN ADDRESSED IN PLAN

The Iowa nutrient reduction strategy falls short. Beyond a mere reference of confinements in the summary, the current and future negative impact on water quality from animal livestock confinements (CAFOs) is not even addressed or considered. This is a serious oversight, given that confinements produce millions of gallons of manure and are a significant nonpoint source of water pollution.

In particular, there is no mention of how to address the negative impact on water quality due to the unchecked growth of the number of confinements, the increased chance of over-application of manure due to overlapping manure plans, or the probability of significant water quality impairment when confinement construction is not limited in subwatersheds already defined as high priorities for the reduction of nitrates.

How can the nutrient reduction strategy succeed when CAFOs - a significant source of the problem - are not even considered or accounted for in the strategy?

Increase in CAFOs:

Last year, 14 applications for new construction or expansion of existing hog confinements (requiring manure management plans) were approved in Greene County alone. The county now has 69 hog confinements and more than 240,000 hogs (source DNR CAFO database). The N. Raccoon River - identified as already having a high nitrate problem - runs through the county. The new or expanded hog CAFOs are projected to produce approx. 10 million MORE gallons of manure per year, bringing the total annual hog manure production in Greene County to more than 50 million gallons. The nutrient reduction plan does not address the increase in the amount of manure produced by new or expanded hog confinements across the state. It is surely reasonable to assume that a portion of that additional manure will ultimately enter our waterways and the plan should address this likelihood.

Over-Application of Manure:

Name Chris Wilbeck**City** Rippey**State** Iowa**Providing comment on the following sections:****Executive Summary****Nonpoint Source****Policy****Point Source**

More confinements also mean the probability that over-application of manure may occur due to overlapping manure management plans (MMPs). The DNR currently has no mechanism in place to check for overlapping MMPs. In 2012, Prestage Farms was approved construction for PI312, a 4900-head hog confinement in Washington Township, Greene County. The MMP for PI312 overlapped with another CAFO's MMP, resulting in the potential for over-application of manure on the land in the plans. The DNR only became aware of this overlap when neighbors opposing the CAFO construction discovered it and notified the DNR. The nutrient reduction plan does not address measures to prevent such overlap and thus does not limit the increased potential for over-application of manure.

Construction on Priority Subwatersheds:

There are no measures currently in place to restrict confinement construction on subwatersheds that have already been identified as very high priorities for the reduction of nitrates. In 2012, Prestage Farms was approved construction for PI355, a 4900-head hog confinement in Washington Township, Greene County. This CAFO was built on land in Fanny's Branch of the N. Raccoon River. Fanny's Branch has received significant MRBI funds (NRCS) for nitrate reduction study and has also been identified in the Raccoon River Water Quality Master Plan (M&M Divide RCD for DNR 2012) as a very high priority subwatershed for targeting the reduction of nitrates. However, even though residents opposing the construction of the CAFO pointed this out to county and DNR officials, the information was not even taken into consideration when the permit application was reviewed and ultimately approved. While the nitrate reduction strategy mentions that priority subwatersheds will be identified, there is no indication in the plan regarding what restrictions will be placed on what types of activities in those watersheds. In particular, there should be acknowledgment that restrictions should include prohibiting or limiting CAFO construction, particularly given that concrete manure pits can crack and ultimately leak manure into the watershed.

Summary:

The nutrient reduction strategy needs to include measures to account for the impact of current and future hog confinements - a significant nonpoint

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page **3** of comment #**680**.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 12:56

Name Chris Wilbeck

City Rippey

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

source of water pollution - or it will ultimately fail in making any significant progress in reducing nitrates in our water.

Chris Wilbeck

Greene County Iowa

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #681.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:05 PM

Name Chondra Rankin

City North Liberty

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

While the state's proposed strategy recommends strict new rules for cities and industry, it falls far short in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.

History shows that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem.

The strategy puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers and expects them to contribute toward farmers' costs at all levels.

Despite an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow.

The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.

The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #682.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:05 PM

Name Penelope Mazza

City FAIRFIELD

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

I would like the state to consider an environmentally stronger nutrient reduction strategy which moves agriculture away from the intensive use of pesticides and toward a sustainable model of agriculture. The specific issues I see with the current and proposed strategy are:

It relies entirely on the same voluntary approaches for agriculture that have failed to clean up Iowa's water.

It puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers, even though profitable farm businesses are responsible for the bulk of the problem.

It fails to set any common sense standards to restrict a handful of the most polluting farming practices.

The strategy outlines no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward reducing agricultural pollution.

It includes no explanation of how the plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Iowa's waterways and drinking water quality should not continue to be put at risk to benefit one method of successful agriculture. Water will continue to become an increasingly precious natural resource and should be conserved/preserved for future generations.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #683.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:07 PM

Name Michael Henning

City Waterloo

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

•The Nutrient Reduction Strategy is a start however it:

Relies entirely on the same voluntary approaches for agriculture that have failed to clean up Iowa's water. It must have mandatory aspects that have financial impact to the farmer / landowner if not followed.

Puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers, even though profitable farm businesses are responsible for the bulk of the problem.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #684.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:08 PM

Name Dennis Lansink

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I feel this is a perfect solution to our clean water system in iowa. I'm talking Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy program. A common sense approach to keep our farms producing the grain needed to feed, fuel and fiber the ever growing demand for our world, now and in the future. A vote to fund this program is what Iowa's agriculture needs to make us a leader in crop production. Dennis Lansink

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #685.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:10 PM

Name David Seil

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Loss of soil nutrients from my farm is an ongoing concern. Water quality and a clean environment are important to me because I hope to pass this farm to my children in a better condition than I started with. Also, because fertilizers are expensive, it makes good economic sense to retain as many nutrients as possible on the land.

Voluntary practices have historically been very effective on farms to reduce nutrient runoff. Some practices I employ are minimum tillage to keep soil in place, nutrient management to minimize the amount of nutrient available to leaching or erosion, and buffer strips to catch soil and nutrients before it can enter a stream. I think science based approaches are required, because I need to know a practice will work and, still, not hinder the crop's potential. I focus on solving the problem, and I demand predictable results.

I urge lawmakers to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, and other cost share conservation programs. There is much we can do to continue to improve water quality here in Iowa. David Seil

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #686.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:15 PM

Name Jenni Kothavale

City Clive

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Re: a Fight for cleaner waters in Iowa:

•While the state's proposed strategy recommends strict new rules for cities and industry, it falls far short in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.

•History shows that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem.

•The strategy puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers and expects them to contribute toward farmers' costs at all levels.

•Despite an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow.

•The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.

•The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenni Kothavale

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #687.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:18 PM

Name Michael Blitz

City Farifield

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Please make the people responsible for ruining our waterways pay for the damages they do the quality of our lives. Their profits need to cover their destruction. No more externalizing the costs to the taxpayers.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #688.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:20 PM

Name Laurie Calkins

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Polluted runoff from farmland is having serious effects on Iowa's drinking water. Excess nitrogen and phosphorous flowing from agricultural land into Iowa's rivers and streams trigger dangerous algae blooms, endanger public health and contribute to the notorious "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. Isn't it time to start looking at what is happening to us and our children's health? Why does everything always benefit the corporations who want to make a big buck and not about what is right for our health and the health of the environment?

The state's proposed strategy falls short in many ways. History shows that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem. It puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers, even though profitable farm businesses are responsible for the bulk of the problem. It fails to set any common sense standards to restrict a handful of the most polluting farming practices. It includes no explanation of how the plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Also, the strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

There is already so many diseases and cancers out there. PLEASE start thinking smarter about how to make our future safer!!

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #689.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:23 PM

Name Kerri Avery

City Salem

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

History shows that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem. The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy. The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #690.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:31 PM

Name Stacey Booth

City Waterloo

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

•While the state's proposed strategy recommends strict new rules for cities and industry, it falls far short in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.

•The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #691.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:32 PM

Name Gary Dalecky

City Cedar Rapids

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Despite an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow. The policy should make the big high profit farming operations to pay more to correct their damaging effects on the environment.

Gary Dalecky

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #692.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:44 PM

Name Sarah Wendt

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

While the state's proposed strategy recommends strict new rules for cities and industry, it falls far short in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.

History shows that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem.

The strategy puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers and expects them to contribute toward farmers' costs at all levels.

Despite an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow.

The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.

The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #693.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 1:56 PM

Name Patrick Stroud

City Norwalk

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

How is a voluntary system going to work when previous volunteer programs have NOT?

Why is the taxpayer on the hook instead of farm businesses for a problem that I and thousands of other suburban taxpayers do absolutely nothing to contribute to?

The plan as I understand it is incomplete. There are no standards, no timelines and no implementation plans included.

Is this the best that this state can do?

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #694.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:04 PM

Name Jon Koch

City Muscatine

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

*There are numerous strategies outlined that non-point sources may implement, but there is no requirement for any of them to implement even minimal controls. As the largest contributing source there should be some minimal requirement to begin conservation efforts. A voluntary system has only been moderately successful for all previous conservation efforts. Without consistent implementation requirements, identifying sources of nutrient influence will be next to impossible.

*Putting all requirements to point-sources alone burdens the taxpayer with the bill for the least reduction of pollution. I do believe point-sources should begin numerical limitations of nutrients, but the voluntary nature of non-point source conservation will not be enough to reach our goal of 40% reduction.

*The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Industrial pretreatment programs expect no less from an industry that has been ordered to reduce its influence on the system. They are given milestones to achieve specified limits and must attain them to continue discharge. There is no strategy for even minimal controls to be set in place within a specified timeline with specific measureable goals. Farmers are committed stewards of the land and waters, but counting on voluntary work alone will not make the significant and consistent changes required.

*There is little prioritization of the problem areas and who will implement the changes needed for non-point sources.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #695.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:04 PM

Name Renée Sluser

City Fairfield

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

While the state's proposed strategy recommends strict new rules for cities and industry, it falls far short in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.

History shows that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem.

The strategy puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers and expects them to contribute toward farmers' costs at all levels.

Despite an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow.

The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.

The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Name Andrew Davison**City****State****Providing comment on the following sections:****Executive Summary****Nonpoint Source****Policy****Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I believe it is very important the state of Iowa uses a science based state nutrient reduction strategy that takes in to account the importance of voluntary conservation practices. I think it is important that the state funds the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy along with other conservation cost-share programs.

I grew up on a family farm that has practiced many conservation techniques in many different areas of our farming operation. I believe there are many other farmers out there practicing and implementing new conservation techniques to where we do not need on further government regulations. Here are just a few of the conservation practices that my family farm has done over the years.

1. We grid sample all of our row crop acres which allows us to variable rate our phosphorus and potassium over our fields so that the areas that need it most are getting higher amounts and the areas that have high test levels get less amounts. This not only cuts down our costs of fertilizer but it keeps us from over applying on the areas of the fields where we already have abundance of nutrients in the soil.
2. Our family farm also raises pigs. In order for us to apply manure in the fall and spring we have to have a manure management plan filed with the state/DNR. We have to file this plan so the DNR knows we are not over applying manure to our fields where are phosphorus levels are already high.
3. Our family farm uses a traditional tillage practice where we v-rip our corn stalks in the fall after we are done with harvest. Even though v-ripping may not sound like a conservation practice we are actually leaving our lighter soils/hill tops and not tilling these areas, while leaving the corn stalks standing to help preserve the soil from blowing.
4. We have planted over 100 evergreen trees in the past 4 years around my parents' house and our different hog confinements. Not only do these trees act as a great wind break but the grass we have planted around these trees helps hold the lighter soils in place from blowing. It also acts as great habitat for wildlife.
5. We currently side dress our nitrogen in the spring when the corn is roughly a foot tall, this allows us to use less nitrogen because we are giving it to the crop when it needs it most as opposed to applying it all in the fall after harvest and tillage.
6. One conservation practice that we are exploring more is variable rating our nitrogen. We currently do this with our phosphorus and potassium and we believe by doing this with our nitrogen it will not only cut costs but keep us from over applying nitrogen where the crop doesn't need any more.

As you can see our family farm is using many conservation practices. I know of many other farmers in our area that are doing the same. I don't believe it is necessary to have any more government regulations and laws when it comes to conservation practices. Andrew Davison

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #697.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:24 PM

Name David K. Moore

City Waterloo

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

I am deeply concerned by the shortcomings of the proposed strategy, including the lack of common-sense standards to protect our waters, the use of voluntary standards that have failed to protect our waters in place of mandatory standards, the lack of time lines and detail on implementation of the proposed strategies.

The Strategy relies almost exclusively on voluntary measures instead of mandatory standards and regulations. These voluntary measures have failed to work in the past and have been shown in many other states to not work. The reliance on them shows either (a) a lack of understanding about what has and has not worked in Iowa and other states; (b) a lack of seriousness to propose plans that would address this serious set of problems; or both.

In addition, the proposed Strategy would place the financial burden not on the businesses that profit from their use of our waterways and practices that allow them to profit from dumping their nutrient problems on the rest of us, but on taxpayers. While taxpayers should reasonable share some of the financial burden, it is unreasonable to place the entire burden on taxpayers rather than having those who profit from the use of our waterways share in the financial burden.

There are some very reasonable, common-sense measures for some of the most harmful practices that would provide a great deal of the possible remedy for the nutrient problems we face. These are entirely lacking in the strategy, which dooms it to failure from the outset. These practices need to be meaningfully restricted if there is to be any hope of making progress on this issue.

There is a general lack of timelines or means of measuring progress (or lack thereof) in these proposals. There is also a lack of detail about how these measures will be implemented, what priorities will be pursued to implement these given limited resources to implement all of them immediately, and a lack of clarity about who will make decisions regarding priorities and timelines.

In brief, these proposals demonstrate a serious lack of good faith effort on the part of the administration, and the whole package needs to be sent back for reconsideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #698.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:24 PM

Name Iowa Section American Water Works

City Des Moines

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Monday, January 14, 2013

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Chuck Gipp, Director

Wallace Building

502 E. 9th Street

Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: IOWA NUTRIENT REDUCTION STRATEGY

Director Gipp:

There are a number of groups within the State of Iowa that represent drinking water professionals. Many in the membership of those groups have one thing in common which is membership in the Iowa Section of the American Water Works Association (IA-AWWA). IA-AWWA is comprised of over 700 of Iowa's water professionals. Along with consultants and scientists, the group includes Iowa's drinking water utilities, from the largest in the state to the smallest.

I am the Director of Water Production for the Marshalltown Water Works, and also a representative of the IA-AWWA Water Utility Council. The Water Utility Council is the legislative committee of the Iowa Section AWWA.

We would like to offer our support to the newly proposed Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Our membership recognizes and respects the fact that nutrient reduction of Iowa's waters not only provides benefit to the people of Iowa, but to those of the entire nation. This effort, as proposed, includes all of the needed factors in the equation. The collaboration of point and non-point source contributors is an essential step in the right direction to provide the nutrient reductions that are necessary.

It is recognized that the goals of the plan are very ambitious; however, the direction that is being taken to involve professionals from the Iowa Department Agriculture, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and researchers and scientists from Iowa State University demonstrates to our membership that the goals sought will continue to be science based which is of utmost importance. In today's world of increased public awareness, which brings the demands of accountability and verification with it, we respect the efforts that are being put in place to bring the right people to the table to effect the change that is needed. We appreciate that as those changes are implemented, consideration is also given to the investments of our rate payers that may be necessary. Science based standards are accountable, verifiable, and bring with them opportunities for innovative solutions. Solutions that will be necessary if Iowa is to meet the nutrient reductions required.

The Iowa Section AWWA Water Utility Council appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on this proposed plan, and is always willing to partner with the Department to find resolutions that our membership can support, and benefit our consumers, the people of Iowa.

Respectfully,

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page **2** of comment #**698**.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:24 PM

Name Iowa Section American Water Works

City Des Moines

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Tim Wilson

Iowa Section-American Water Works Association

Water Utility Council

Cc: Nutrient Reduction Strategy, online submission

Iowa Section AWWA Board of Directors

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #699.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:26 PM

Name Frank Cicciarelli

City Dubuque

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

The Strategy as presented won't work. While point sources from cities accounts for only a small fraction of the overall N & P load it is the city citizens who are burdened with with penalty connected costly compliance. The plan for voluntary action on the part of nonpoint source landowners does not apply enough pressure to achieve the 45% reduction goal. I wonder if, eventually, there may be legal action by Iowa cities and/or the EPA.

We seem to be too insulated from our ethical responsibilities to the fishermen trying to "farm" the Gulf waters for their living. If they could reverse the flow of the Mississippi so that the poluted salty Gulf water came upstream and spread onto our farm fields so we could not grow corn & soy beans our action plan would be very different.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #700.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:27 PM

Name David K. Moore

City Waterloo

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

I am deeply concerned by the shortcomings of the proposed strategy, including the lack of common-sense standards to protect our waters, the use of voluntary standards that have failed to protect our waters in place of mandatory standards, the lack of time lines and detail on implementation of the proposed strategies.

For agriculture, the Strategy relies almost exclusively on voluntary measures instead of mandatory standards and regulations. These voluntary measures have failed to work in the past and have been shown in many other states to not work. The reliance on them shows either (a) a lack of understanding about what has and has not worked in Iowa and other states; (b) a lack of seriousness to propose plans that would address this serious set of problems; or both.

In addition, the proposed Strategy would place the financial burden not on the businesses that profit from their use of our waterways and practices that allow them to profit from dumping their nutrient problems on the rest of us, but on taxpayers. While taxpayers should reasonable share some of the financial burden, it is unreasonable to place the entire burden on taxpayers rather than having those who profit from the use of our waterways share in the financial burden.

There are some very reasonable, common-sense measures for some of the most harmful agricultural practices that would provide a great deal of the possible remedy for the nutrient problems we face. These are entirely lacking in the strategy, which dooms it to failure from the outset. These practices need to be meaningfully restricted if there is to be any hope of making progress on this issue.

There is a general lack of timelines or means of measuring progress (or lack thereof) in these proposals. There is also a lack of detail about how these measures will be implemented, what priorities will be pursued to implement these given limited resources to implement all of them immediately, and a lack of clarity about who will make decisions regarding priorities and timelines.

In brief, these proposals demonstrate a serious lack of good faith effort on the part of the administration, and the whole package needs to be sent back for reconsideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #701.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:33 PM

Name Clover Meade

City Decorah

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Voluntary measures have not worked so far!

There need to be a written plan with a timeline and consequences for slackers.

Why do the taxpayers have to pay for cleaning up the water when the people who create the problem aren't held accountable?

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #702.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:34 PM

Name Phil Klein

City Coralville

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

-
- While the state's proposed strategy recommends strict new rules for cities and industry, it falls far short in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.
 - History shows that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem.
 - The strategy puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers and expects them to contribute toward farmers' costs at all levels.
 - Despite an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow.
 - The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.
 - The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #703.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:37 PM

Name Chris C Petersen

City Clear Lake

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

I am summerizing the plan overall as someone who has been involved in production agriculture all my life.

First of all a lot of farmers are true stewards of the land and the environment, but we need to do far more to get more farmers on board. Voluntary compliance falls far short to address what is going on, which are-

1)Iowa has lost 50% of its topsoil due to erosion. this alone should be unexceptable. This loss of soil is a national security issue(the ability to feed ourselves as a nation) and an economic issue starting with the best interest of the farmer- at the end of the day if you do not have enough dirt -you do not farm anymore and land has no value

2)Past experiance/ results dictates that voluluntary compliance has probably lessened pollution /runoff but has not kept ahead of the curve-we are still going backward. Proof of that is according to the latest documents Iowa has more impaired waterways than ever. So volutary compliance has failed and with proposed voluntary conservation of 23% how are any goals going to be achieved? Correlate that with probably a no go of mandatory conservation compliance in the farm bill tied to the subsidized 60% taxpayer writedowns in crop insurance we have an expanded problem....along with 70% of nitrates coming from agriculture!

3)Taxpayers, doing the right things have "annied" up billions in national and state iniatives over the years with unexceptable results- it's time the "bad actors" pay thru mandatory compliance and appropriate punishment. A lot of farmers have been unfairly treated (cost) for being good stewards while thier neighbors do nothing! We need to level the field by creating mandatory thresholds for all.

4)The volutary compliance argument is totally baseless- do we have "voluntary" speed limits, deer bagging limits, etc- we are a nation of laws. Negative results will continue with voluntary compliance when assessing the big picture. Half the farmers in Iowa spent "0" - this is a dishearting, while consumers pay higher utility rates to clean up the water and Iowa loses out in recreation spending.

5)Also, with the unchecked CAFO and acreage expansion this problem will only get worse. Throw in ongoing cronic soil erosion due to climate change, how much more damage, pollution and "voluntary compliance" compounded before Iowa wakes up?

6)Over the years agriculture has been exempt, but with agriculture changing and becoming more indutrialized with the blessing and protection by Farm Bureau and captured politicians, regulators /enforcers it's time for change. The game is buying time and keep doing what they're doing- making money, externalizing costs, and polluting.

7)Iowa is cetianly at a threshold here,a lot of citizens have lost faith and confidence in state government/DNR to execute a mandatory plan let alone a voluntary one with measurable results- taxpayer billions spent is not pocket change. It is time to live up to the Clean Water Act, have manadatory results on nutrient management, and stem soil loss (that carries nutrients).

Its has become very clear that if this state fails -

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #704.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:40 PM

Name Karyl Larson

City Iowa City

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.

The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #705.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:42 PM

Name Darcy Maulsby

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

My family farms in Calhoun County near Yetter, and I support a science-based, nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain a high-level of agricultural production.

I urge you to fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. My family has installed grass waterways on our land to prevent run-off and protect water quality. We are always looking for more ways to protect our precious soil and water resources that benefit not only our farm, but the surrounding environment.

I encourage you to fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Darcy Maulsby Darcy Maulsby

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #706.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:42 PM

Name Jolene Riley

City Burnside

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

This problem is of a longstnding nature and has fallen on the deaf ears of those who could make a difference. It does not appear to be taken seriously until of a most critical nature. Please proceed post haste to protect ALL of us.

Thank you.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #707.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:43 PM

Name Vesna and Sonja Glavina

City Fairfield

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

I would like to note that the state's proposed strategy for reducing water pollution, while laudable in addressing water pollutions from cities and industry, is inadequate in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.

Relying on voluntary measures has a history of inefficacy. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem.

The strategy places the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers and expects them to contribute toward farmers' costs at all levels.

Despite an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow.

The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.

The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

As it stands, this is a strategy for failure.

Thank you,

Vesna and Sonja Glavina

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #708.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 2:49 PM

Name Prescott Smith

City Fort Madison

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

The strategies here, if that's what they are, are not feasible. They will not work. We must not rely on voluntary compliance of farmers. We see where this gets us in all other fields in which it has been tried. Industry has shown it will not police itself even to protect its own long term interests.

We need a program with research, data gathering, reporting, review and reaction to those who will not cooperate with real fines and seizures.

For the coming year, we know the persistent problems; end these now. Get hog confinement and chicken factories shut down along with corporate farms who are not complying with strict provisions set immediately.

As the droughts worsen, protecting our water becomes all the more important. Set effective controls now.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #709.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 3:07 PM

Name Luke Homan

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like to express my support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

I ask that you adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects.

Conservation practices are an important part of our farming practices. We have installed terraces and put in waterways to help prevent soil and nutrient loss. I hope we will have this opportunity to continue doing this in the future. I look forward to your support and thanks for what you do. Luke Homan

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #710.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 3:08 PM

Name Paul Talkington

City Des Moines

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

This is no strategy for change but a license to continue current practices. It is far past time to get serious if we ever expect to make a difference. "Big Ag" will never do anything until forced. It is time for the legislature to actually represent the people instead of special interests with lots of money to finance campaigns. Necessary changes will not bankrupt anyone.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #711.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 3:13 PM

Name Travis Swehla

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

Also I urge you to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects.

Voluntary conservation practices are better for our future than more regulations. Travis Swehla

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #712.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 3:17 PM

Name Doug Frey

City Cascade

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

It's January here in Iowa and farmers I know are spreading manure on frozen ground. "Where else I am going to put it?" they ask. Voluntary cooperation to reduce nutrient contamination of our waterways isn't a viable strategy. I'm wondering when we are going to get serious about runoff, erosion, and general degradation of the environment.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #713.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 3:23 PM

Name Eli Shepherd

City

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Recent research has proven that the voluntary approach has not resulted in any substantial decrease, certainly not to the recommended and essential levels, in nutrient runoff or agricultural pollution. Additionally it places no restrictions on some of the most polluting practices and the program is funded mainly by taxpayers, not those who are actually producing the bulk of the pollution.

We need specific timelines set for nutrient reduction and requirements of some sort in order to ensure they are met, the essential practices are implemented, and subsequently, enforced. This also brings up the need for a set method of tracking the actual nutrient reduction.

Voluntary measures are great and under most circumstances I'm all for them, but they just aren't producing the results that are so essential to the future of our land, waters, and people. Once we realize this is not just a water problem or a land problem but a human problem, then we will truly realize the necessity of requirements and enforcement. We need less pollution and not enough farmers are volunteering, we need to require these measures, for everyone's sake.

Thank you for your consideration, I appreciate your full consideration!

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #714.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 3:28 PM

Name Mark Morrissey

City Urbandale

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, (Strategy) released on November 19, 2012. United Services Association and its agricultural retail members congratulates the tremendous effort by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Iowa State University. United Services Association supports the Strategy and encourages all Iowans, policy makers, farms, businesses and academia to embrace the draft and its implementation.

Cooperation from Point and Non- Point Sources:

This draft, for the first time, encompasses both point source and non-point source targeted reductions of both Nitrogen and Phosphorus. We are impressed that the urban and rural share common goals, despite differences in how the reductions are reached. While the Strategy focuses on 130 point source permits, the non-point sources are estimated to be around 90,000 farms. This difference requires executing cooperative, science based solutions from non-point sources as it is not practical to permit 90,000 farms.

Harnessing the collective rural effort:

Recently, many non-profit agriculture groups have been focusing on water quality generally and nutrient reduction specifically. The Strategy can become the road map for a coordinated effort from non-point sources and thus, for the first time, encourage similar goals and program objectives. This is critical to the success of the Strategy. Farms, rural agribusinesses and the organizations that represent them stand ready to implement the Strategy; we simply need to begin as soon as practical.

Consideration of multiple objectives; balancing water quality and food production:

Careful consideration should be placed with balancing water quality improvements with the production of food, fuel and fiber in Iowa. The Strategy balances those objectives by the well documented and thorough scientific assessment portion. We believe the scientific assessment is one of the strongest aspects of the Strategy and should be the basis for water quality improvement projects across the state.

Emphasis on Certified Crop Advisers:

The Strategy highlights a previous untapped resource, Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs). Iowa is home to over 1,000 CCAs who advise farmers on a myriad of soil quality and nutrient management issues. Many CCAs work directly with agriculture retailers to develop and implement field practices. The use of these trusted professionals will be critical in implementing the Strategy.

Sincerely,

Mark Morrissey

President, CEO United Services Association

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #715.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 3:41 PM

Name Casey Schomaker

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I feel that the state should fund the Iowa Nutrition Reduction Strategy. Farmers know what's best for their land. This will help benefit them in the future. Casey Schomaker

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #716.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 3:47 PM

Name Mike McGill

City

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

While the state's proposed strategy recommends strict new rules for cities and industry, it falls far short in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.

History shows that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem.

The strategy puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers and expects them to contribute toward farmers' costs at all levels.

Despite an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow.

The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.

The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Thanks for your consideration.

Mike

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #717.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 3:53 PM

Name Joe Turner

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

The strategy is a science and technology based approach developed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Iowa State University (ISU) to encourage the adoption of voluntary conservation practices that will have the greatest benefit for water quality in the state. It uses ISU research to determine which practices are most effective when applied to Iowa's unique landscapes. The strategy outlines these efforts in a scientific, reasonable and cost-effective manner. Joe Turner

Name Rosemary Partridge**City** Wall Lake**State** Iowa**Providing comment on the following sections:****Executive Summary****Nonpoint Source****Policy****Point Source**

I have lived for the past 35 years in the Raccoon River Watershed and on Carnarvon Creek that is the main water source for Iowa's most southerly glacier formed lake - Lake Blackhawk. The North Raccoon River drains an area of intense agricultural use. It is extremely impaired with silt run-off leading to algae growth, high bacterial counts, cyanobacteria, and other impairments. I routinely warn people to avoid body contact with the river as it leads to eye infections and worse. Blackhawk Lake is also an impaired water body and is right now undergoing a massive effort to reduce siltation and phosphorus pollution. This is a voluntary effort with extra money being targeted to land use practices. It is not the first time that this kind of an effort has been put forth. The effort will have good results no doubt but if the past is to teach us anything those land practices will gradually have their contracts run out and it is doubtful that they will be renewed. The price of grain and the price of land dictate more and more land being intensively farmed and thus voluntary practices just can not keep up. The land use practices that I witness on surrounding farmlands are enough to break a conservationists heart. Iowa land is a world treasure that with present land usage practices is more and more under threat. The voluntary agri-business written guide lines for non point nutrient reduction are not nearly enough to stem the tide of topsoil loss and water degradation. Voluntary measures won't do - certainly we need strong regulations to protect both land and water.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #719.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 4:20 PM

Name Jack Burrignt

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support the fact that there needs to be farmer compliance of the proposed Nutrient Reduction Strategy, but I am not sure that voluntary compliance will get the job done. They say that one size does not fit all, which is true, but when you go to the shoe store not everybody buys the same size shoe. There are different sizes for different people's feet. I think the same theory can apply to the conservation practices. The practices can be taylored to the various farms as not all farms across the state are the same. I am not really in favor of more government control of what the farmers can do, but I have seen too many instances when voluntary compliance did not work. Therefore I think that only voluntary compliance doesn't work there should be a backup plan to force compliance where there is evidence that the farmer has not taken steps to reduce nutrient runoff. I see too many examples of where farmers have taken out strutures installed to reduce runoff or eliminate practices that were implemented to reduce nutrient runoff. Complete voluntary compliance will not work. Jack Burrignt

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #720.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 4:21 PM

Name Dr.Wesley F. Buchele, Agriculture

City 239 Parkridge Circle, Ames

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Between 1951 and 1955, I, Dr. Wesley F. Buchele, Agr. Eng. conducted research in cooperation with Prof. E. V. Collins and ARS., US Dept of Agr. Agricultural Engineer Walter G. Lovely. We developed the System and the Equipment for the Ridge-Till Sustainable System of Conservation Tillage. The theory of the system is the contoured ridge-rows (Every Row is a Contoured Terrace) will hold and infiltrate the rain water that falls on the land. Contoured ridges will in-pond two and one-half inches of water on the surface of the land and hold it while it infiltrates into the soil. The Acreage of Ridge-Till increased to about 6 million acres in Iowa and Minnesota before No-Till became popular. There are about our million acres of Ridge-Till farming yet today in Iowa and Minnesota.

In water run-off and erosion tests conducted by Lovely and Moldenhower, They found that the erosion from 6% slope from a plow based system of farming was 5 tons of soil and only one fourth of a ton of soil per acre when all rows run up and down the slope. Of course, the ridge rows are normally laid out on a one-half percent slope to the grassed water way instead on u and down the slope. The title of my thesis is Ridge Farming and Plant Rout Environmental. ISU Library. Telephone:515.292.2933 I have this is power-point.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #721.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 5:03 PM

Name Nancy Forrest

City Winterset

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Water quality in IA is unacceptable. Sediment levels, vulnerability to flooding, and recreational usability of our rivers and streams is still alarming. How can we expect that continuing to do more of the same thing with our land and the water that makes crop production possible but expecting different results will work for the water in Iowa, much less for the water that we send to the Gulf of Mexico?

Furthermore, the data cited in this report and the algorithm used to predict outcomes, does NOT include the installation of millions of miles of field tile, the function of riparian and wetland areas, or the retirement of millions of CRP acres fueled by the high prices of corn and soybeans. Nor is there data based upon alternative cropping rotations that involve crop years of legumes, native plants, cover cropping and green manure, and small grain crops. Therefore, the data are incomplete and the predictions unreliable.

Finally, to use smog as an analogy, who could argue that a sane response to the problem would be to leave improving air quality up to the VOLUNTARY efforts of the diverse industries which cause smog. Yet that's what this report advocates for the industry primarily responsible for the unrelenting reality of the Gulf dead zone. Water treatment systems, whether corporate, residential, or municipal are subject to legally regulated practice. Farms must also be regulated.

Farmers, for the most part, understand the need to "feed the factory." Without healthy soil, crops don't grow. However they, like any other consumer at the mercy of every other corporate advertising department, must sort the facts from the fiction while trying to make a living in a highly competitive world. Ethical farmers who have the integrity to do what's best will seek education and answers available from independent science. Not everyone has the time or the expertise to do that. Regulating farming water quality and soil conservation practice using knowledge garnered from independent science will make farming easier for the farmer while actually improving the water quality here in Iowa AND the water quality downstream. The results will be quickly observable and won't require debate or a lobby.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #722.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 5:10 PM

Name Brian Young

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

We need to fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed many needed conservation projects. Brian Young

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #723.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 5:11 PM

Name Ron Mussmann

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

While the state's proposed strategy recommends strict new rules for cities and industry, it falls far short in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.

History shows that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem.

The strategy puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers and expects them to contribute toward farmers' costs at all levels.

Despite an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow.

The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.

The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #724.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 5:13 PM

Name Allison Castle

City Muscatine

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

While the state's proposed strategy recommends strict new rules for cities and industry, it falls far short in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.

History shows that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem.

The strategy puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers and expects them to contribute toward farmers' costs at all levels.

Despite an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow.

The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.

The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Polluted runoff from farmland is having serious effects on Iowa's drinking water please enact a strong policy for public health and the protection of our rivers and streams.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #725.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 5:20 PM

Name Lee Huntrods

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonpoint Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

10 years ago I purchased 43 acres of ground that had never been farmed. 50% of this ground could be farmed today with minimal input to bring the acres into production. Instead I have planted 6,000 trees and shrubs to bring back and expand the Burr Oak Savannah. This ground will act as a Green filter that allows the land to heal itself from sediment and chemical enchoachment; providing clean and adequate water for producers and consumers downstream from my farm. Yes this is a farm. I just chose to explore alternate agriculture. I am currently negotiating on two other properties to expand conservation.

Allow other nutrient strategies to work. Allow funding that will adequately provide benefits. The best time to plant a tree was yesterday. The best time to put your faith in the American farmer is today. Lee Huntrods

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #726.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 5:21 PM

Name Donald West

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I urge you to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Strategy and other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects.

Help us farmers become better stewards of the land while maintaining our agricultural production. Donald West

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #727.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 5:32 PM

Name Brian Feldpausch

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I want to express my support for the voluntary Nutrient Reduction Strategy in Iowa. The state needs a program that allows all groups to continue to implement voluntary strategies and science-based strategies to reduce pollution.

On our farm voluntary strategies have created buffers, improved water ways, and built manure management structures and animal housing facilities.

I also urge the state legislature to fully fund a voluntary implementation strategy. These do work. The NRCS's EQIP program is a great example of a voluntary program that has helped producers "do the right thing". Brian Feldpausch

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #728.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 5:32 PM

Name Jesse Singerman

City Iowa City

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Please do more to protect Iowa's waters and our watershed. Voluntary approaches do not work. Government needs to step in and regulate this issue in a way that restores our natural resource base. Property rights don't extend to polluting and destroying a resource we all need to live. Farmer's should pay for the clean up not taxpayers. They are the polluters. If that means higher costs for food so be it. I am willing to pay my share that way. No more free rides for large farming interests.

Iowa State government is failing in its duty to the state to deal with issues like this that only the government can deal with. This isn't a strategy it is a way to do nothing.

Jesse Singerman

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #729.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 5:35 PM

Name Steven Anderegg

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing you to day to urge the state lawmakers to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects.

This is an item that we are all working for and the farmers in this state will continue to work to ensure conservation for many years to come. On my own farm we have implemented grassed water ways and riparian buffers to ensure that no nutrients enter our water supplies as point source pollution.

With the states help we can continue to increase conservation efforts and protect our natural resource of productive farm soil. Steven Anderegg

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #730.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 5:39 PM

Name Michael Recker

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like you urge you to consider supporting the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. This is an important topic that I believe needs to be a grass roots approach. As agriculture develops, it seems like there are more and more costly regulations. Trying to police rules and regulations could cost more than an incentive program that could work better for the farmers and for the environment.

On our own farm we are enrolled in the CSP program through FSA. This program allows us to voluntarily monitor our nitrogen use. The program also encourages us to use things like Auto-shut offs for sprayers, and Auto-steer to help more accurately apply fertilizer and chemicals. Michael Recker

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #731.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 6:24 PM

Name Aaron Schnepel

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I hope you will support the Iowa nutrient strategy. It will be the best way to approach this need farmers will do their best to continue to take the best care of our water possible. We will use whatever help and technology we can to keep doing our best on my farm we use terracing and farm ponds to keep our soil and nutrients home we don't want to lose any of our black gold. The strategy is the best way to continue this so please fund this Aaron Schnepel

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #732.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 6:32 PM

Name Greg Miller

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a science based state nutrient reduction strategy. Please adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other cost-share programs. Greg Miller

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #733.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 6:33 PM

Name Judith Gaul

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary Nonpoint Source
 Policy Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Please support voluntary conservation practices such as the Hewitt Creek project, grass waterways, and checking soil needs. Farmers would rather have a voluntary rather than a forced law. We need scientific strategies and funding for an Iowa Nutrient reduction strategy. Maybe the Iowa Farm Bureau and other organizations such as the Corn Growers Association could send out information as to implement better practices. Some farmers already are using safe practices but a reminder doesn't hurt. Judith Gaul

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #734.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 6:51 PM

Name Jesse Green

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support doing a science based state nutrient reduction strategy that emphasizes voluntary efforts to conserve nutrients and maintain ag production. Fund this strategy and the other conservation programs.

Our farm has over 40 acres of wetland acres seeded off and we have volunteered to do multiple waterways. There is always more to do and our farm will for sure continue to do everything we can in our conservation efforts. I know many other farms that think the same way we do.
Jesse Green

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #735.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 6:57 PM

Name Ben Van Sickle

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like you as lawmakers to properly fund a program for the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. It is my responsibility as a farmer to properly care for the soil and water(that my family consumes each day). We as Iowa farmer want to stay on top of this Strategy, so there is no penalties in the future. I myself, work hard on conservation practices, such as sediment basins, grass waterways and minimized conventional tillage. We are always adapting new and also improved farming practices each day for soil and water quality. So please help by implementing funding programs to assure this matter will be controlled in the future. Thank you Ben Van Sickle

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #736.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 7:04 PM

Name Patsy Bronner

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy. I feel that voluntary conservation practices are effective and used by producers to protect their valuable soil. If cost-share programs are adequately funded it will encourage conservation programs to proceed without delay. We currently utilize grassed waterways, contour strips, minimum tillage, and crop rotation that includes hay and small-grain. These practices have significantly reduced erosion from water and wind on our farmland. Patsy Bronner

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #737.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 7:20 PM

Name Brady Hanson

City Castana

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

I hope that when New POLICY is being made that they use some science based technichs because if they dont it is just another loophole that is open for someone in a power position to shove down people throats there is enough mistrust as it is,good science is good business

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #738.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 7:31 PM

Name Edwin Townsend

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Iowa needs a well funded nutrient reduction strategy coupled with adequately funded conservation cost -share program to reduce nutrient run off. On our family farm we use ,terraces,grass filter strips, crop rotation & reduced or no-till to accomplish this. Edwin Townsend

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #739.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 7:53 PM

Name Justin Faber

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like you to support and fund a voluntary conservation program. I think that most farmers do conservation friendly practices on their own already. I am a member of our conservation board and on the local pheasants forever committee and the funding for these programs are important to the environment.

I know on our farm we use filter strips and also have put sensitive areas in CRP. We are also starting to use strip till to place the fertilizer in a more efficient location. Justin Faber

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #740.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 7:54 PM

Name Patrick Bosold

City Fairfield

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

The state's proposed strategy recommends strict new rules for cities and industry, but it falls far short in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.

We have far too much evidence that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem.

The strategy puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers and expects them to contribute toward farmers' costs at all levels. It is time to change this imbalance.

The state Plan includes an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, but the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow.

The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy. This needs to be a part of the final Plan.

The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #741.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 7:56 PM

Name Paul Pingel

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would like to share with you my support of developing a science and technology based method of an nutrient reduction plan. This is the most sound way of solving the problem. We cannot just accept a long list of regulations without having some sort of good scientific data behind them.

Thank You Paul Pingel

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #742.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 8:06 PM

Name Paul Gerlach

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am writing in regard to the nutrient reduction strategy. I feel it is very important for voluntary conservation practices and the need for funding to help implement these practices.

We have worked with the NRCS office to put in two tling basins and one total containment structure. These were able to be built with the help of cost share funding.

We also have plans to do streambank stabilization in the future. We feel we are voluntarily doing our part to benefit our farm and the surrounding environment. Paul Gerlach

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #743.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 8:08 PM

Name Robert Maass

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

Since agriculture and agricultural businesses are the economic engines that have kept this state running, it is up to you, our state lawmakers and Secretary of Agriculture, to respect the scientific research that has gone into the nutrient reduction strategy and support it!

Experience is the best of teachers, and today's producers are the most conservation minded in history. But with higher taxes and more regulations business decisions must be made for the survival of the family farm.

Please support and adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other cost-share conservation projects.

Thank you. Robert Maass

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #744.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 8:24 PM

Name Troy Wheeler

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I am a southern Iowa farmer that uses field border buffer strips and contour buffer strips to help control erosion and nutrient loss. I also support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

I hope that lawmakers adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects. Troy Wheeler

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #745.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 8:54 PM

Name Linda Schrader

City Chariton

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

While the state's proposed strategy recommends strict new rules for cities and industry, it falls far short in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.

History shows that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem.

The strategy puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers and expects them to contribute toward farmers' costs at all levels.

Despite an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow.

The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.

The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

Name David Pingel**City****State****Providing comment on the following sections:****Executive Summary****Nonpoint Source****Policy****Point Source**

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices. This science-based strategy is needed to maintain agricultural production in Iowa. The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy needs to be adequately funded along with the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects. These projects are needed to maintain a sustainable agricultural system in the state of Iowa. Not only for the current generation but for many generations to come.

My family farm has implemented numerous conservation practices. We have added buffer strips and grass waterways where needed. We have left some of our best land in pasture and hay that could easily be planted to row crop. Most of the land is near a creek so the grass filters any runoff including some from the surrounding roads. We have implemented these conservation practices to benefit the future of our farm. I would like to have the chance to one day let the next generation farm this land. My family has farmed in this area and some of this land for over a century. I hope my family is able to farm it for the next century.

These practices also need to be used in urban areas too. For instance, I lived in Ames Iowa for over 10 years. I know of several instances where lawns received enough fertilizer to produce more than 100 bushels of corn per acre. The lawns were way over fertilized but the owners wanted a green lawn. If there was a large rain all the excess fertilizer ran in the storm drain and eventually right in the river. I am not trying to pick on urban areas like Ames. However, I think EVERYONE needs to use sensible and sustainable conservation practices to help conserve soil and water.

Thank you for your time and efforts to help maintain agricultural production in the state of Iowa. I would like to reiterate my support for a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices. David Pingel

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #747.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 8:56 PM

Name Bob SyWassink

City Letts

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

I appreciate all the time and efforts put into this study.

I have been and continue to be supportive of voluntary conservative methods in order to meet the goals stated. I am opposed to having big government making decisions of what is best for farming operations and how we feed and fuel the world.

I am somewhat concerned with the timing of the study and the above normal levels of rainfall during some or all of the study timeframe. In contrast with the last season with such a shortage of rainfall. Weather has such an impact on fertilizer plans which a farmer makes as he prepares his fields for the next crop.

I remember a couple of years ago talking with a farmer that planned to apply his N in the spring and was unable to because of the amount of rain and softness of the fields. His decision to spring apply N that year that he missed because of the rain, had a big negative impact on his yields.

Farmers want to grow their crops economically and in environmentally friendly fashion. Applying excess fertilizer cuts into his profits and is not wise. I already use or have tried most of the practices discussed or recommended such as no-till, spring applied nitrogen, variable rate fertilizer application, side dressing nitrogen, cover crops.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #748.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 9:08 PM

Name Gary Woodley

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices and the need to maintain agricultural production.

I am urging you to adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, as well as the state's other conservation cost-share programs. Iowa's failure to adequately fund these programs in the past has delayed needed conservation projects.

In order to help reduce leaching and erosion, I use grass waterways and reduced-till and no-till. Gary Woodley

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #749.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 9:12 PM

Name Denyce Rusch

City Fairfield

State Iowa

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

I am very concerned about the proposed strategy for controlling pollution from crop fields. I have worked as an IOWATER volunteer and greatly value Iowa's water quality. But also, our large scale farming practices have an impact not only in our own rivers and streams, but all the way into the Gulf of Mexico. We have a responsibility to our whole country to get this right. The current proposed strategy has great weaknesses that need to be addressed:

While the state's proposed strategy recommends strict new rules for cities and industry, it falls far short in addressing agriculture's contributions to the excessive nutrients in our water.

History shows that relying on voluntary measures is ineffective. On average, only about 30 percent of Iowa farmers participate in voluntary programs, and 40 years of relying on this approach has done little to fix the problem.

The strategy puts the bulk of the financial burden on taxpayers and expects them to contribute toward farmers' costs at all levels.

Despite an accompanying science assessment that outlines the well-documented effectiveness of numerous conservation practices that farm businesses can implement immediately, the state plan recommends no minimum standard of care that farmers should follow.

The state plan lays out no timelines, interim goals or means of measuring annual progress toward cutting agricultural pollution. Specifying milestones and expected results is a key element of any effective strategy.

The strategy fails to specify how pollution control plans will be implemented, how problems will be prioritized or who will make these decisions.

It is vital that we put some teeth into this strategy, or we will continue to grow the Gulf dead zone, and Iowa taxpayers will pay for an inefficient policy. Please let us actually make some progress and show Iowans to be the concerned world citizens we are.

Thank you.

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Online comment submissions

Page 1 of comment #750.

Timestamp 1/14/2013 9:29 PM

Name Paul Vaassen

City

State

Providing comment on the following sections:

Executive Summary

Nonpoint Source

Policy

Point Source

Secretary of Agriculture Northey,

I would ask that you would adequately fund the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other conservation cost-share programs. It is important that we support a science-based state nutrient reduction strategy that recognizes the importance of voluntary conservation practices.

We have had a conservation program on this farm for over 65 years. We contour, strip crop, rotate crops, and have pasture between the cropland and the creek that runs through the farm.

We firmly believe in conservation practices and the need to protect the environment. Paul Vaassen