

Developing County-Level Nutrient Inventories



Robert Sabo (EPA ORD), Qian Zhang (UMCES), Cuiyin Wu (CRC), Breck Sullivan (CRC), Emily Trentacoste (EPA CBPO)

**Modeling Quarterly
10/9/2019**

A reminder...

At the April 2018 Modeling Quarterly...

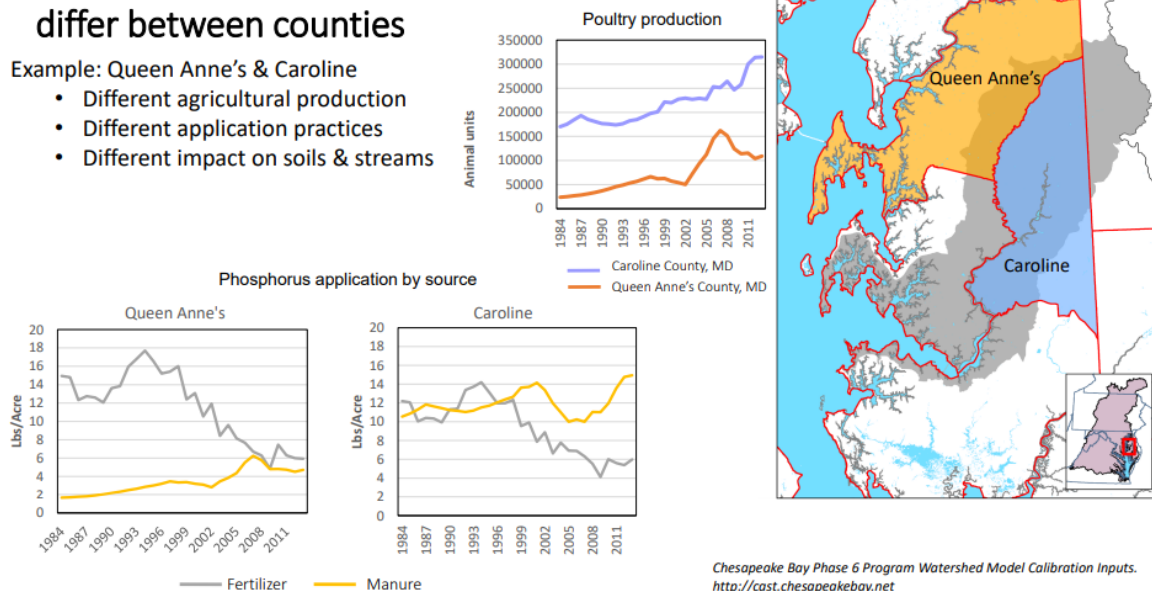
Emily presented on work integrating modeling, monitoring and research to build local water quality stories that demonstrate to partners the utility of the information

Robert presented work on a national nutrient inventory that he helped develop, then used to explain water quality trends at some CBP non-tidal network monitoring stations

Sources, drivers, and impacts can differ between counties

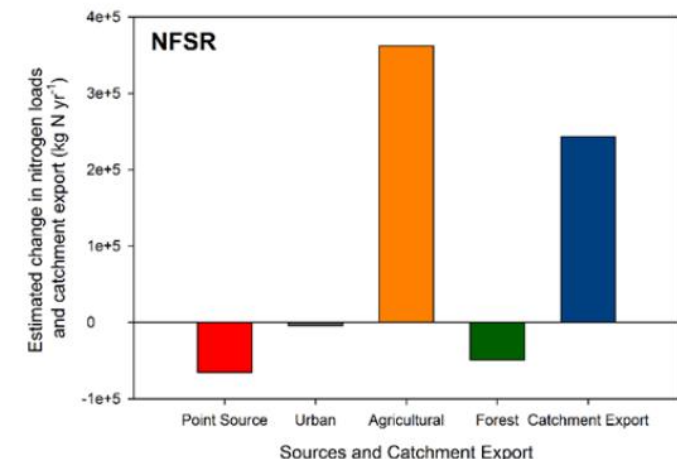
Example: Queen Anne's & Caroline

- Different agricultural production
- Different application practices
- Different impact on soils & streams



Countervailing changes in point and non-point source nutrient loads

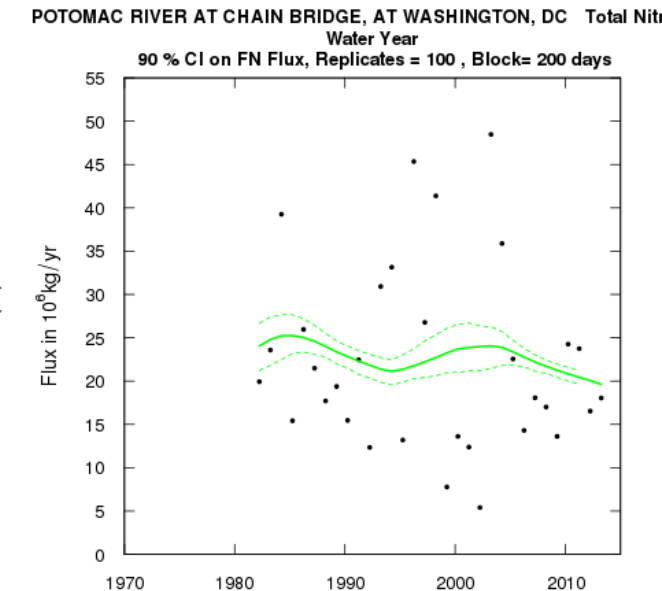
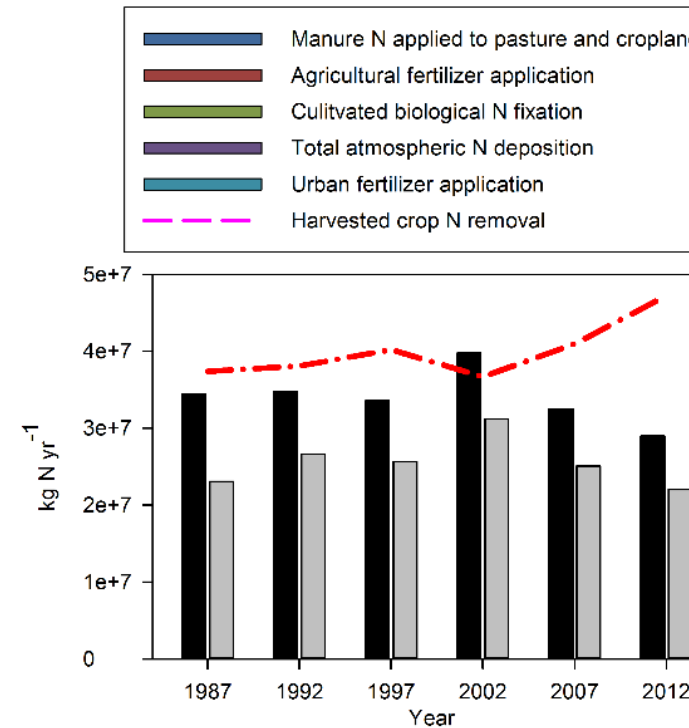
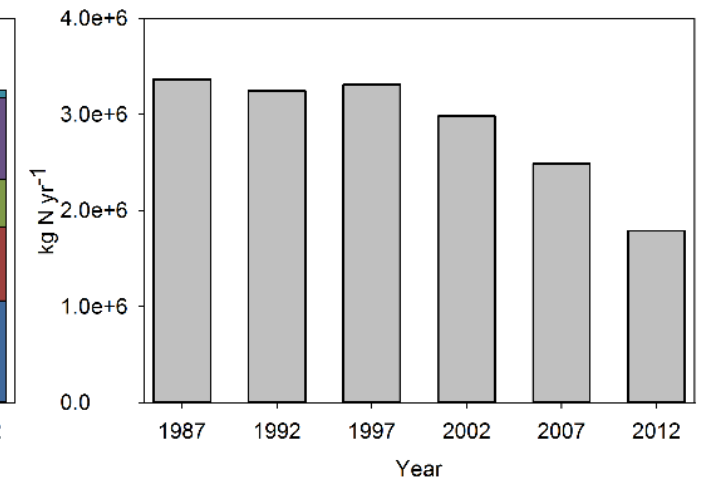
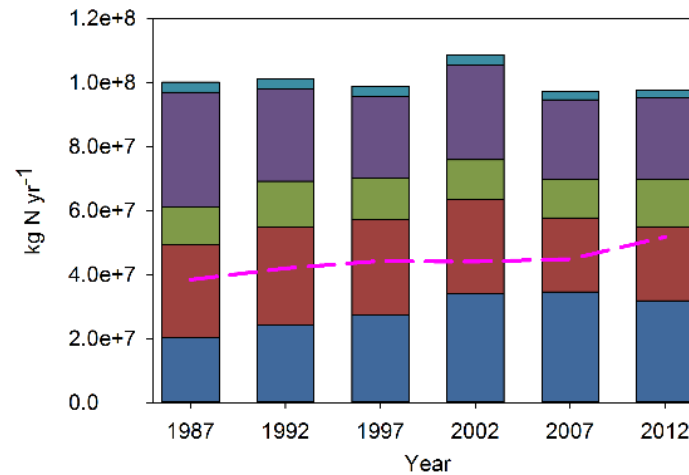
- Decreased atmospheric N deposition reduced non-point source loads across the catchment
 - Decreased atmospheric deposition offset increased agricultural loads by 10%
- Decreased point source loads and non-point source loads from urban areas and forests offset increased agricultural loads by 32%



A reminder...

We discussed:

- Using CBP Phase 6 model inputs to develop a nutrient inventory for the Bay watershed
- Utilizing these inputs to explain water quality at all NTN stations
- Modeling WG members brought up county-level nutrient inventories as being a potentially useful interim product



County-level Nutrient Inventory



Creating Database: Data from 1985 - 2018

- Data downloaded from CAST
 - FIPS
 - County Name
 - State Abbreviation
 - Acres (Ag, Developed, Natural)
 - NO₂
 - NH₃
 - OrgN
 - PO₄
 - OrgP
 - Stored Nutrients Lbs
 - Riparian Pasture Nutrients Lbs
 - Biosolids Lbs Applied
 - Direct Deposit Manure Applied
 - Fertilizer Lbs Applied
 - Urban Fertilizer Lbs Applied
 - Legume Lbs Fixed
 - Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - Combined Sewer Overflow
 - Septic
- Data from 2010 Census
 - Population
- Data calculated from CAST data
 - Poultry – filtered for broilers, layers, pullets, & turkeys from Stored Nutrient Lbs Applied
 - Livestock – filtered for beef, dairy, goats, hogs and pigs for breeding, hogs for slaughter, horses, other cattle, sheep and lambs from Stored Nutrient Lbs Applied
 - Poultry & Livestock
 - Total Point Source
 - Crop Removal
 - Total N Atmospheric Deposition
 - Total Ag Application – Poultry + Livestock + Ag Fertilizer
 - Nitrogen Use Efficiency
 - Ag Surplus

County-level Nutrient Inventory

FACTSHEET!

Lancaster County, PA

(Placeholder) The following information provides details about various nitrogen inputs to the watershed for Lancaster, PA to help stakeholders identify the specific sources they need to control and understand how these sources have changed over time.



The largest nitrogen sources within catchment are tied to agriculture.



Livestock waste has increased over the period of record, whereas fertilizer use declined after 2002.



Point Source Loads and atmospheric N deposition have also declined.



Nitrogen use efficiency increased over the period of record due to increases in N crop removal and decreases in fertilizer input.

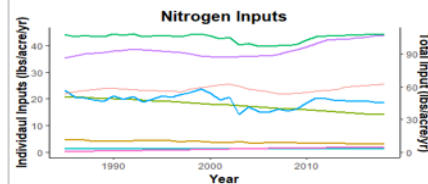


Figure 1. Time series of nitrogen inputs onto land and point source loads into streams from 1985 – 2018.

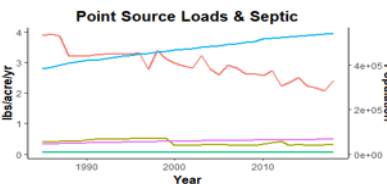


Figure 2. Various components of point source loads into rivers and streams

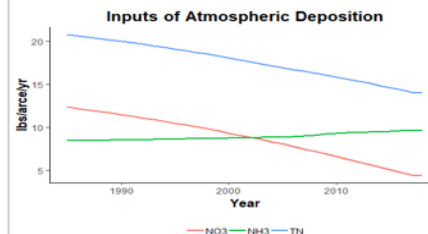


Figure 3. Time series of climate adjusted rates in atmospheric N deposition.

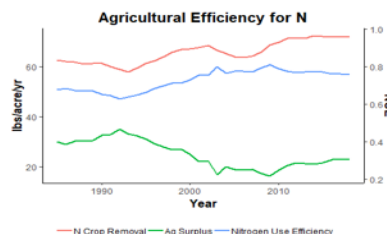
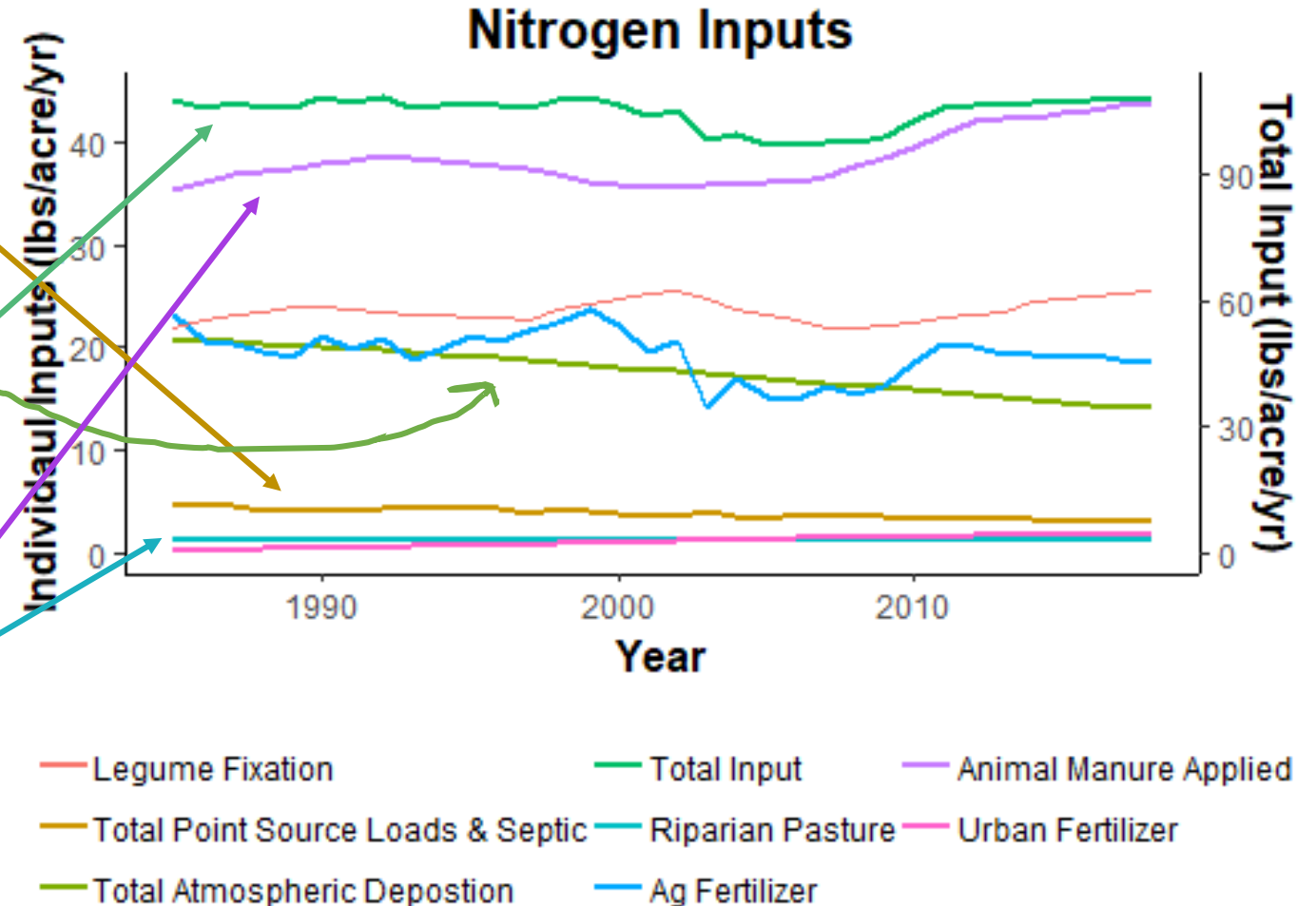


Figure 4. Crop N removal, nitrogen use efficiency, and agricultural surplus.

Time Series for Nitrogen: Nitrogen Inputs

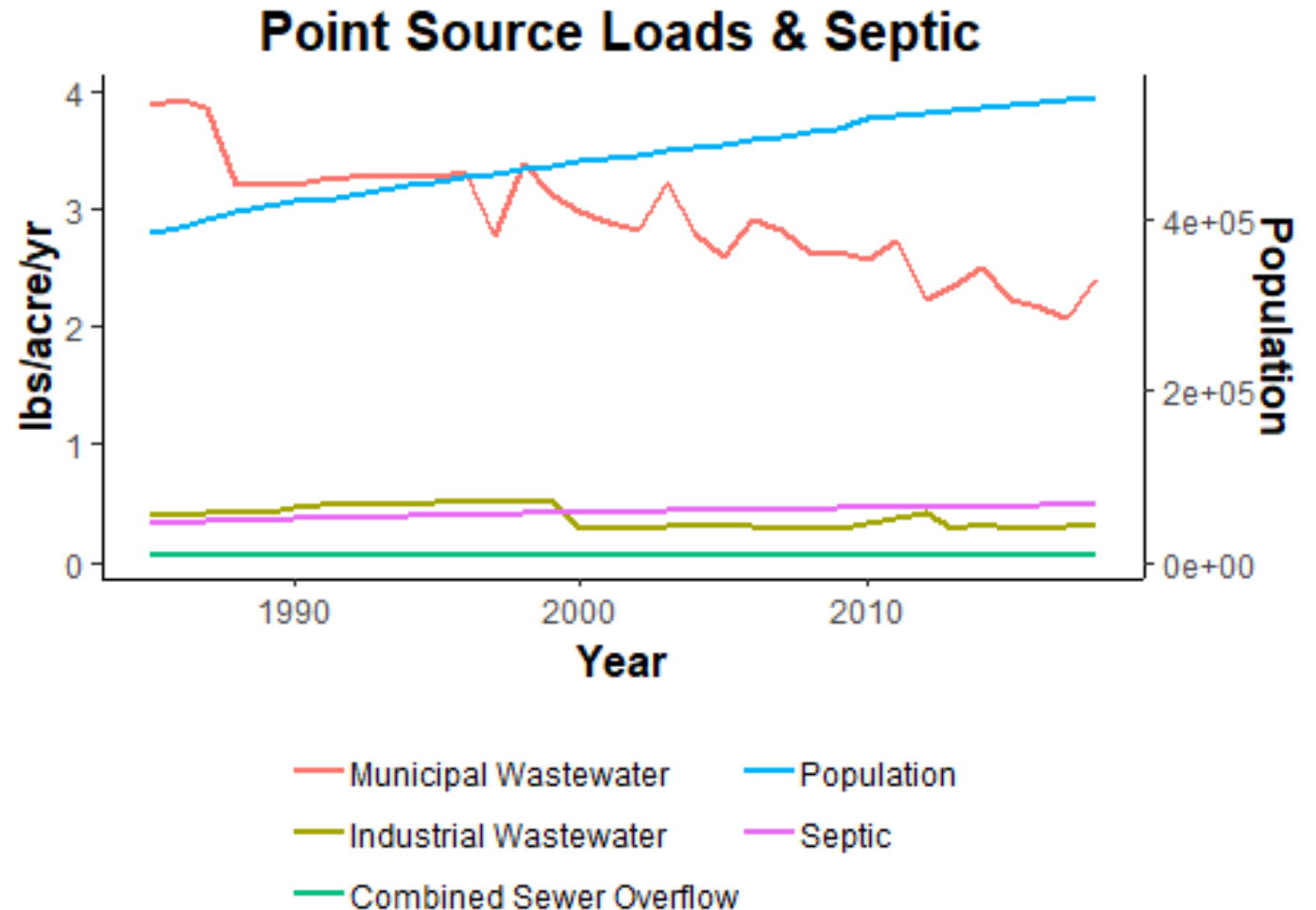
- **Total Point Source Loads & Septic** = Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant + Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant + Combined Sewer Overflow + Septic
- **Total Atmospheric Deposition** = (NH₃ + NO₃ on land acres) + (NH₃ + NO₃ + Organic Nitrogen on water acres)
- **Total Input** = Legume + Poultry + Livestock + Riparian Pasture + Total Point Source Loads & Septic + Total N Atmospheric Deposition + Urban Fertilizer + Ag Fertilizer
- **Riparian Pasture** = Livestock manure deposited into stream/riparian area
- **Animal Manure Applied** = Direct manure deposited on pasture



Time Series for Nitrogen: Point Source Loads & Septic

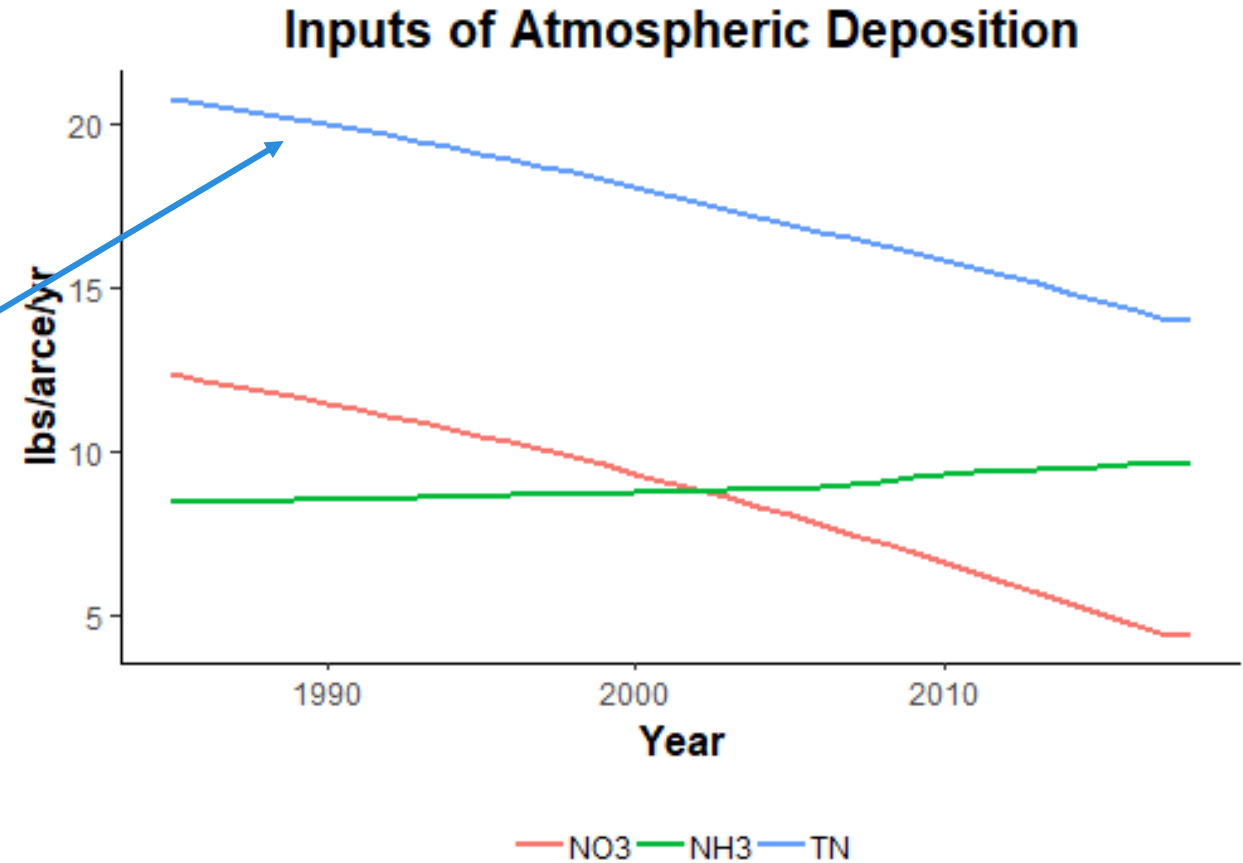


- Various components of point source loads into rivers and streams.
- While **Population** is increasing, **Municipal Wastewater** is decreasing over the period of record.



Time Series for Nitrogen: Atmospheric Deposition

- Time series of climate adjusted rates in **Atmospheric Deposition**.
- **Total N** = ($\text{NH}_3 + \text{NO}_3$ on land acres) + ($\text{NH}_3 + \text{NO}_3$ + organic nitrogen on water acres).



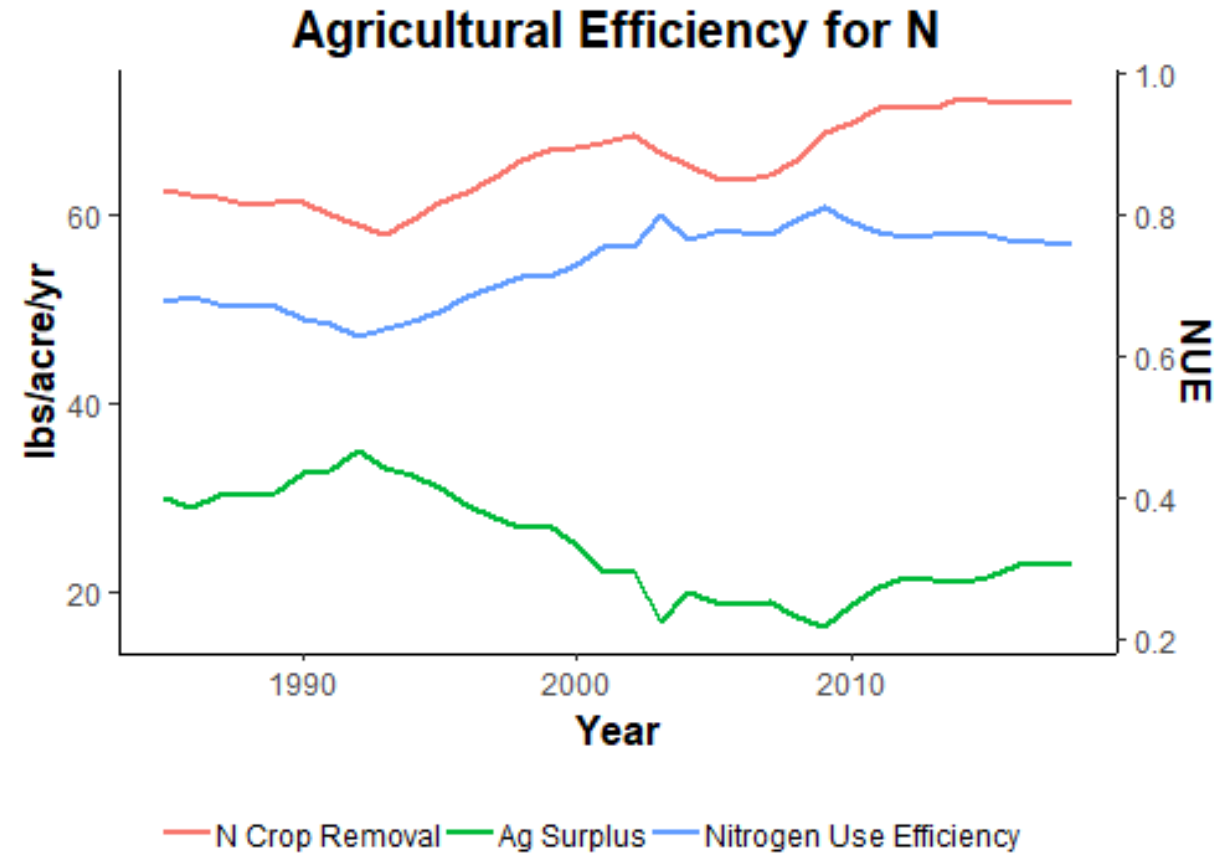
Time Series for Nitrogen: Agricultural Efficiency

Ag Surplus is the extra N ag inputs not used.

- **Ag Surplus** = Legume + Poultry + Livestock + Atm Dep On Ag Land + Ag Fertilizer - N Crop Removal

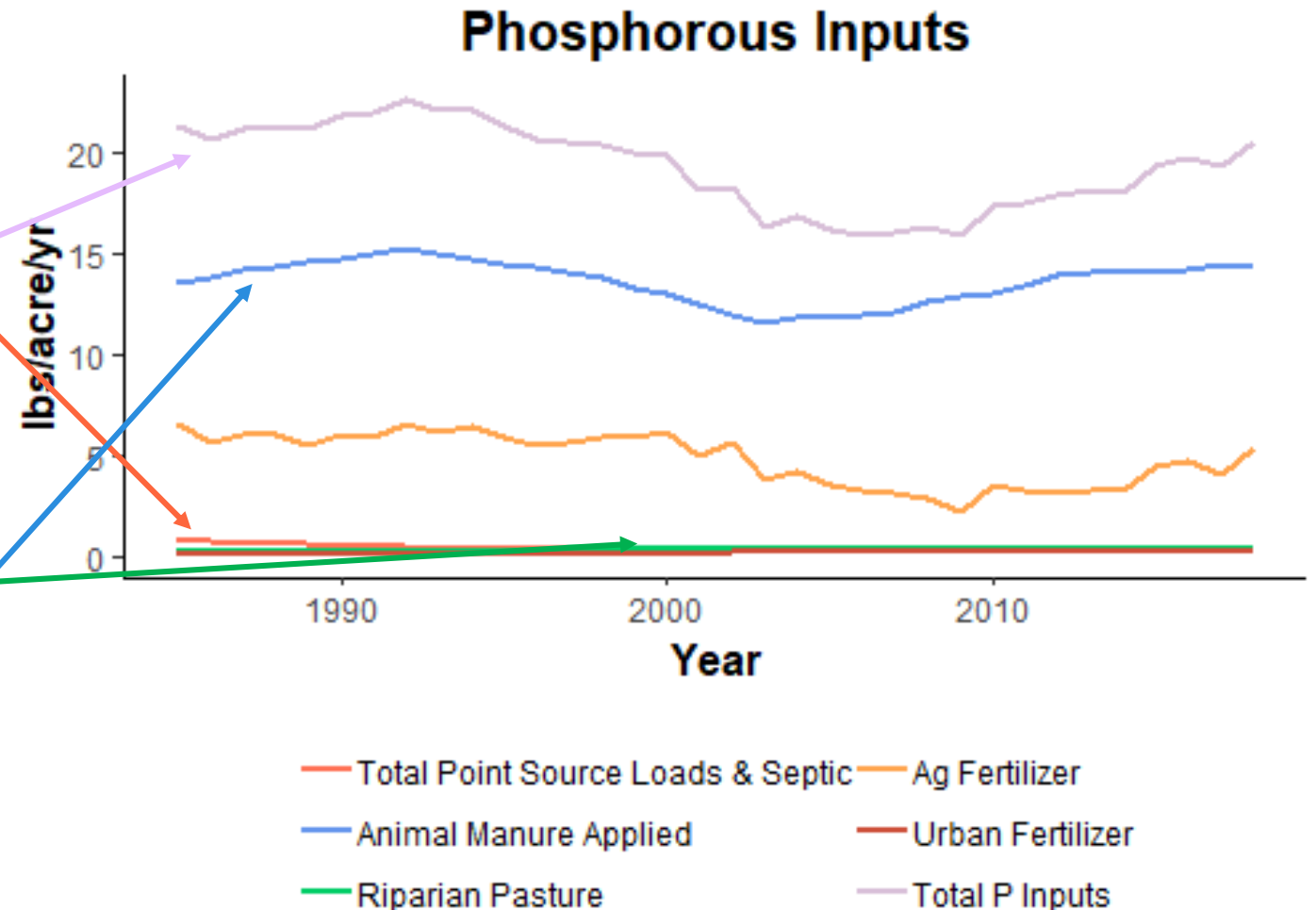
Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) is the proportion of N removed from the field after harvest (crop out for N put in).

- **NUE** = N Crop Removal / (Legume+ Poultry + Livestock+ Atm Dep On Ag Land+ Ag Fertilizer)



Time Series for Phosphorous: Phosphorous Inputs

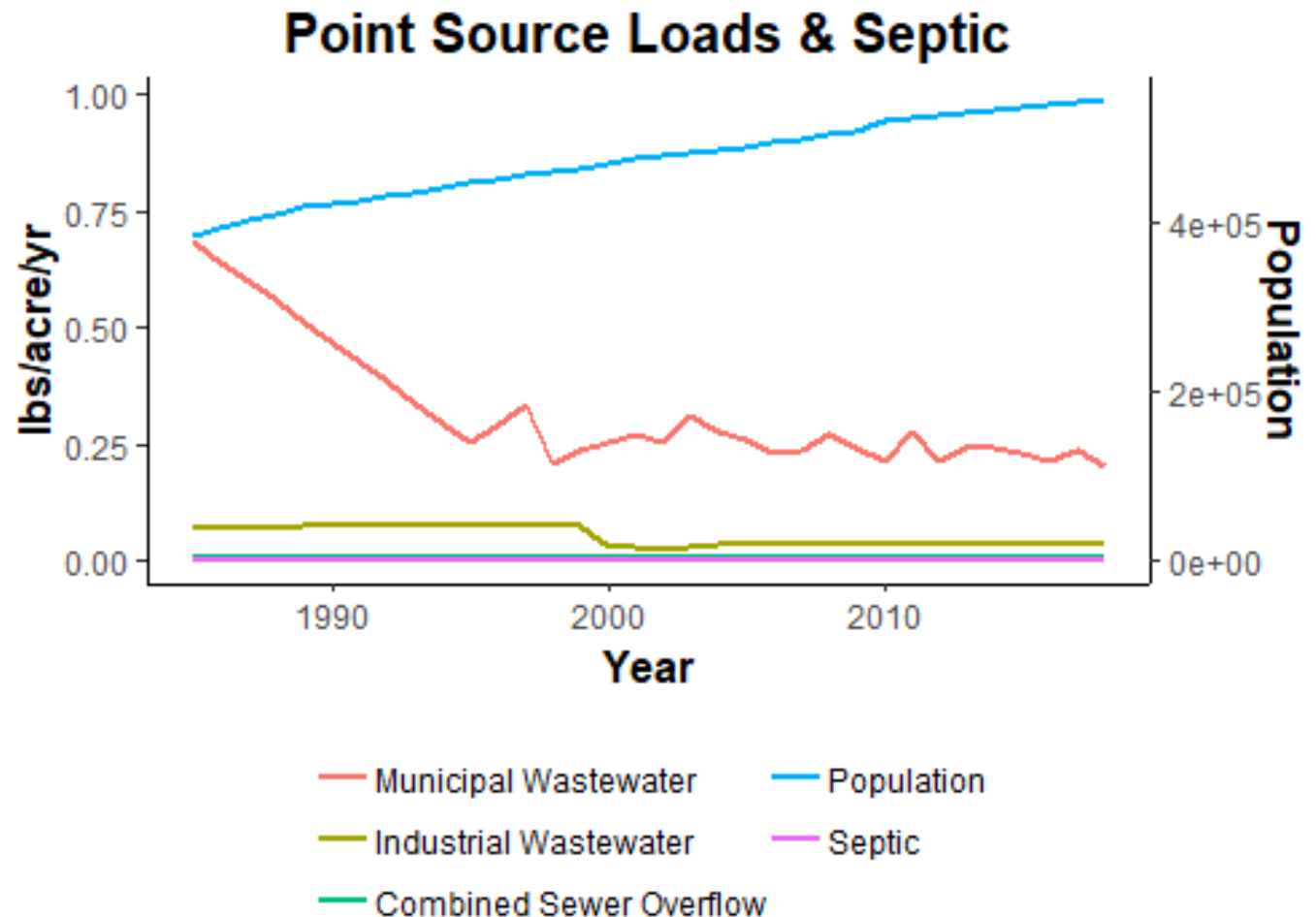
- **Total Point Source Loads & Septic** = Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant (MWTP) + Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP) + Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) + Septic
- **Total P Inputs** = Poultry + Livestock + Riparian Pasture + Total Point Source loads + Septic + Total Phosphorous Atmospheric Deposition + Urban Fertilizer + Ag Fertilizer
- **Riparian Pasture** = Livestock manure deposited into stream/riparian area
- **Animal Manure Applied** = Direct manure deposited on pasture



Time Series for Phosphorous: Point Source Loads & Septic

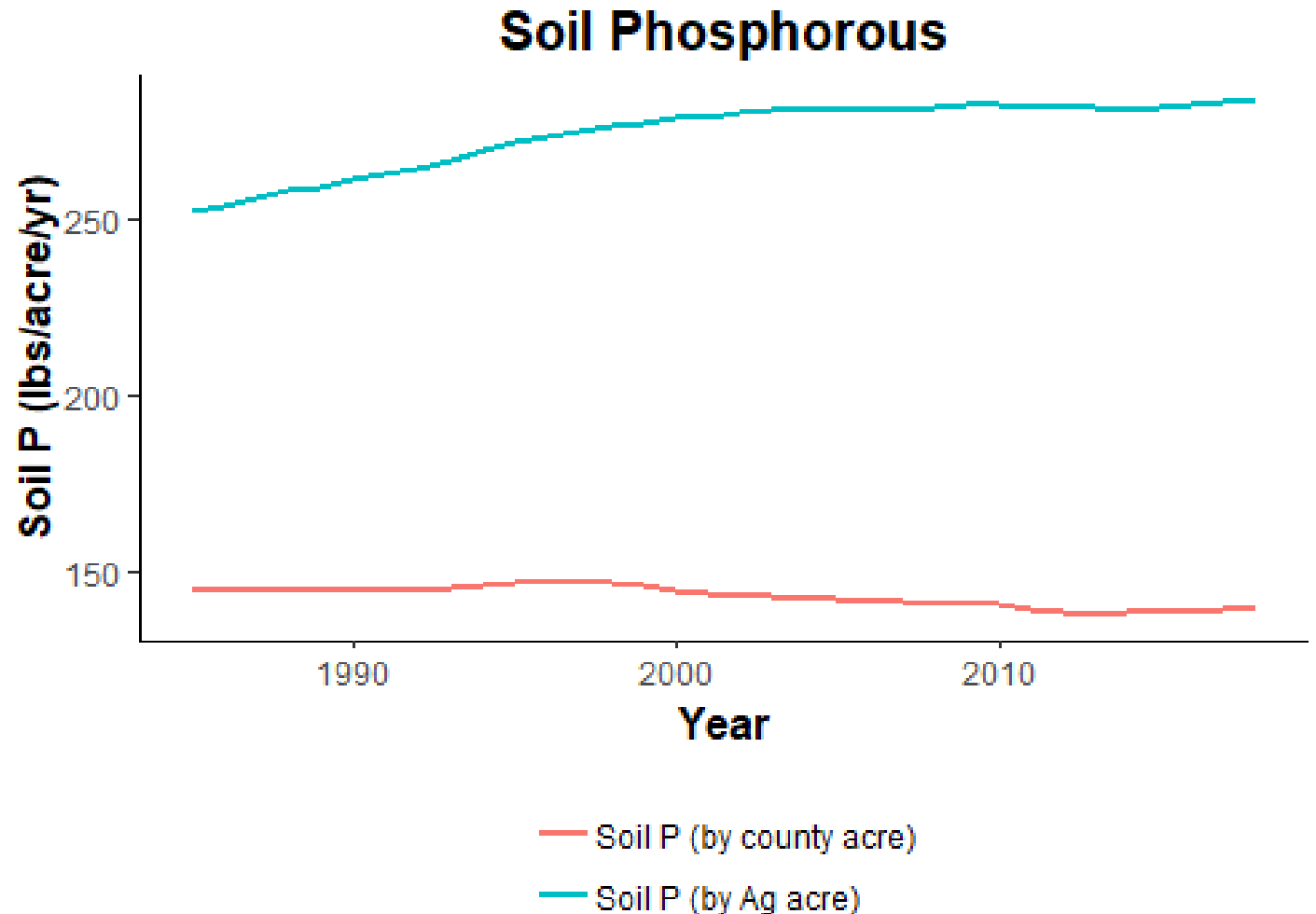


- Various components of point source loads into rivers and streams.
- While **Population** is increasing, **Municipal Wastewater** is significantly decreasing over the period of record.



Time Series for Phosphorous: Soil Phosphorous

- **Soil P by county acre** =
Phosphorous level in soil
normalized by Lancaster
County area
- **Soil P by Ag acre** =
Phosphorous level in soil
normalized by Lancaster
County **Agricultural** area



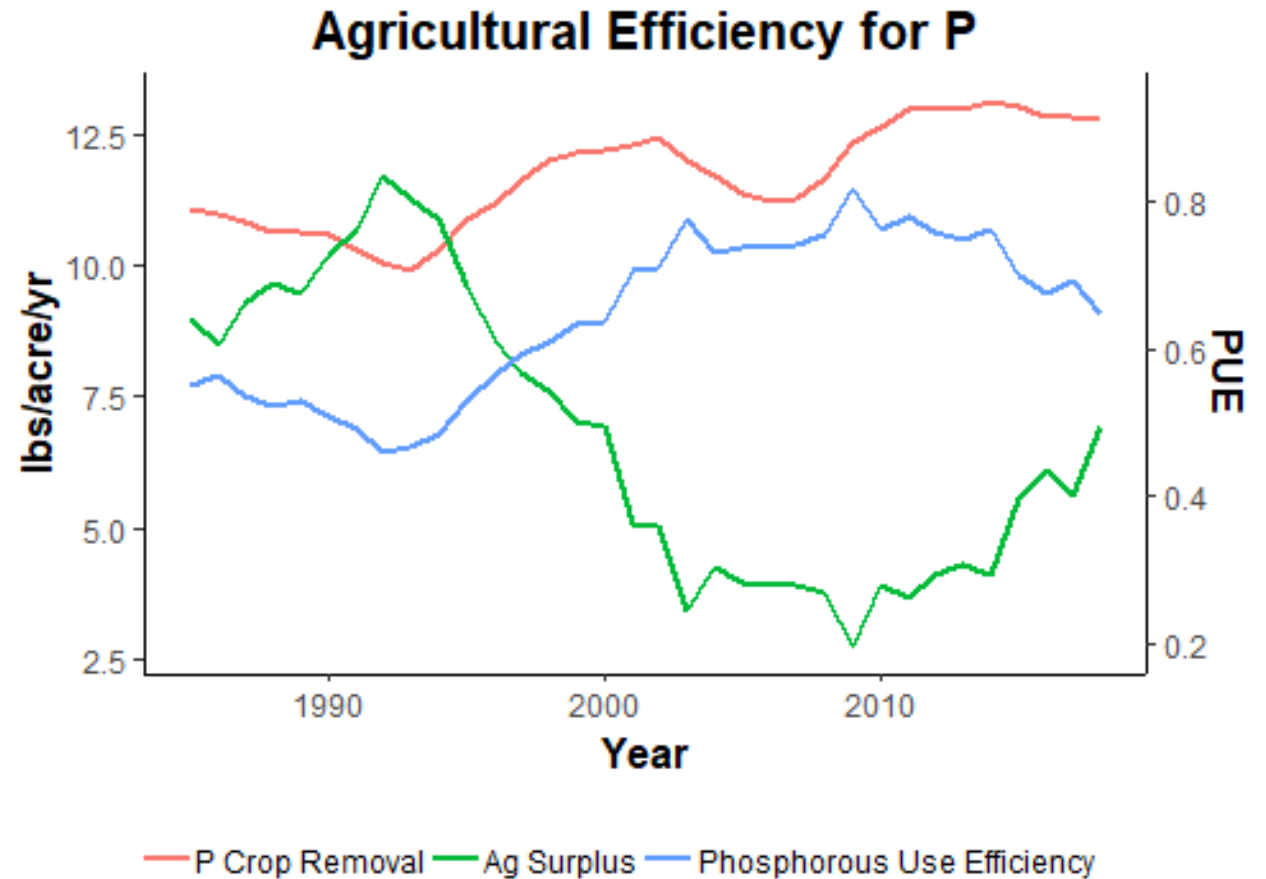
Time Series for Phosphorous: Agricultural Efficiency

Ag Surplus is the extra P ag inputs not used.

- **Ag Surplus** = Poultry + Livestock + Ag Fertilizer - N Crop Removal

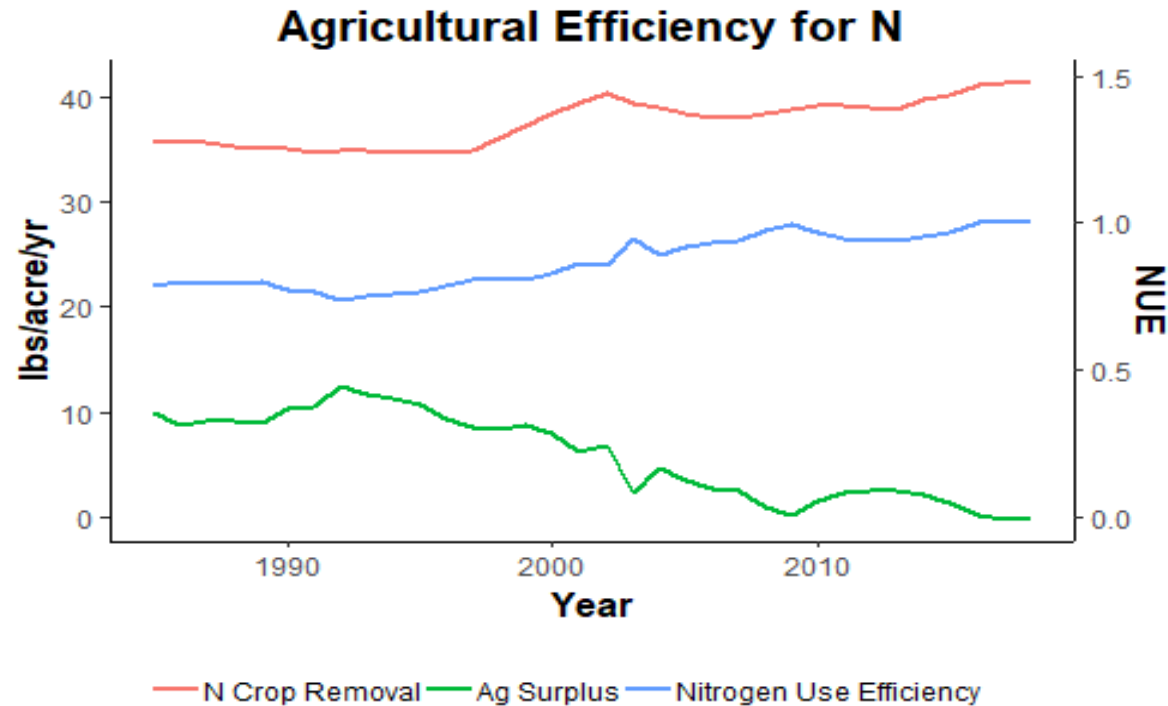
Phosphorous Use Efficiency (PUE) is the proportion of P removed from the field after harvest (crop out for P put in).

- **PUE** = N Crop Removal / (Poultry + Livestock + Ag Fertilizer)

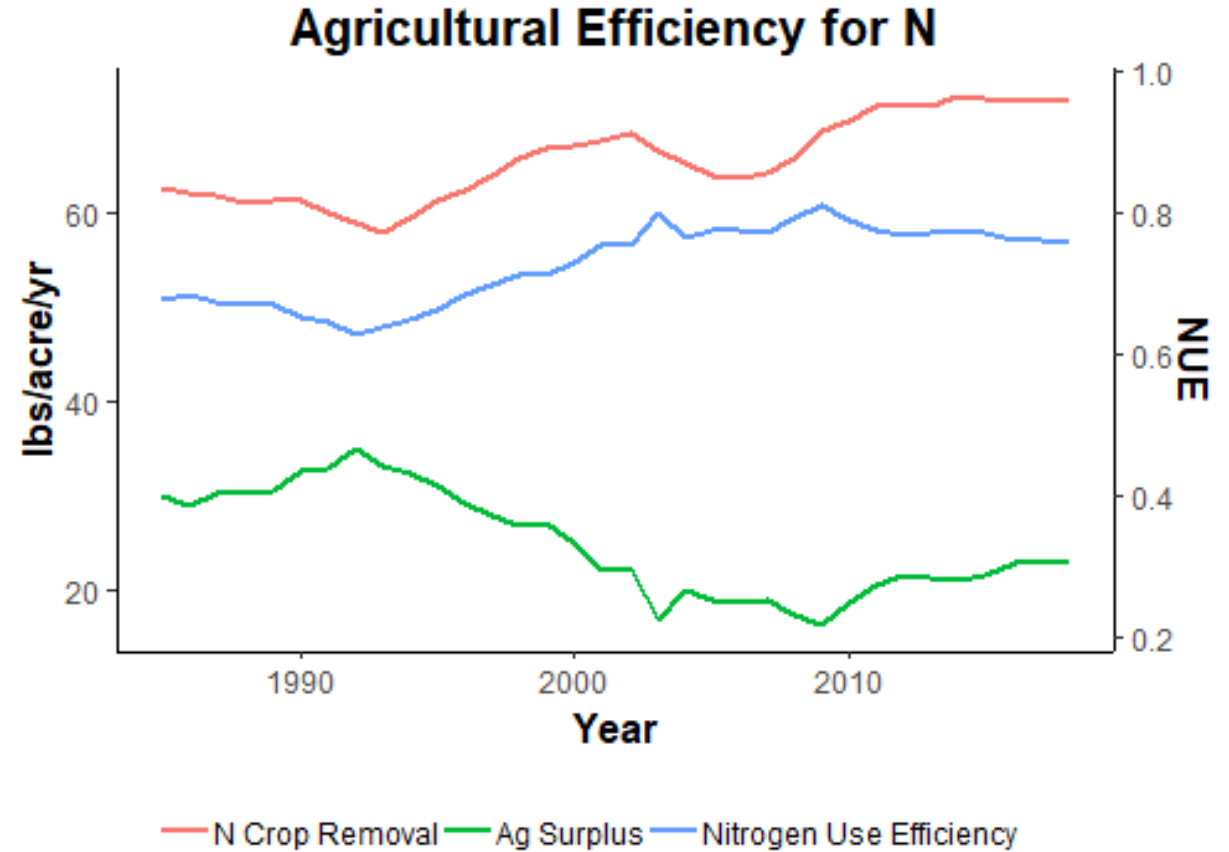


Are certified nutrient management plans effective?

Washington County, MD

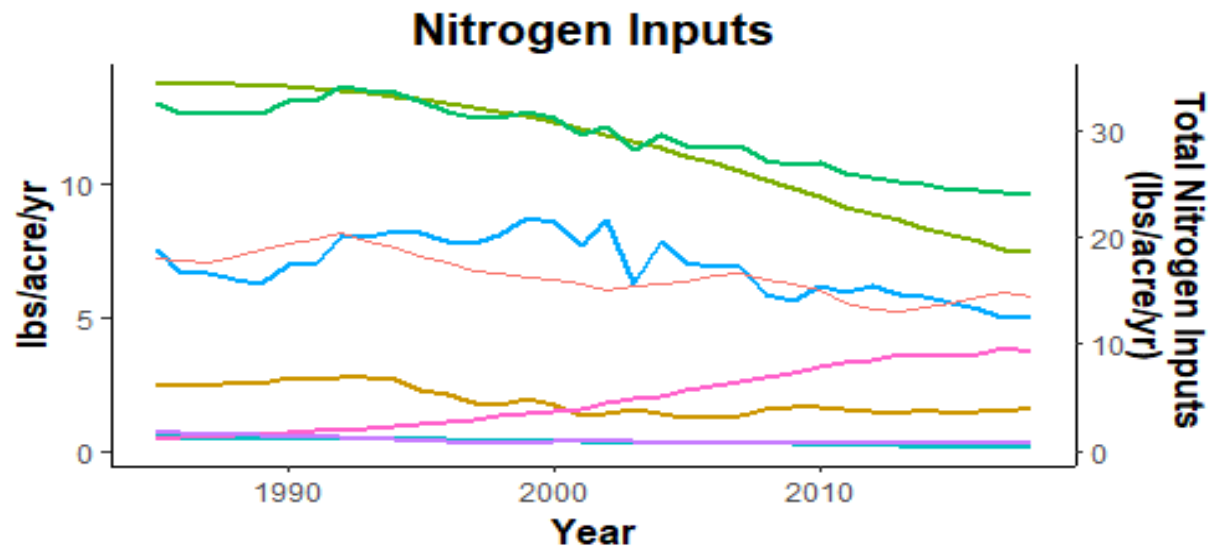


Lancaster County, PA



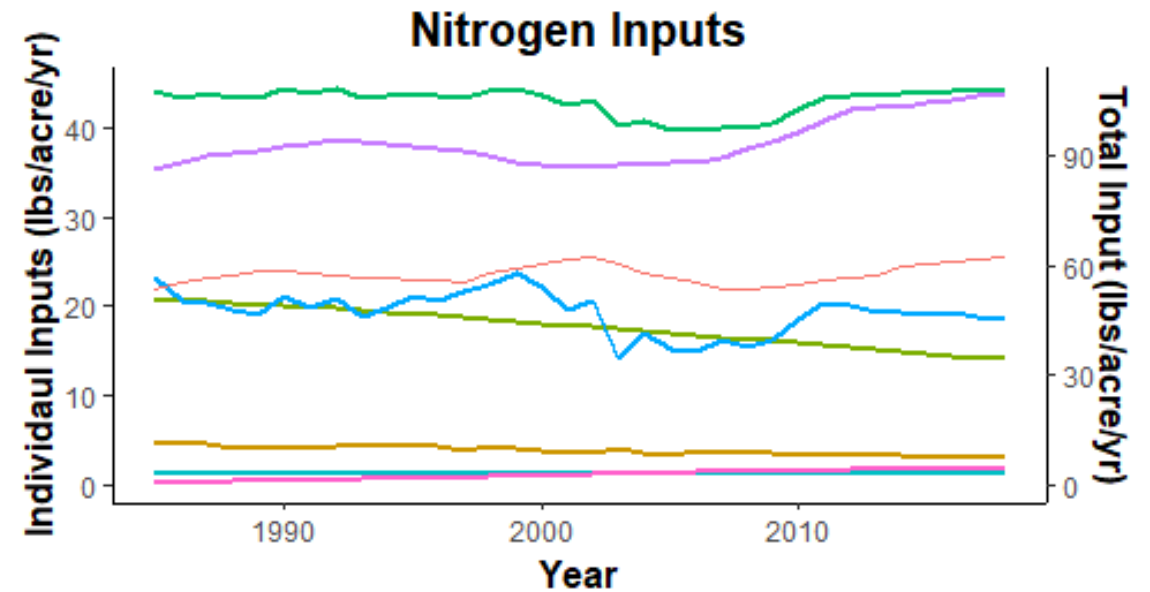
Impacts of suburbanization on nitrogen inputs?

Loudoun County, VA



— Legume Fixation — TN Source Input — Animal Manure Applied
— Total Point Source Loads & Septic — Riparian Pasture — Urban Fertilizer
— TN Atmospheric Deposition — Ag Fertilizer

Lancaster County, PA



— Legume Fixation — Total Input — Animal Manure Applied
— Total Point Source Loads & Septic — Riparian Pasture — Urban Fertilizer
— Total Atmospheric Deposition — Ag Fertilizer

Next steps



- Gather feedback on county-level nutrient inventory fact sheets from WQGIT and its workgroups (e.g. Agriculture, Watershed Technical)
- Gather feedback on fact sheets from user partners (e.g. county-level partners, planning district commissions, conservation districts)
- Finish compiling county-level nutrient inventory database and make publicly available for partners
- Discuss how to develop watershed-level nutrient inventory
- Utilize nutrient inventory to begin analyzing water quality trends at non-tidal network stations