

Highlights of 2013 NRCS CEAP report for CBW croplands

Assessment approach

- Croplands only
- Simulated estimates of N, P, and sediment loading using APEX and SWAT models
- Primary data sources
 - CEAP farmer surveys (2003-2006 and 2011)
 - National Resources Inventory (NRI)
 - Includes data on both voluntary and cost-shared practices
- Comparison between “no conservation practice” scenario and 2011 level of conservation, also comparison of loading between 2003-2006 and 2011 levels of conservation practices

Key finding

- Increased erosion control from 2006 to 2011 (including conservation tillage, continuous no-till, structures, and cover crops)
- Total N and P application up since 2006
- Farmers using appropriate N application rates, timing, and methods on some crops up 6%, but 6% decrease in farmers using them on all crops
- Farmers using appropriate P application rates, timing, and methods on some or all crops remained steady since 2006
- Manure application from off-farm sources increased 17%
- Cover crops and winter cover use up substantially
- Expanded nutrient management and more N leaching control needed
- Lower predicted N and P loading rates compared to Scenario Builder