



Monitoring stations, like this one in Ohio, will be used to evaluate water quality in the project area.

## On-Farm Network®

In addition, for the first time, the On-Farm Network® (OFN) will be offered to up to 20 participating farmers in the Upper Big Walnut. Pioneered in Iowa, the OFN is an adaptive management approach that allows farmers to fine-tune nutrient applications for improved efficiency, management and economics. The Upper Big Walnut OFN will follow protocols already established in NW Ohio under the Maumee OFN®. The program will help cooperators install strip trials for different N rates, monitor them through aerial imagery, collect data on nutrient inputs, and conduct guided corn stalk tests in the fall. Cooperators will attend winter meetings where the anonymous data will be analyzed and discussed.



Cornstalk test to evaluate nitrogen management.

This CCPI Project is part of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI). Through the MRBI, NRCS and its partners will help producers in selected Mississippi River Basin watersheds voluntarily implement conservation practices that avoid, control, and trap nutrient runoff; improve wildlife habitat; and maintain agricultural productivity.

A conservation systems approach will be used to manage and optimize nitrogen and phosphorous within fields to minimize runoff and reduce downstream nutrient loading.



Nutrient loading contributes to both local water quality problems and the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

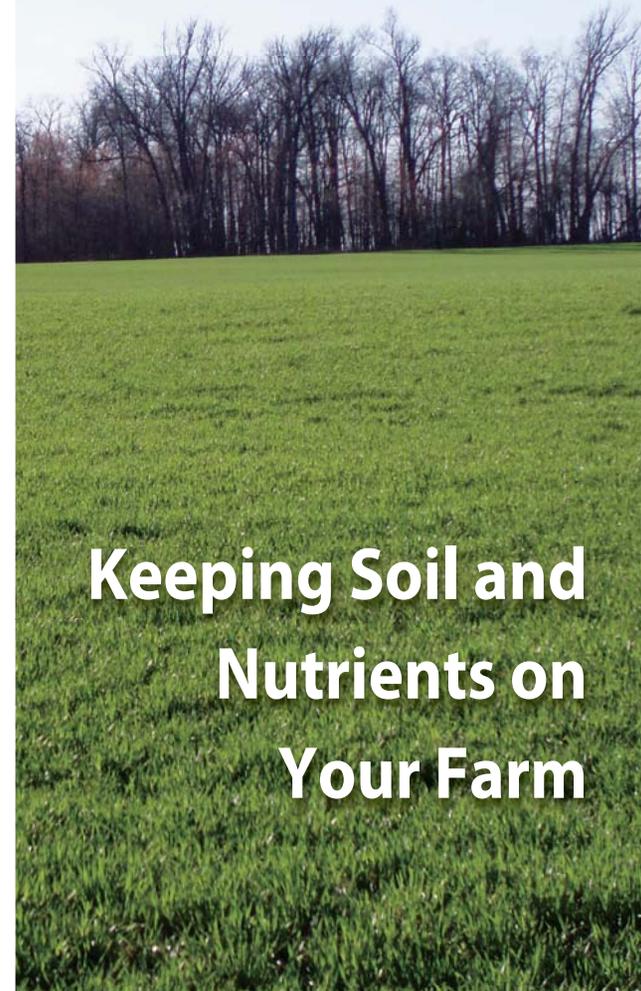
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Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District  
Helping You Help the Land

# Upper Big Walnut

Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative



Keeping Soil and  
Nutrients on  
Your Farm

## Keeping Soil on the Field

If you are a producer or landowner in the Upper Big Walnut Creek Watershed, you may be eligible to receive cost-share assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for planting cover crops, managing your nutrients, controlling drainage water, reducing tillage and a variety of other innovative techniques for keeping soil on your field and improving the quality of water running off the field. EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as goals for producers. Applications must meet program guidelines.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) have teamed up with Conservation Districts to provide technical assistance and consultation on these practices in selected areas of the Upper Big Walnut Creek Watershed (pink areas on map).

## Eligible Practices

Eligible producers will be able to choose from a wide range of conservation practices, including:

- **Cover crops** to trap nutrients and filter run-off.
- **Residue and tillage management** to increase soil infiltration of water.
- **Grade stabilization structures** to trap sediments leaving the field.
- **Drainage tile control structures** to trap nutrients and manage flow.
- **Nutrient management** to increase economics and efficiency.
- **Bioreactors** to treat nutrients at edge of field.
- **Grass planted filter areas** where concentrated flow runoff occurs.
- **Grassed waterways** to direct flow toward filter areas.
- **Native prairie grass plantings** around fields to provide habitat for upland birds.
- **Wetlands** to filter nutrients and provide habitat for aquatic birds and wildlife.

