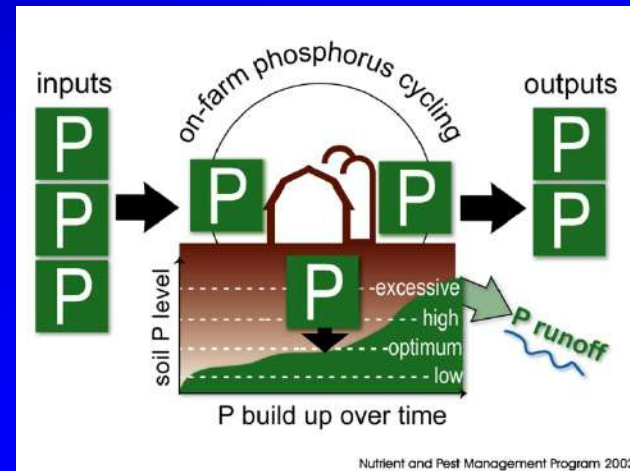


Challenges

- Less interest in Conservation Reserve
- Less interest in Farmland Preservation
- Administration funds for “soft practices”
- Ag performance standards based on water quality
- Will climate change grow more algae?
- It's all of us

Soft Practices



- **Cropland practices are sometimes called “soft practices” as opposed to the “hard practices” which are structural modifications like barnyard systems or streambank protection. Historically, soft practices have not been funded as well and are harder to implement because they are not visually evident or straightforward as a manure storage structure or streambank repair. Tracking compliance with nutrient management standards is particularly labor intensive.**

Recommendations

- Monitoring should shift from defining the problem to addressing implementation goals
- Phosphorus is coming from many places and reductions from all sources will be necessary
- While reductions from all sources will be necessary losses from cropland are particularly significant and need special attention

Monitoring

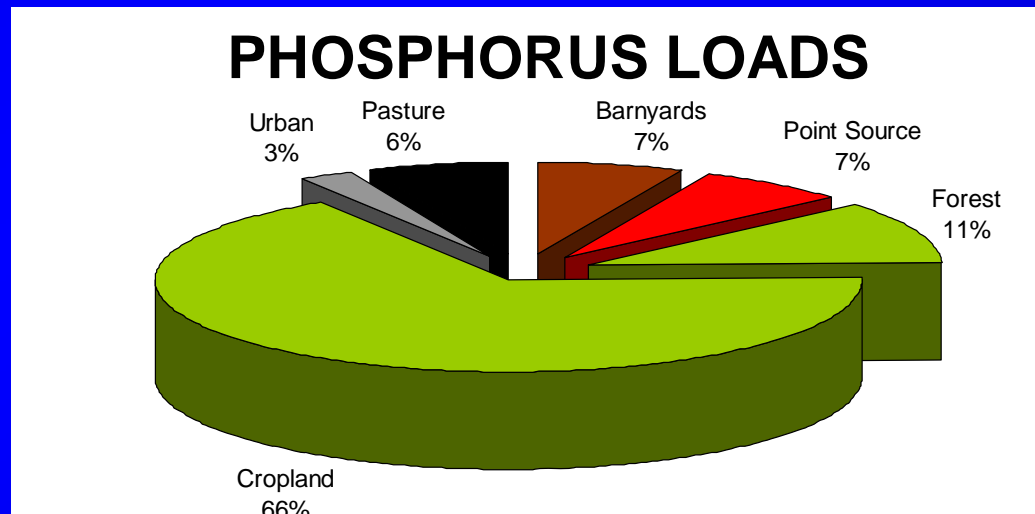


- All basin lakes with citizen monitors taking at least secchi readings
- DNR & USGS continue the monitoring station on the Red Cedar River at Menomonie
- Track county soil phosphorus levels and transect tillage practices
- Volunteer monitoring to influence land management decisions
- Study to link health effects with algae exposure

Reduction from all sources



- The TMDL lays out in detail how DNR regulatory programs will deal with point sources. However, these are only minor sources in the basin.



Reduction from all sources

[see 2009 NPS Opportunities document](#)



- A plan for reducing sources not adequately addressed through regulations needs to be developed
- This non regulatory approach will require coordinated actions from a wide variety of interest groups in the river basin.

Critical role of Cropland

[see 2009 NPS Opportunities document](#)



- Widespread adoption of cropland best management practices is important in the Red Cedar Basin
- The phosphorus reductions needed to eliminate waterbody impairments will likely require cropland to go beyond minimum statewide expectations for cropland management