

Field Assessment Quick Check

Consider the following questions to assess the potential impact of your management on water and other natural resources.

Nutrient Management See page 5 for recommendations on addressing any areas you mark “No” or “Don't Know.”	Yes	No	Don't Know Or N/A
1. Do you routinely test your soil to monitor fertility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you use realistic crop yield expectations, and follow recommended rates to determine how much fertilizer to apply?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you account for additional nutrient sources such as previous cover crops and legumes, manure applications, and soil reserves, when calculating how much fertilizer to apply?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you apply nutrients at or after planting to coincide with crop nutrient demand (i.e., most N applied as side-dress) ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. If you sidedress inorganic N fertilizer to supplement manure applications, do you use the pre-sidedress nitrate test to adjust your sidedress rates?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. If manure is used on your fields, do you apply manure at rates that prevent excess available nitrogen and phosphorus?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do you balance phosphorus inputs and outputs in order to prevent excessive soil phosphorus test levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. When applying manure, do you inject, promptly incorporate, or otherwise manage manure applications within 48 hours to minimize runoff into surface water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Do you test corn stalk nitrate levels at kernel maturity (blacklayer stage) to identify field areas that received excess N?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Do you calibrate your nutrient application equipment on at least an annual basis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Do you maintain records of fertilizer and manure rates and application dates for each field?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Do you follow a nutrient management plan for each field?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Do you review and update your nutrient management plan on a yearly basis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Have you identified environmentally sensitive areas that may require additional management when applying nutrients and/or manure? These are karst (sink holes) areas, land near streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, ditches, and highly erodible land, as well as soils with a high leaching and/or runoff rate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil Conservation See page 9 for recommendations on addressing any areas you mark “No” or “Don't Know.”			
15. Do you use conservation tillage practices that leave a minimum of 30% surface plant residue on your fields following planting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Do you follow a soil conservation plan that you have developed with your local Natural Resources Conservation Service to minimize erosion on areas of highly erodible land (HEL)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Have you protected all streams, wetlands, ditches, and other water bodies on your farm from runoff and sediment with conservation buffers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Do you monitor soil quality indicators such as earthworm populations, water infiltration rates, soil compaction, percent plant and residue cover, and percent organic matter?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Do you plant cover crops to prevent erosion, trap nutrients susceptible to loss over winter, and help improve soil quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Have you made a long-term commitment to no-till cropping systems on all fields?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pest Management See page 12 for recommendations on addressing any areas you mark “No” or “Don’t Know.”	Yes	No	Don’t Know Or N/A
21. Do insect scouting reports and economic thresholds guide your insect pest management decisions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Do weed scouting reports and economic thresholds guide your weed management decisions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Do you maintain records of crop history, pest problems, and control measures used for each field?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Have you evaluated soils and topographical field features for their potential to leach to ground water and runoff to surface water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. Do you apply pesticides according to the label, including following setbacks from environmentally sensitive areas required for products containing atrazine?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Do you apply pesticides only when the risk of pesticide drift is low?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. Do you apply pesticides only when the weather forecast indicates no heavy rain?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. Do you inspect and calibrate your pesticide application equipment at least annually?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29. Do you employ anti-backflow devices on water supply hoses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. Do you draw water from the well into a separate water holding tank, rather than directly into the sprayer tank?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31. Do you mix and load pesticides over a solid concrete pad that contains any spills on the pad?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32. Do you triple rinse and properly recycle or dispose of all containers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33. Do you consider alternative solutions to using insecticides and herbicides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drainage and Irrigation Management See page 16 for recommendations on addressing any areas you mark “No” or “Don’t Know.”			
34. If your land has subsurface (tile) drainage, have you explored using at least one of the following methods to reduce nitrogen loss? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raising the water table during the non-growing season (November to March), • discharging drainage water into a constructed wetland before it discharges into a stream, or • storing drainage water and reusing it for crop irrigation during the summer? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35. If you irrigate, do you schedule irrigation in order to apply only enough water to meet crop needs, and make sure that water is applied uniformly at a rate the soil can absorb without causing runoff and erosion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Areas Adjacent to Fields See page 18 for recommendations on addressing any areas you mark “No” or “Don’t Know.”			
36. Do you know where your drinking water well is located?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
37. Do you take steps to protect your drinking water well, and neighbors’ wells that may be adjacent to your fields?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38. Do you manage pasture areas near streams to prevent livestock from entering the streams or degrading the banks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39. Have you restored wetlands on your farm and excluded livestock from entering wetland areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
40. Do you manage woodlands using sustainable harvesting methods, while preventing soil erosion and excluding livestock?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41. Do you manage field borders to encourage beneficial insect populations and wildlife habitat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>