



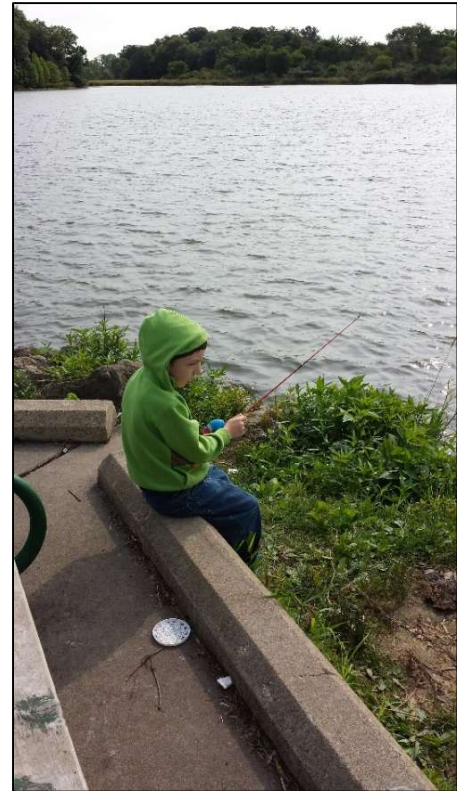
IOWA CHAPTER

The Next Step for Nutrient Reduction

Now that Iowa has a nutrient reduction strategy and has begun to fund projects to improve water quality in Iowa, the next order of business should be working on establishing numerical standards for nutrients for Iowa's lakes, rivers and streams, including a reasonable date for each water body to meet the standards. Finally, each of the major watersheds and lakes should be regularly monitored for nutrients, with the results posted online by GPS coordinates but not recording the names of neighboring landowners. The nutrient monitoring system should involve regularly testing the water throughout the year.

Taxpayers expect that their taxes will be wisely spent on projects to reduce nutrients. Farmers need to be able to identify practices that effectively reduce those nutrients. The way to accomplish this is through measurable numerical targets.

Numerical standards provide a target to meet. If you don't have a measurable target, you don't know if you are hitting the target or if you need to continue working on improvements.



High levels of nutrients in drinking water can cause serious health problems. Nutrients also encourage the growth of algae which causes green, stinky water. Nutrients encourage the growth of toxic bacteria which leads to beach closures. Furthermore reducing the nutrients entering the water in Iowa will help reduce the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, an area that is so polluted that fish and other marine animals are unable to survive.

Iowans expect that the water we drink is free of harmful pollutants. We expect to fish, paddle and wade in our streams and lakes without getting sick.