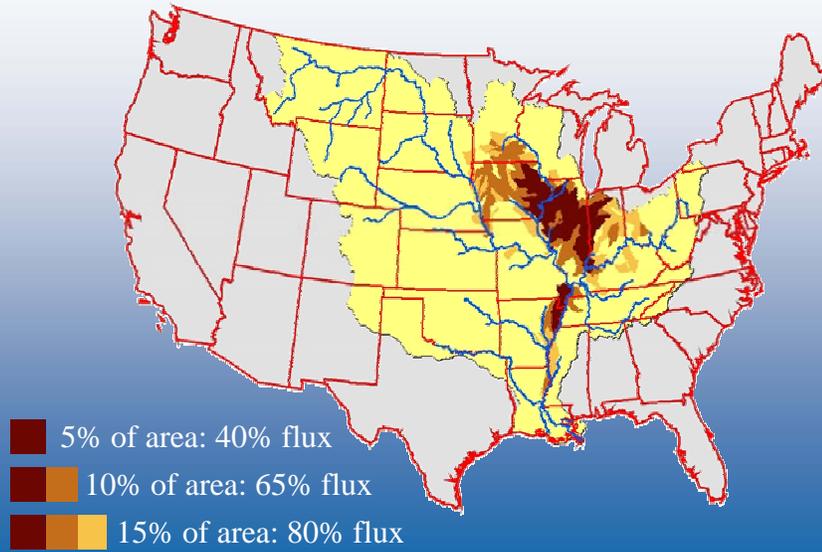


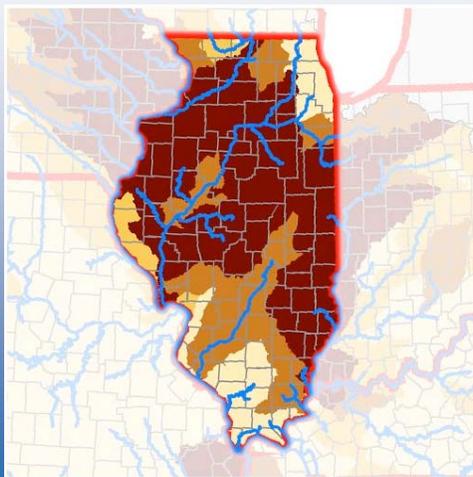
EWG's Modeling Effort

- Developed a spatial model of the relationship between nitrogen loading factors in the MRB and the nitrate inputs to the Gulf of Mexico
- Linked patterns of nitrate loading to federal agricultural subsidy system
- Compiled 20 databases
- Results for the spring nitrate runoff each year closely matched USGS measured nitrate flux.

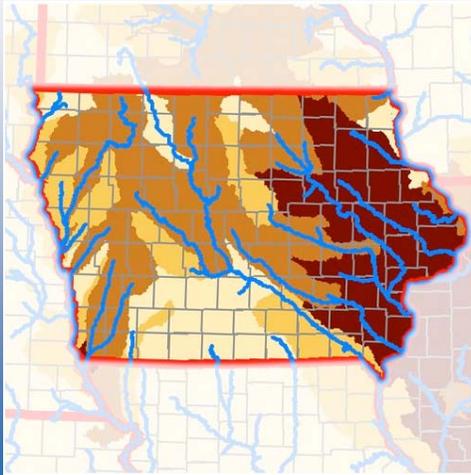
80% of the problem occurs in 15% of the Mississippi River Basin



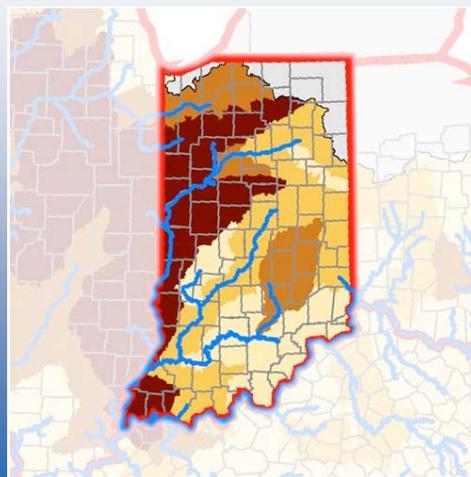
Priority Conservation Areas in Illinois



Priority Conservation Areas in Iowa



Priority Conservation Areas in Indiana



Commodity Overwhelms Conservation Spending

- In the entire MRB basin from 1995 to 2002:
 - Total commodity spending: \$60 B
 - Total conservation spending: \$8.5 B
 - Ratio: 7 to 1

Targeting isn't Happening

- But, if you look at:
 - Just 5% of MRB area (124 counties) contributing 40% of the load
 - And just direct, water-quality spending (EQIP, WRP, CRP wetlands & CRP riparian buffers)
 - Then, Commodity spending: \$11.6 B
 - Water-quality conservation spending: \$23 M
 - Ratio: 500 to 1

Farmer Requests to Help Remain Unfunded

- In Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana (2004):
 - 11,000 farmers were turned away from \$235 M in EQIP requests
- In 14 states hosting the 15% polluting areas:
 - 2,450 farmers were turned away from enrolling 321,000 acres in WRP for \$411 M

Recommendation

Increase funding to conservation programs in the MRB and prioritize conservation efforts in the highest nitrate loading locations

Recommendation

Consider requiring nutrient management planning in the highest loading areas as a prerequisite for receiving taxpayer commodity subsidies



Recommendation

Fully fund USGS and EPA water quality monitoring stations in the most important sampling locations.

