

PROGRESS TOWARD NUTRIENT REDUCTION STRATEGY GOALS



The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) is a plan to **reduce nutrient pollution** in Iowa's water and, ultimately, the Gulf of Mexico by 45% by 2035. The plan was adopted by the state in 2013 and provides a framework for reducing pollution using a variety of scenarios to meet reduction goals.

The framework includes point sources (e.g. industries, wastewater treatment plants) and nonpoint sources (e.g. agriculture). **The NRS is completely voluntary for nonpoint sources.** This document focuses on Scenario 1 as identified in the NRS.

COVER CROPS

NRS Scenario 1 Goal: **12.6 million acres**
2018 Achieved: **973,000 acres**
WE STILL NEED: 11,627,000 ACRES



At current pace
it will take

85 YEARS

to reach this goal
for cover crops.

WETLANDS

NRS Scenario 1 Goal: **7.7 million acres treated**
2018 Achieved: **107,000 acres treated**
WE STILL NEED: 7,593,000 ACRES TREATED



At current pace
it will take

942 YEARS

to reach this goal
for wetlands.

BIOREACTORS AND SATURATED BUFFERS

NRS Scenario 1 Goal: **6 million acres treated**
2018 Achieved: **2,000 acres treated**
WE STILL NEED: 5,998,000 ACRES TREATED



At current pace
it will take

22,325 YEARS

to reach this goal for
bioreactors and saturated buffers.

NUTRIENT REDUCTION STRATEGY

PROGRESS: COVER CROPS

COVER CROPS

Cover crops are crops planted between cash crop seasons to keep a living cover on the landscape.

NRS Scenario 1 Goal: 12.6 million acres
2018 Achieved: 973,000 acres
WE STILL NEED: 11,627,000 ACRES

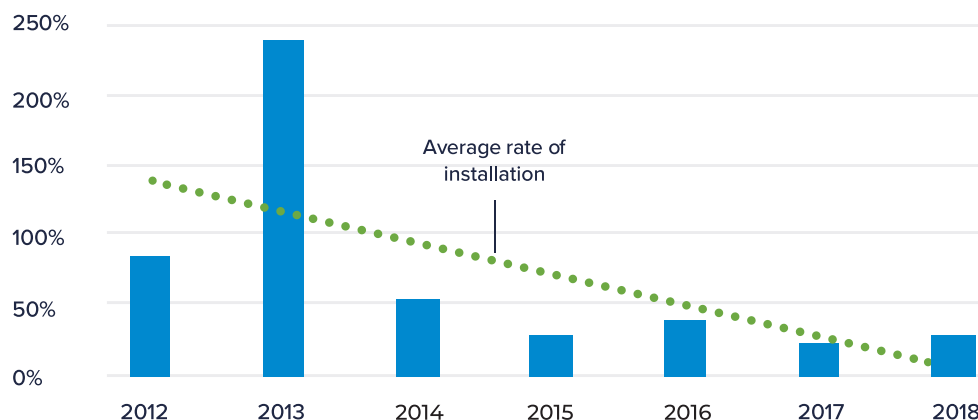


At current pace
it will take

85 YEARS

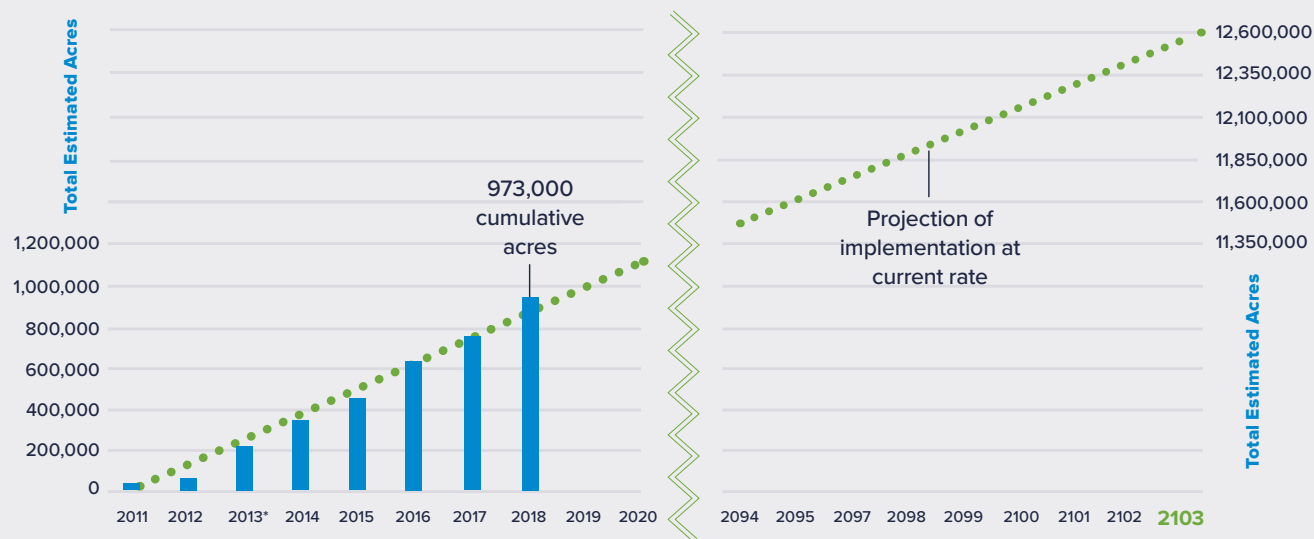
to reach the goal
for cover crops.

Cover Crop Installation Rate Increase



The rate of cover crop installation has not accelerated since NRS adoption in 2013.

Projected Timeline to Reach Cover Crop Goal



NUTRIENT REDUCTION STRATEGY PROGRESS: WETLANDS

WETLANDS



Wetlands improve water quality on tile-drained land. The Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) provides landowner incentives to install wetlands.

NRS Goal: 7.7 million acres treated
2018 Achieved: 107,000 acres treated

WE STILL NEED: 7,593,000 ACRES TREATED

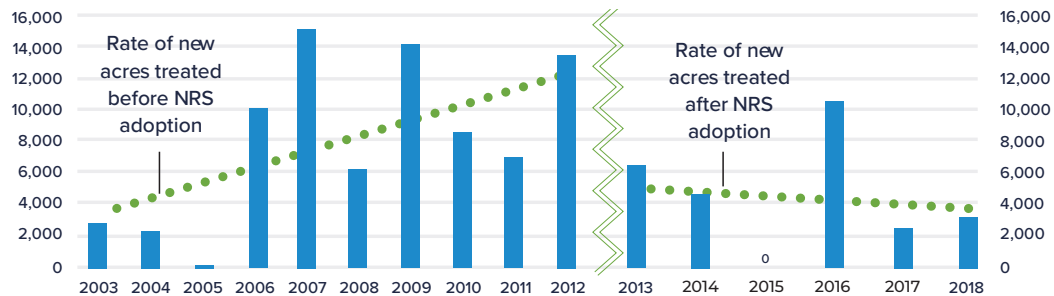


At current pace
it will take

942 YEARS

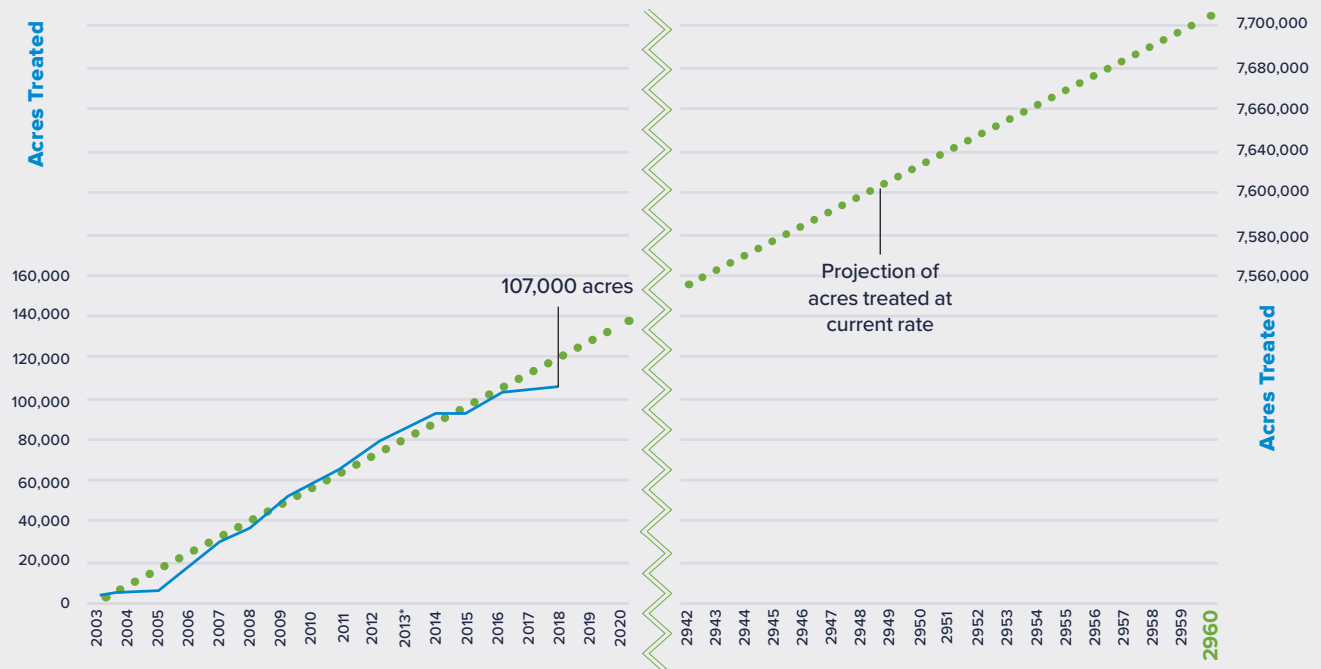
to reach the goal
for wetlands.

New Acres Treated by Wetlands



The rate of new acres treated each year has slowed since the NRS was adopted in 2013.

Projected Timeline to Reach Wetlands Goal



NUTRIENT REDUCTION STRATEGY PROGRESS: BIOREACTORS AND SATURATED BUFFERS



Iowa
Environmental
Council

BIOREACTORS AND SATURATED BUFFERS

Tile-drained water is directed to an underground bed of wood chips (bioreactor) or a perennially vegetated area (saturated buffer) where nitrate is removed naturally before the water reaches a stream.

NRS Goal: 6 million acres treated
2018 Achieved: 2,000 acres treated

WE STILL NEED: 5,998,000 ACRES TREATED



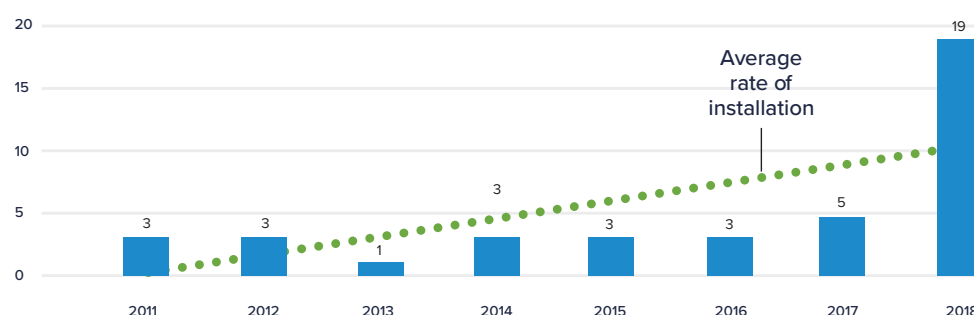
At current pace
it will take

22,325 YEARS

to reach the goal for bioreactors
and saturated buffers.



New Bioreactors and Saturated Buffers Constructed



*Iowa would have
to install 1,200
buffers and
saturated buffers
per year to reach
this goal in
100 years.*

Acres Treated by Bioreactors and Saturated Buffers

