



United States Department of Agriculture

# Hypoxia Task Force Meeting

Under Secretary Bill Northey  
USDA Farm Production and Conservation



FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION  
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## Mississippi River Basin Initiative

- **2010 to 2019:**  
\$307M obligated for voluntary conservation contracts
- Provided treatment on over 1.46 million acres
- Resulted in several delistings



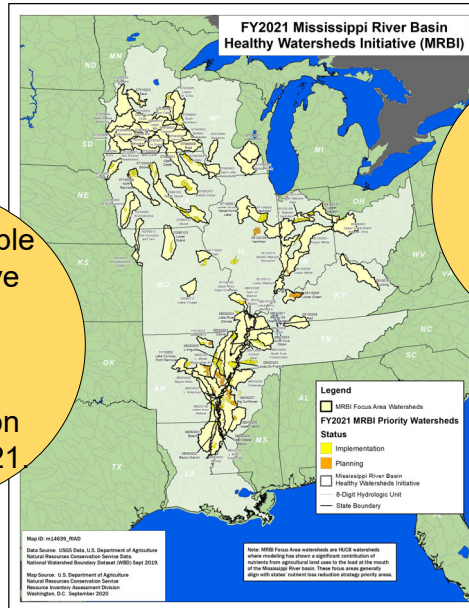
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# Announcing New Focus Areas and Watersheds in FY21

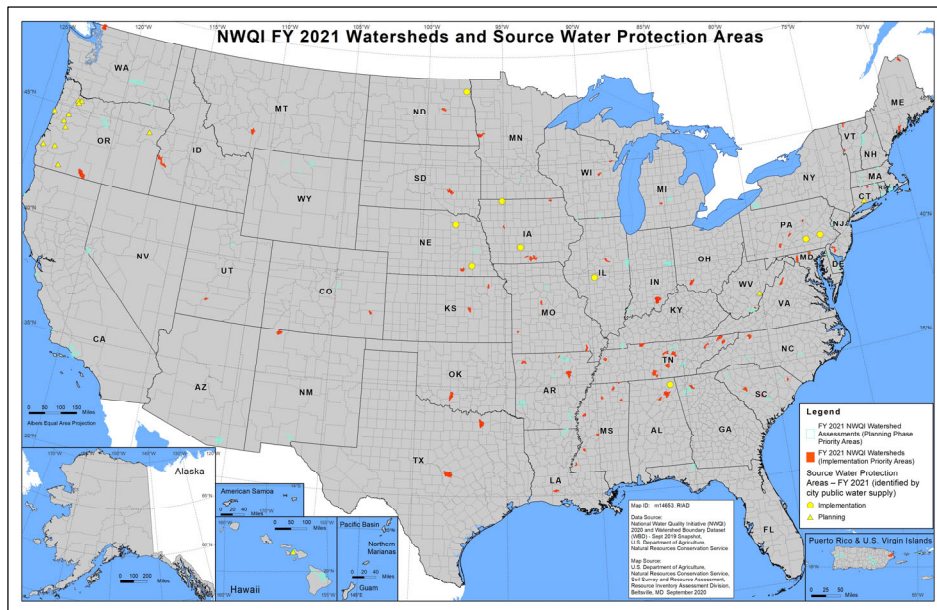
All MRBI eligible states will have at least one project in the planning or implementation phase for FY21



Focus areas align with state nutrient reduction strategy priorities.

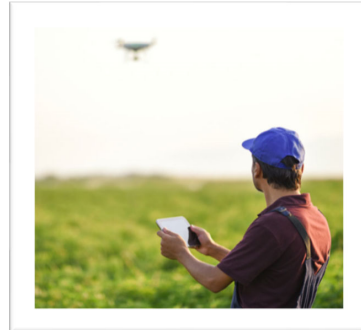


# NWQI FY21 New Watersheds, Source Water Protection Areas



# USDA Agriculture Innovation Agenda (AIA)

- Increase U.S. production by **40%** while cutting environmental footprint **in half by 2050**
  - 1) Identify Ready-To-Go technologies
  - 2) Develop internal capacity to expedite adoption of technologies
  - 3) Deliver innovation to farmers
- August: USDA and EPA announce Next Gen Fertilizer Challenges
  - Environmental and Agronomic Challenge



# MRBI's Nexus with the Ag Innovation Agenda

- One AIA goal - **reduce nutrient loss by 30%**
- Consistent with interim metrics for the HTF action plan.
- MRBI will be an AIA focus, highlighting projects that use:
  - Novel prioritization
  - Targeting
  - Partner engagement
  - Innovative technologies



# Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Watersheds

- Quantifying effects of conservation practices
- Journal of Soil and Water Conservation Special Issue on CEAP watersheds:
  - 15 years of results in 34 watersheds
  - Majority have quantifiable water quality benefits from conservation



*With new...*

- *precision conservation assessment and planning tools*
- *innovative practices*
- *accelerated conservation delivery*
- ***...we can now do even more!***

# CEAP Watersheds – Applying Insights

- NRCS program design
  - Priority watershed approach
  - Small watershed scale
- Program delivery approaches
  - Precision conservation approaches
  - Watershed assessment basis
- Program guidance
  - Critical source areas
  - Planning ACT practice systems
  - Screening and ranking criteria
- Locally-driven watershed conservation strategies
  - One-on-one technical assistance
  - Leveraging Farmer-to-farmer networks
- Outcome estimation procedures and reporting



# It Takes Partnerships

- Nonpoint Source Progress Workgroup
  - NRCS provides annual applied practice data
  - Assisting with development of progress tracking framework
- Collaboration with EPA on NWQI
- Partnering with USGS on legacy nutrients
- NOAA Runoff Risk Index
  - Delivering with USDA AgOpt Tool



# USDA Is Here for You

