

Contact Us

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A farmer's job goes beyond planting, growing, and harvesting crops. They are responsible for the land their crops grow in, the water their crops and livestock need, and the wildlife that helps the ecosystem flourish. They care for the resources that Mother Nature provides, and they are doing all that they can to ensure their farm gets better for the next generation.

Preserving Our Water

Every living thing depends on water to survive. Too much or too little water and the timing of rain can impact a farmer's ability to make the food we all eat. Farmers understand that water is a shared resource, and they are very aware of how water flows through their fields and off their property. Continuous efforts are made to reduce a farm's impact on the water we all need to survive. Farmers use a variety of best practices to ensure the health of our water, such as:

- Cover crops, which hold onto excess nutrients in the fields and prevent them from running off.
- Waterways and saturated buffers, which keep soil and nutrients in the fields.
- Edge-of-field practices, like woodchip bioreactors, treat the water and remove excess nitrogen before it leaves the field.

Protecting Our Land

Farmers have an intimate relationship with the land. Many Illinois farmers are living and working on the land where they grew up, and that has been passed down through the generations. The most important land resource on a farm is its soil. Healthy soil is complicated, but farmers are learning more each day about the physical, biological, and chemical properties of soil that make it healthy. Farmers protect their soil by:

- Reducing tillage and using cover crops to improve the physical structure and biological health of the soil.
- Using practices that allow air, water, and insects to move through the soil, break down organic matter, and enhance nutrient cycling.
- Planting grassy buffers and terraces to keep the soil in place, and to prevent erosion and nutrient loss.

Providing Our Food

You care about what your family eats. Farmers do too. Providing plenty of healthy food is important to Illinois farmers. That starts with caring for the environment in which that food is grown. Farmers:

- Care for the soil, water, air, and wildlife that impact your food.
- Make educated decisions to preserve and enhance their existing natural resources to make them more productive and healthy.
- Remain dedicated every day of the year by analyzing data, learning from their experiences, and making continuous improvements for the next generation of farmers.