

On-Farm Research Opportunity



Attention farmers:

Dr. Andrew Margenot, a soil science professor at the University of Illinois, has recently been awarded a grant to do on-farm research on nutrient management. To help him with his research, Illinois Farm Bureau is trying to connect Dr. Margenot with farmers throughout the state to participate in a nutrient management project on a regional level across Illinois: a goal is to help create a nutrient management community. Participating farmers will choose a field and researchers will collect deep (36 inches) soil samples this spring. At a future date, in-person regional discussion focus groups would be held on nutrient management to discuss with Andrew.

Farmers are needed who are willing to participate in small regional annual focus groups and phone discussions about nutrient management on their farm and their experiences. Additionally, some participants may be asked to host nutrient omission trials where nutrients will not be applied to a section of a field. These trials are optional and not required to participate, but those that choose to participate will be compensated for the trials. This is a four-year project. While there is no paperwork requiring a farmer to participate every year, we ask that participants stick with the project for the duration.

Farmers will have the opportunity to discuss nutrient management with University of Illinois researchers, as well as be provided with detailed information from the soil samples taken from a field of your choice to see how much N and P are available to crops across the soil profile. Samples will be taken in the spring and provided the following summer and fall.

Researchers with the University of Illinois must ensure that anyone who chooses to participate in this research cannot be identified. Data will be anonymously aggregated from meetings, interviews, and on-farm sampling. All data will be anonymized, so that location of field results are not traceable to a location or to a farmer. Faculty, students, and staff who may see your information will maintain confidentiality to the extent of laws and university policies. Personal identifiers will not be published or presented.

Interested members can contact Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau at 309-734-9401 or whfb@whfarmbureau.org.