

NUTRIENTS

MANAGED

HERE

# INDIANA WATER TESTING PROGRAM

Nutrient runoff can be a problem, a **very costly problem**, for your operation. After all, you **paid** for your nitrogen (N), don't you want to keep it where you put it? If you are located in the Upper White River watershed, Indiana Agriculture Alliance (IANA) has the tools for you to test your potential loss.

## TESTING MY N CONCENTRATION

### GETTING STARTED

#### What will I need?

A clean, small container or bucket, a water sample, your test strips and a timer.

#### What water supplies should I test?

You can test any water supply that your field nutrients could run off into, for example, ditch water, surface runoff, creek water or tile water.

#### How do I get test strips?

Visit [keepitmidwest.com](http://keepitmidwest.com) to request your free test strips.

### USING YOUR N TEST STRIPS

1. Collect at least 8 oz of water in a **clean container**.  
Make sure the container is free of residue.
2. Dip your strip in water for **2 seconds**.  
Hold the strip steady, do not swirl.
3. Remove your test strip and wait **1 minute**.
4. **Match your results** against the pH scale.  
Don't delay in matching the color, waiting longer than 1 minute can skew results.

## EVALUATING MY RESULTS

Match your strip color to the scales below:



### What does my color mean?

The darker your strip is, the more nitrogen being lost.

\*EPA maximum containment level.

## WHAT AM I LOSING INTO MY TILE WATER?

If you use tile water to evaluate your nitrogen loss, you can actually find your loss per acre.

$$\frac{\text{CONCENTRATION} * \text{TILE FLOW}}{\text{DRAINAGE AREA}} = \text{LBS OF N PER ACRE BEING LOST}$$

### GATHERING THE PIECES

**Concentration:** value from Nitrate scale matching your test strip color

**Tile Flow:** time how many seconds it takes to fill a 5 gallon bucket from your tile drainage

**Drainage Area:** number of acres in field draining into tiles

#### Do I have to do this math myself?

Nope! We wouldn't want to either, so we built a calculator for you to use at [keepitmidwest.com](http://keepitmidwest.com).

### REMIND ME AGAIN WHY I SHOULD DO ALL THIS?

#### It's up to you, but you paid for it, why not keep it where you want it?

We think it's best to live by the old adage, waste not, want not. Lessening nutrient runoff into Indiana's water supply is our goal, but that is only part of the effort. We want you, and your operation, to be successful. If you're washing money down the tile, it's time to update your plan — saving money and your land for the next generation.

#### How can I reduce what I am losing?

- Applying your nitrogen as close as possible to when it is needed by the plant
- Ensuring you are applying the correct amount of nutrients
- Planting foraging / scavenging cover crops can help reclaim excess nitrogen to keep it for your next crop

*Reach out to your personal crop advisor for more information and to create a plan of action in saving your nitrogen and saving your dollars from washing away.*

### EXPLORE NUTRIENT LOSS ON YOUR FARM

visit

————— [KEEPITMIDWEST.COM](http://KEEPITMIDWEST.COM) —————

to complete the calculator and find best practices to keep your nutrients where they're needed most.