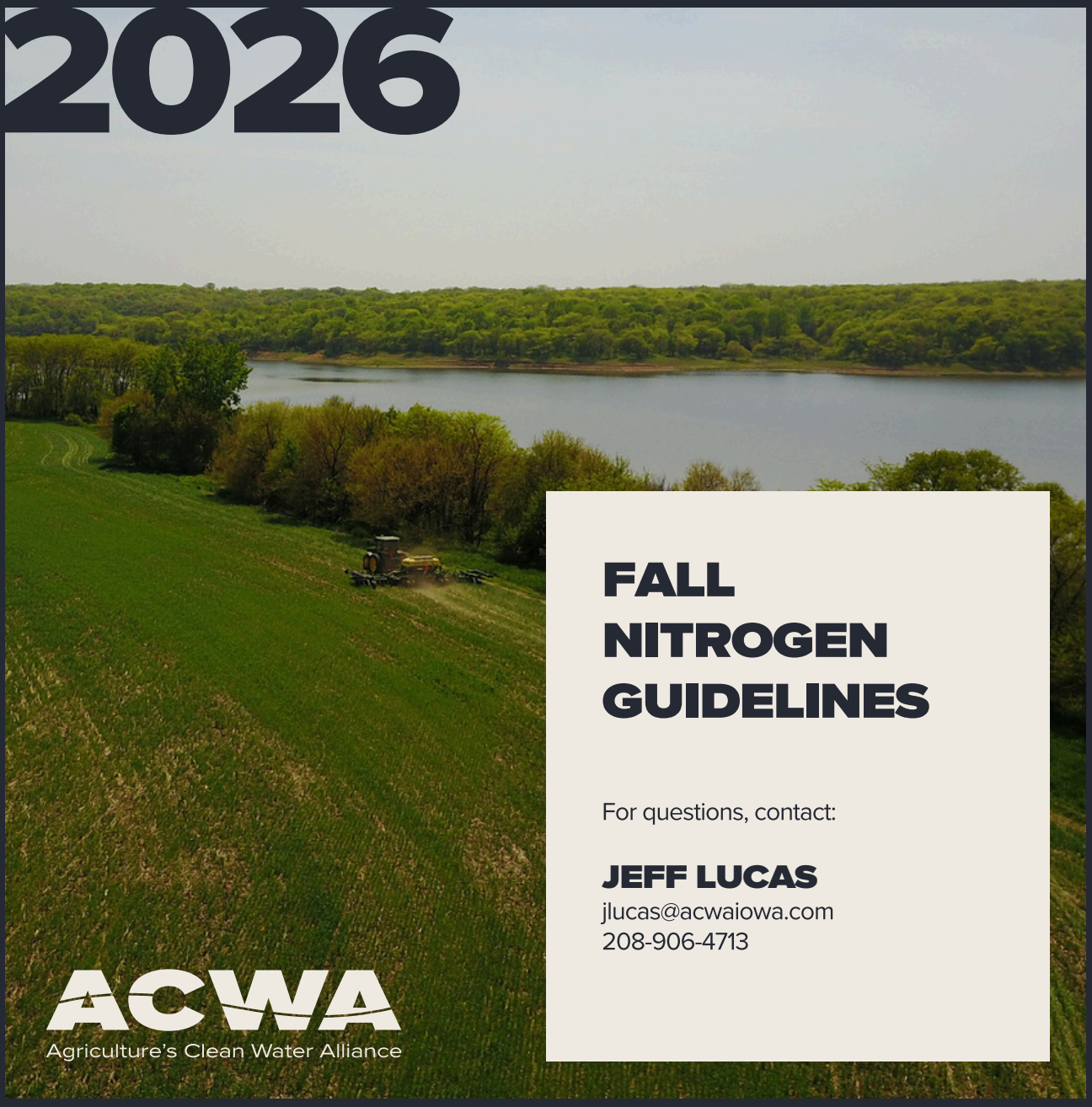
CODE OF PRACTICE 2026



FALL NITROGEN GUIDELINES

For questions, contact:

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208-906-4713

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Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance



CODE OVERVIEW

PURPOSE

To establish reasonable and practicable guidelines for nitrogen fertilization applications to reduce nitrate loss from farm fields.

WHY

Effective management of nutrients on farms in Iowa is one of the keys to enhancing both environmental quality and profitable crop production. Consistent with the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, this Code of Practice provides information about guidelines adopted by the ACWA members as a condition of membership.

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APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. A nutrient recommendation for nitrogen and phosphorus shall be developed that considers all potential sources of nutrients including manure, legumes, etc. Nutrient recommendations shall be based on current soil test results, realistic yield goals, environmental impact, producer management capabilities, and leveraging 4R nutrient stewardship practices.

2. Delay fall anhydrous applications without a nitrification inhibitor until soil temperatures are 50°F, trending lower.

3. Regardless of time of year application occurs, encourage use of other supporting nutrient management technologies such as stabilizers, slow-release fertilizers, incorporation or injection, soil nitrate testing and other technologies that minimize loss to surface or ground water resources.

4. If the producer is participating with USDA Conservation Programs, additional considerations for producer conformance with NRCS 590 Nutrient Management standard shall be followed.

5. Encourage use of other supporting practices where feasible, including:





Bioreactors



Saturated Buffers



Stream Buffers



Wetlands



4R



Cover Crops



HOW TO SELF REPORT

ACWA has a 26-year history of agreeing to and following this code of practice voluntarily. It is up to all of us to self report our voluntary adherance to the code so that we can report on the positive impacts of our collective efforts to improve Iowa's water quality.

1. DOCUMENT

Use one of two methods to document soil temperature at the time of application decision:

- Standardized county temperature and forecast maps found on ISU's website.
- 4" in-field soil temperature check and reading recording method used on self-reporting form.

2. UPLOAD

Use the ACWA online reporting system. Each member will be assigned a name and password. We recommend:

- Regular ACWA Board Member assigns staff responsibility to report start of application for all counties within member trade area.
- Do this immediately, not at the end of the year.

26 Years of ACWA Code of Practice Agreement

50 Soil temperature before fall application

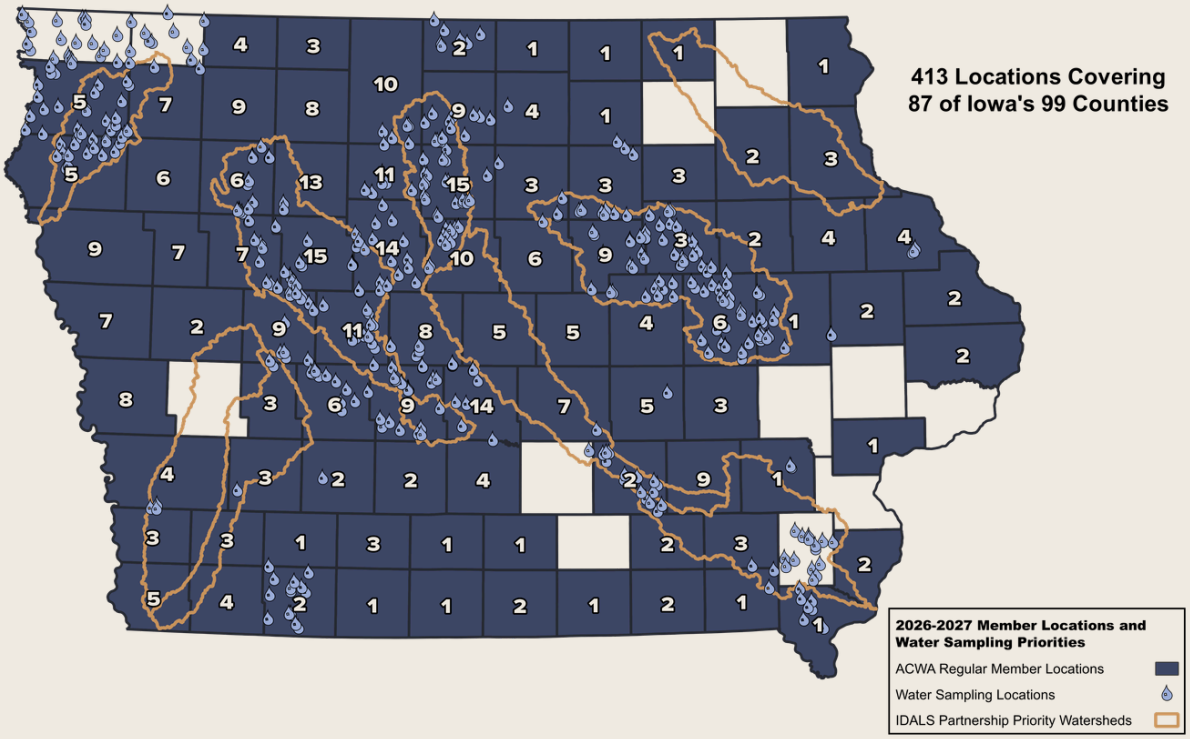
2X Increase in fall stabilizers since code began

~85% of all annual ACWA member fall applications have a stabilizer

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CODE OF PRACTICE IMPACT

Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance 2026-2027 Footprint Map



Better nitrogen practices in 87 of Iowa's 99 counties

All ACWA regular members agree to the code of practice as part of their membership. They approve renewal of the code each year.

HEARTLAND CO-OP
Nutrien Ag Solutions
AgState
GEC
CVA Central Valley Ag
IAS Innovative Ag Services
NEW Cooperative Inc.
PRO Cooperative
Van Diest Supply Company
FCA VisionAg LLC
LANDUS
HELENA

*Above logos include all regular members. Associate members can be found at acwaiowa.com.

RESOURCES



4R+
Nutrient management

4rplus.org

NRCS
Code 590

usda.gov

ISU
Temp/forecast maps

agron.iastate.edu

ACWA
Resources

acwaiowa.com

QUESTIONS?

Contact Jeff Lucas

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