

Nitrogen Runoff in the Midwest

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Background

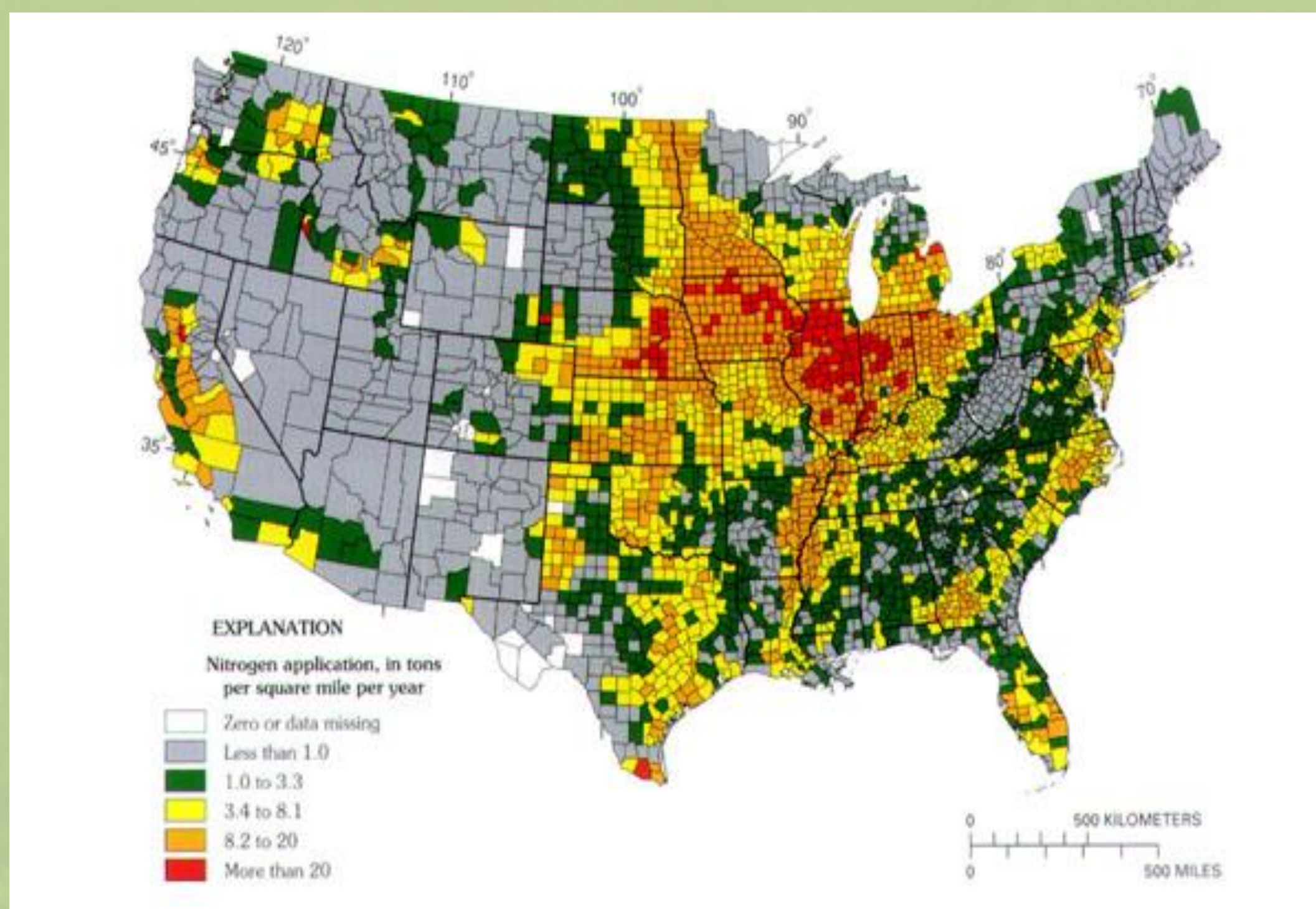
Nitrogen contributes to size of Gulf of Mexico dead zone.

Nitrogen runoff from farms along Mississippi River.

Dead zones reduce shrimp catch rates

- 1970s, 27,000 tons caught
- 2009, 3000 tons caught

Henry County, Illinois is a major contributor of nitrogen runoff.



Goals

Encourage reduction of nitrogen runoff

Informing farmers of the benefits of reducing nitrogen runoff into waterways

Promote use of this plan throughout the Midwest

The Solution

Educate Farmers

Increase Riparian Buffers

Decrease Fertilizer Use

Filter Out Nitrogen

Reduce Nitrogen Input

Less Nitrogen Runoff

Assessment

Proper education will encourage a study done on the farms in the region

Water samples can be taken to monitor nitrogen runoff

Results can be compared to concentrations from the past

Conclusion

Areas along Mississippi river will be more aware of impact on Gulf region

Results of study can be applied to other areas

Application to other regions may result in decrease in size of Gulf dead zone

Costs

Less farmable land

Possible decrease in yield

Implementation expenses

Benefits

Decreased nitrogen runoff

CRP incentives and tax reduction

Less money spent on fertilizer

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