



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OHIO AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

ASSESSMENT REPORT: Upper Scioto Watershed

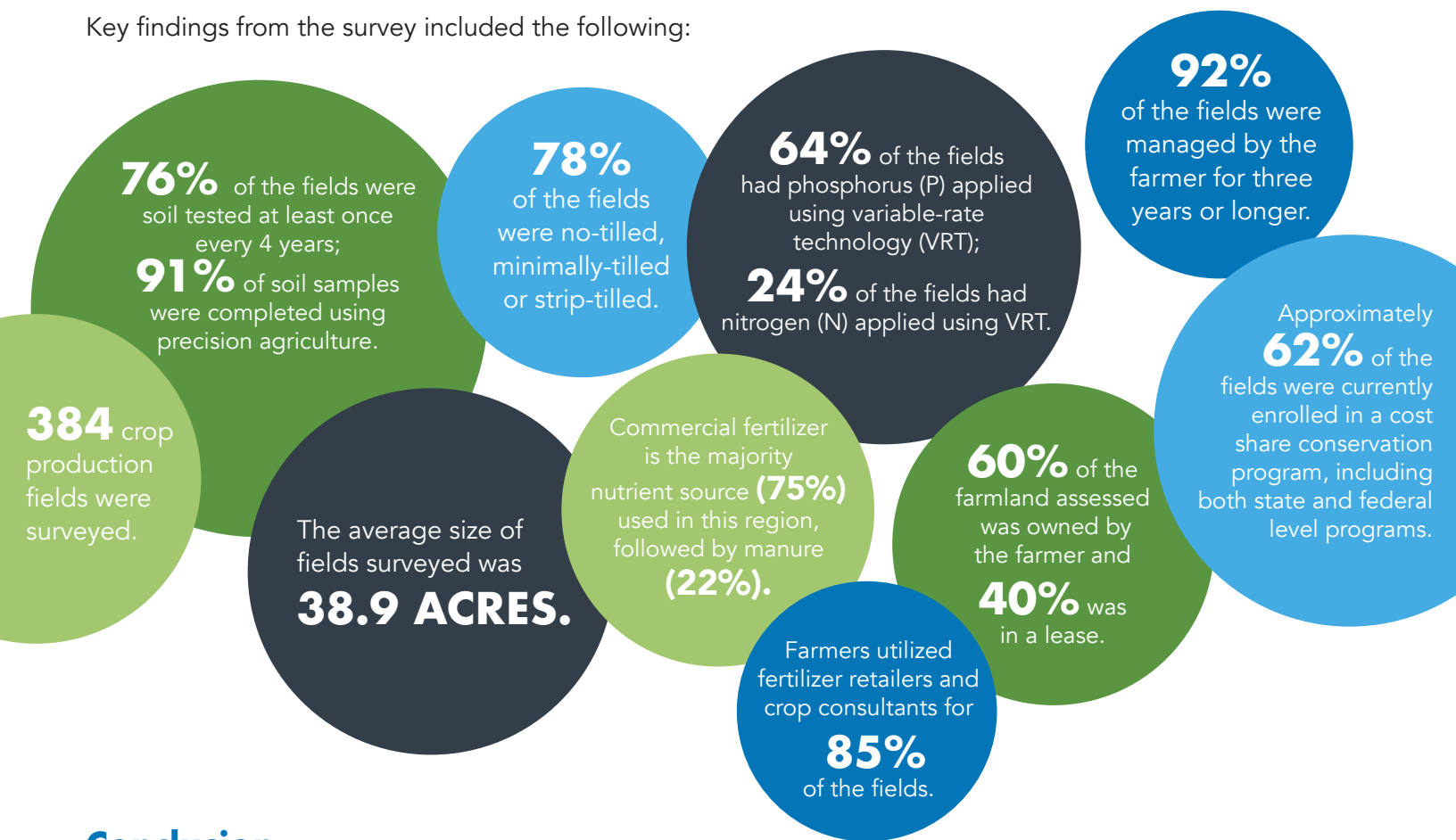
The Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative (OACI) is a partnership between agriculture, conservation, environmental and research communities to recognize farmers for their dedication to advancing methods that improve water quality in Ohio and increasing the number of best management practices (BMPs) being implemented on farms.

2023 HUC8 Upper Scioto Watershed Assessment

In 2023, OACI conducted a randomized sampling of crop production fields within the HUC8 Upper Scioto Watershed using a statistical approach to determine what practices are being used by farmers within this watershed to manage water and nutrients in crop year 2022. A trained Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) employee interviewed the landowner or farm manager for each field surveyed. The Ohio State University and the Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology at Iowa State University helped in designing the sampling strategy and data analysis.

Key Survey Results

Key findings from the survey included the following:



Conclusion

The assessment results establish a baseline of adoption for various farming practices in the Upper Scioto Watershed, allowing for a more targeted approach to increase BMPs adoption. OACI will continue to assess more watersheds in Ohio, revisiting previously assessed watersheds in a few years to determine levels of change. OACI encourages Ohio's farmers to get involved in the OACI Farmer Certification program, H2Ohio and any other conservation focused program to learn about new practices, share information and become better stewards of the land. For more information, visit OhioACI.org.