Background Information for Field Assessment Exercise
Use the Field Assessment “quick check” on pages 3-4 in the Purdue Extension publication Field Assessment for Water Resource Protection (WQ-42).

FIELD ASSESSMENT EXAMPLE

- Corn and soybeans are alternated from year to year
- No cover crops are grown
- No manure is applied
- Soils are tested for nutrient, mineral, and organic matter levels once every four years, but no other nutrient monitoring methods are used
- Tends to go on what fertilizer dealer recommends for application rates on nitrogen
- Nutrients are often applied in fall along with fall plowing due to time crunch of spring planting
- Unless it is raining, herbicides are applied to schedule, and label and rates followed, but no crop scouting is conducted
- Insecticides are applied if evidence of pests present, but application is not based on economic thresholds
- Field soils and topography have not been evaluated for potential for leaching and runoff of nutrients and pesticides
- Sensitive environmental areas (streams, karst, etc.) are recognized, but no specific management actions are taken to protect them
- Pesticides are mixed over the gravel driveway using a hose with no backflow device directly into spray tank
- Chemical jugs are triple rinsed and recycled

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