



# SPRINGBROOK TEAM: “NITRATES BY THE STREAM”

## Oshkosh North High School: Watershed Symposium 2015



### HYPOTHESES

If the nitrate levels are excessively high in SpringBrook compared to the lower Fox River Watershed streams, then there must be an external pressure near SpringBrook that is causing the high nitrate levels  
Refer to figures 1 & 2

### METHODOLOGY

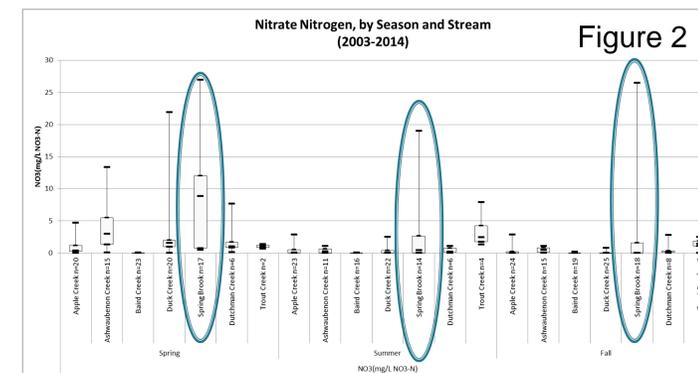
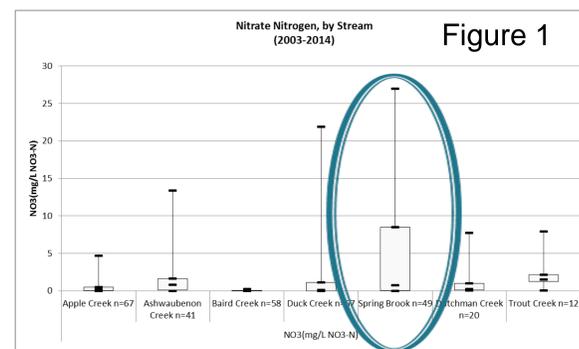
- Examined previously collected data to analyze the nitrate levels in SpringBrook.
- Conducted telephone survey of several neighboring properties
- Used the correct procedures to collect data from SpringBrook

### RESULTS

- Received responses from the Fox Valley Trap Club and one neighboring property owner
- Land surrounding the Club is leased to Riemer farms and Omro Dairy (See Figure 3)
- Tried contacting the dairy farm, but no response was given
- Uses round up to kill weeds next to clubhouse but no other pesticides or fertilizers are used
- Neighbor 1 (wished to remain anonymous) said grass, weeds, and trees are “burned” by fertilizer (See figure 4)
- Neighbor 1 contacted Town of Omro officials and DNR, was told “Not to hassle farmers”
- Neighbor 1 does not use pesticides or fertilizers
- Reported oil slick coming onto property from farmland



Homeowner 1's property Red line indicates Springbrook pathway



Fox Valley Trap Club location

### CONCLUSIONS

Nitrate levels in SpringBrook are directly related to the amount of fertilizer farmers put on their fields each growing season

Homeowner's testimony supports the hypothesis of excessive amounts of nitrogen used in fields near SpringBrook



### RECOMENDATIONS

- A Written survey may be useful
- Door to door surveying may be more successful
- Anonymous surveying method is necessary
- Thorough follow up with local officials to fully understand the local situation