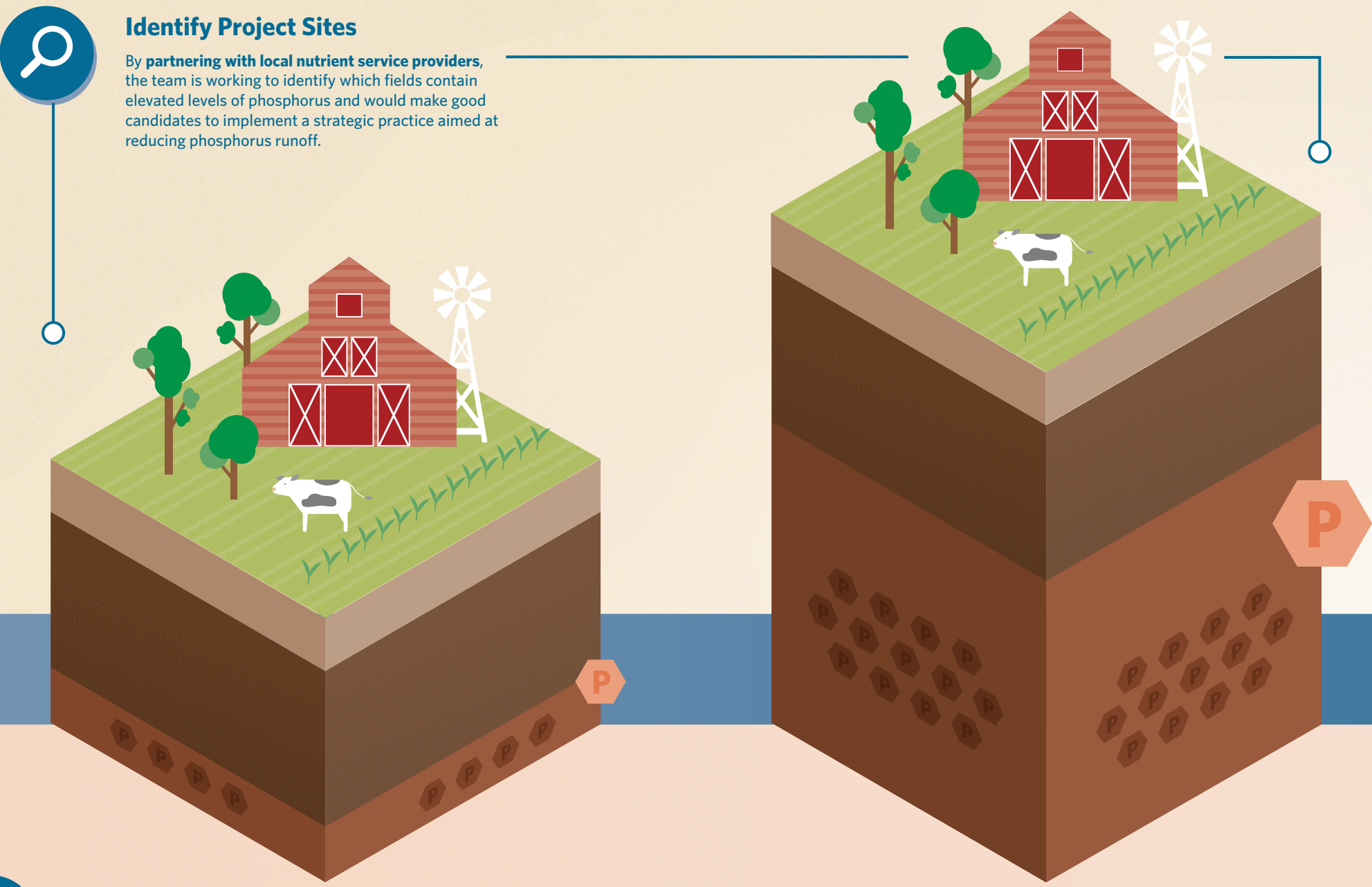


ELEVATED PHOSPHORUS FIELDS

An elevated phosphorus field contains high levels of phosphorus in the soil because of **soil type, geography or historic land use**. The Nature Conservancy, The Ohio State University and local nutrient service providers have launched a pilot project identifying pathways for elevated levels of phosphorus reaching our waterways. The goal is to reduce phosphorus inputs into the Western Lake Erie Basin and reduce the threat of harmful algae blooms.



Identify Project Sites
By partnering with local nutrient service providers, the team is working to identify which fields contain elevated levels of phosphorus and would make good candidates to implement a strategic practice aimed at reducing phosphorus runoff.

Best Management Practice (BMP)
Aiding the landowner in implementing a best management practice (BMP) that will target phosphorus runoff from each field. Implementing practices like **cover crops, saturated buffers or filter beds** can greatly reduce the amount of phosphorus leaving a field.

Study
Monitoring and researching the effectiveness of each practice that has been implemented is key to understanding how these practices work.

Secure Funding
The partnership works to **ease the financial burden** to implement practices and provide support in installing the practices needed to slow phosphorus runoff from the farm.

Scale
Once we **understand which practices are most effective**, we'll be able to take that information and apply it to future work throughout the Western Lake Erie Basin watershed and beyond.

Phosphorus in Lake Erie
The current input of dissolved reactive phosphorus into the Western Lake Erie Basin is elevated. This project is aimed at bringing that input down. The watershed wide goals are to reduce the amount of dissolved reactive phosphorus entering the lake by **40% by 2020**.

Drinking Water
This watershed provides drinking **water for more than 400,000 people**. In 2014, algae blooms were so widespread that a drinking water ban was put into effect for the local population. Protecting this resource is a major public health issue.



Fishing Economy
Protecting water quality is important to the local charter fishing industry and the more than **\$244 million commercial fishery** on Lake Erie.

Recreation Economy
Lake Erie draws more than **11 million visitors** each year, continued algae blooms will keep visitors away from the coastal towns throughout the summer months.

Public Private Partnership

