IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

AG DIVERSIFICATION & MARKET DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Overview: The Ag Diversification and Market Development Bureau processes applications for organic certification and works to ensure approval of those applications that meet state and federal regulations. This bureau also provides marketing opportunities for diversified agricultural products throughout the state. Agricultural marketing, horticulture, and farmers' markets are important components of these programs.

Highlighted programs:

Iowa Farm to School Program

The Iowa Farm to School program links schools with Iowa farmers. In turn, participating farmers provide schools with fresh, minimally-processed, Iowa-grown food for inclusion in school meals and snacks and offer ways for children to develop healthy eating habits. The program also often includes hands-on learning activities related to local agriculture.

Organic Certification Program

The Organic Certification Program is accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA)/National Organic Program (NOP) and has been since 2002, when the NOP was first implemented. Iowa Code Chapter 190C established an Organic Certification Program and adopts the National Organic Program by reference.

Iowa Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program (RFIP)

This grant program offers financial incentives to Iowa retail fuel distributors (sellers) for the installation of new equipment capable of handling the newer bio-based fuels such as biodiesel, E-15 and E-85 ethanol. An 11-member board of directors is responsible for the program with IDALS serving as the funds administrator.

ANIMAL INDUSTRY BUREAU

Overview: The Animal Industry Bureau oversees multiple programs to protect animal health and the public, plus the licensing of veterinarians and veterinary technicians. This includes the licensing, inspection and regulation of commercial establishments (animal breeders, shelters, and kennels), auction markets, and dealers. The Bureau also regulates the importation of animals and animal movement within the state — as well as the investigation, control, and eradication of diseases.

Highlighted programs:

Commercial Establishment Program

This program includes all commercial establishments provided in Iowa Code chapter 162, including pet shops, commercial breeders of dogs and cats, animal shelters, commercial kennels, boarding kennels, dealers, pounds, and research facilities. The program also covers privately owned pounds and public auctions of dogs and cats. Pursuant to Iowa Code, the fees collected from licensing and renewals support the inspection of all licensees, maintenance of records, and addressing complaints at licensed commercial establishments.

Foreign Animal Disease

The $13.45 billion Iowa animal industry has seen significant growth in recent years. The industry employs thousands of Iowans and adds value to Iowa grown corn and soybeans. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Animal Industry Bureau supports this important and growing industry.

Animal diseases present an ever-present threat to the Iowa animal industry. Iowa Department of Agriculture veterinarians and livestock inspectors are on the front line of efforts to work with industry and USDA to prevent, prepare and respond.

One example of these efforts is the Department's Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) preparedness program, which aims to prevent outbreaks among Iowa's livestock population and develop comprehensive crisis response plans for emergency situations.

CLIMATOLOGY BUREAU

Overview: The primary emphasis of the Bureau is the collection, quality control, summation, and archiving of Iowa weather records. The weather section of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) "Iowa Crops and Weather" is written by the State Climatologist each week from the beginning of April through the end of November. The Bureau issues a brief summary of the state's weather and climate is issued within the first few business days of the month in the "Iowa Preliminary Monthly Weather Summary." Another monthly report, "Iowa Climate Review" is prepared later and contains a detailed daily summary of temperature and precipitation records across Iowa and is suitable for court use.

The Climatology Bureau also provides input each week to the U.S. Drought Monitor and offers detailed weather records to support pesticide drift investigations conducted by the Department's Pesticide Bureau.

COMMERCIAL FEED AND FERTILIZER BUREAU

Overview: The Commercial Feed and Fertilizer Bureau licenses feed mills and commercial feed manufacturing facilities. This bureau also registers feed and stock tonic products, collects commercial feed tonnage fees, and inspects medicated feed in accordance with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rules and regulations. State and private sector organizations cooperate with this bureau to obtain licenses and register fertilizer plants and products. Additionally, the Bureau collects, compiles, and distributes data on plant food consumption. Other duties include collecting commercial fertilizer tonnage fees and groundwater protection fees, and regulating all anhydrous ammonia installations in the state. Because this bureau oversees both feed- and fertilizer-related matters, it is also instrumental in regulating licensing for a wide array of entities, from limestone quarries to egg handlers.

Highlighted program:

Feed contract

The State of Iowa is under contract with FDA to perform eight (8) various types of feed inspections. This contract also includes collection of various types of feed samples. This contract allows the Bureau of Feed and Fertilizer to fulfill Iowa Code requirements regarding inspections and samples with some of the costs covered by the FDA.

DAIRY PRODUCTS AND CONTROL BUREAU

Overview: The Dairy Products and Control Bureau has three programs to protect the health of the public and the dairy industry's ability to participate in interstate commerce. The Dairy Products Control Bureau oversees licensing for plants, farms, grader/haulers, milk trucks/tankers and sample/couriers per Iowa Code and rules. In addition, the Dairy Bureau conducts FDA survey work that is part of the Cooperative Agreement.

Highlighted program:

Dairy Entity Inspections

The Dairy Bureau Field Staff inspects dairy farms a minimum of twice a year, dairy plants a minimum of four times a year, grader/haulers once a year, and milk truck/tankers once a year. Additionally, staff perform hundreds of pasteurization inspections and equipment tests every year.

ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT SCIENCE BUREAU

Overview: The Entomology & Plant Science Bureau is responsible for implementing laws on pests, weeds, seed, and bees. Duties include listing plant, insect, and disease pests and carrying out control, annually inspecting nursery stock (hardy woody perennials) and inspecting and certifying plant products destined for sale outside of Iowa, including foreign destination (phytosanitary certificates). The Bureau also charged with establishing the labeling requirements of agricultural and vegetable seeds, establishing the required tests for sale of agricultural and vegetable seed, and issuing seed permits.

The state hemp program, which was passed by the Iowa Legislature in 2019, is also administered through this bureau.

FIELD SERVICES (SOIL AND WATER) BUREAU

Overview: The Field Services Bureau provides technical support for the 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), the 500 elected SWCD commissioners and their staff (approximately 150 employees). Staff within the bureau works very closely with many partners. However, the core partnership between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) is the foundation for the success of this bureau's programs. The cooperative working agreement has provisions in which NRCS provides, office space, employee training, equipment, and vehicles for field staff employees and SWCD employees. In exchange, staff assist with federal workload implementation. The Bureau also administers low and no-interest loan programs.

Highlighted program:

Soil Conservation Cost Share Program

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP

IOWAAGRICULTURE.GOV | 515.281.5321

COST SHARE IN 2019

$6.5 M STATE CONTRIBUTION

$6.5 M IOWA FARMER CONTRIBUTION

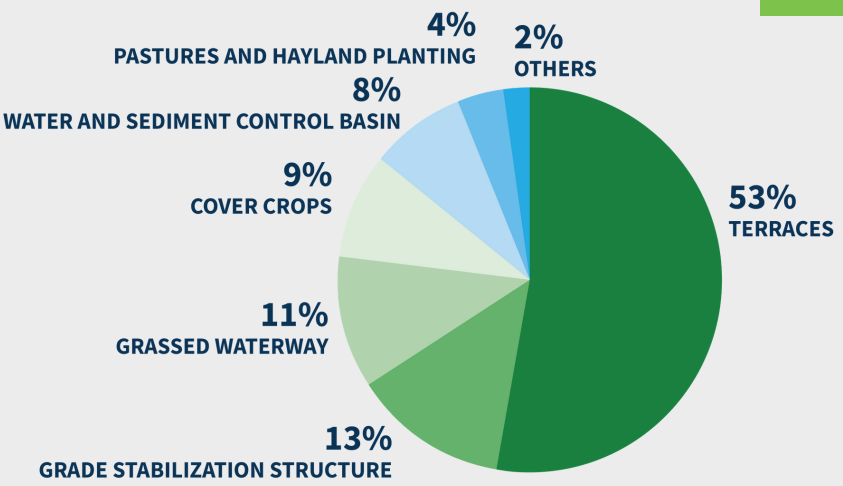
$13 M TOTAL INVESTMENT

"The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is dedicated to working with farmers, landowners and hundreds of partners to accelerate the adoption of conservation practices across the state. I am grateful for the Iowa Legislature's continued funding of the cost share program, which allows farmers and landowners to implement practices on their fields."

Mike Naig,
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

978 IOWA FARMERS

used cost share to install conservation practices, including:



There were **191 miles of terraces** installed using state cost share in SFY 2019. As a crow flies, this is the distance from Des Moines to Kansas City!

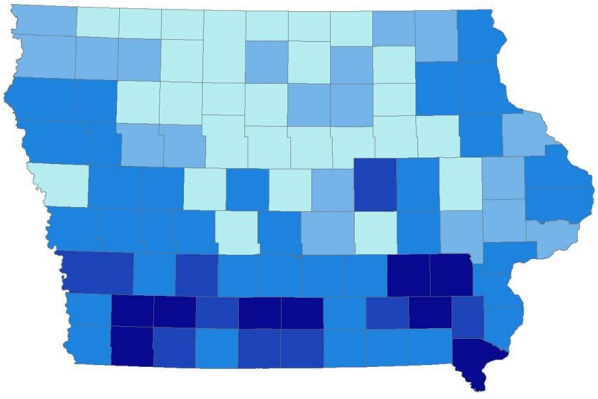
Why so many terraces?

- Effective
- Long term
- Trap up to 95% of the sediment and phosphorus

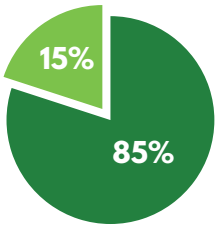
2019 COST SHARE PAID TO IOWA FARMERS

Diverse landforms across Iowa directly affect the cost and type of conservation practice best suited for each field. This impacts the funding a county needs and receives.

- < $10,000
- $10,001 - $25,000
- $25,001 - $80,000
- $80,001 - $130,000
- $130,001 - $210,000



HOW COST SHARE WORKS



85% of the funds directly benefit the land, and the rest is used for administration.

01

FUNDS APPROPRIATED

by the Iowa Legislature to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for soil conservation cost share.

02

FUNDS ARE DISTRIBUTED

to Iowa's 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) based on land use, soil erodibility and landowner demand.

03

FARMERS & LANDOWNERS APPLY FOR COST SHARE

year-round for both annual management practices and permanent conservation infrastructure practices at local SWCDs.

04

SWCD COMMISSIONERS APPROVE APPLICATIONS

Commissioners are elected to promote conservation, help administer state and federal programs, and direct activities like field days and water quality projects.

05

FARMERS HIRE LOCAL CONTRACTOR

to do the work and develop the customized conservation practice plans with staff and the landowners, using modern survey and design tools.

06

PRACTICES ARE INSTALLED

and soil conservation and water quality benefits begin. Farm productivity improves by keeping soil in the fields, and soil and nutrients are kept out of the water.

PRACTICE EXAMPLES:

TERRACES

COVER CROPS

GRASSED WATERWAYS

WATER & SEDIMENT CONTROL BASINS

GRADE STABILIZATION

Each **Soil and Water Conservation District** is led by five locally elected **Commissioners**, who help administer state and federal programs and direct activities such as field days, water quality projects and awards programs. Thirty-five **Technicians** and 98 **Conservation Assistants** support conservation work in 100 district offices. Staff cover multiple districts to support all 99 counties. Technicians provide technical support, develop surveys, and layout and design conservation practices. Conservation Assistants support district activities and outreach and process cost share applications and claims.

THE IMPACT OF COST SHARE

01

Through the soil conservation cost share program, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has **partnered with farmers and landowners for more than four decades** to support the adoption of proven conservation practices. A statewide effort to identify and map six types of common conservation practices has been recently completed and provides the most comprehensive inventory of conservation practices in the nation, including:

460,000,000
FEET OF TERRACES

114,000
POND DAMS

240,000
WATER AND SEDIMENT CONTROL BASINS

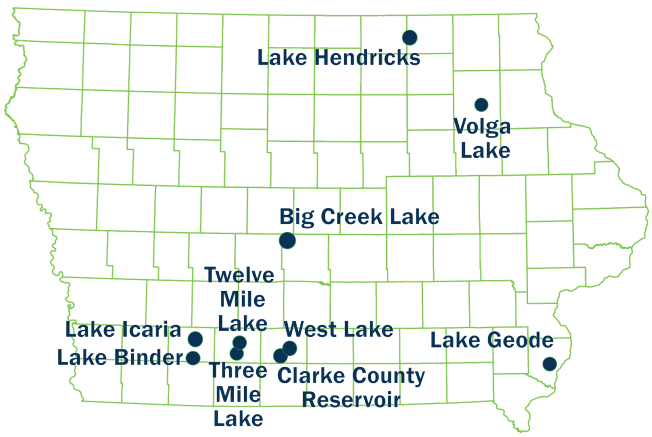
325,000
ACRES OF GRASSED WATERWAYS

THESE EXISTING PRACTICES WOULD REQUIRE AN ESTIMATED **$6.2 BILLION** TO BUILD TODAY

02

Five percent of each year's cost share appropriation goes toward **protecting the water quality of public lakes** in Iowa. SWCDs submit applications to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to become a designated lake. Farmers living within the selected lake's watersheds can apply for up to 75% cost share in order to establish practices to protect water quality.

ELIGIBLE LAKES FOR SFY2019



03

It's good for Iowa's economy. Money gets reinvested in Iowa's communities to protect natural resources, recreational activities and local businesses.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

Our technicians and conservation assistants are a part of the 100 SWCDs, which are housed within federal USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Centers. Our field staff uses federal equipment and other resources. Therefore, the partnership between the Iowa Department of Agriculture, SWCDs and NRCS is critical. Other partners working together include the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI), USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA), USDA Rural Development, State Soil Conservation and Water Quality Committee (SSCWQC), ISU Cooperative Extension Service, county conservation boards, county board of supervisors, drainage districts, levee districts and other local groups.

GRAIN WAREHOUSE BUREAU

Overview: The Grain Warehouse Bureau licenses and regulates warehouse operators and grain dealers. The Bureau regulates warehouse operators to protect individuals and businesses who hold title of grain stored in the warehouse operator's facilities. The Bureau enforces laws to protect producers who sell grain to licensed grain dealers. Grain inventories are checked for quantity and quality to verify that they are sufficient to cover the grain obligations on the licensee's records as required by law.

The Bureau is also charged with the administration of the Grain Indemnity Fund. This fund provides coverage for grain stored in a warehouse licensed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture. The fund also provides coverage for grain sold and delivered to a grain dealer licensed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture. The coverage is 90% of a loss up to a maximum $300,000 per claimant. Grain sold on credit sale contracts is not covered. The fund reimburses the Iowa Department of Agriculture for expenses connected with the administration and protection of the fund.

The Bureau also completes audits for the corn and soybean promotion boards. These audits certify that the correct assessments are received from the producer and then correctly paid to the respective corn and soybean promotion boards.

IOWA LABORATORY BUREAU

Overview: The Iowa Laboratory Bureau works on issues related to food safety, economic assurance, and the environment. Testing focuses on label guarantees, pathogens in food products, and misuse of agricultural products. There are several laboratories within the Laboratory Bureau that each focus on specific products and work closely with other Department of Agriculture bureaus. Inspectors from the Dairy Products Control Bureau, the Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau, the Pesticide Bureau, and the Commercial Feed and Fertilizer Bureau collect and submit samples for testing. Samples entering the Laboratory are considered official samples and viable for regulatory actions. The Laboratory is strictly regulatory in nature and does not perform testing for the general public or for industry on a fee-basis. The laboratories use verified methods and participate in accreditation testing and/or "check sample" programs to verify that methods, staff, and equipment are performing well. When the testing is completed, the results are provided to the associated Bureau in the Wallace Building.

Highlighted program:

ISO Certification

In February of 2019, the Laboratory Bureau received ISO 17025 accreditation from the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). This certification will allow the Iowa Department of Agriculture to build upon its reputation of quality research by providing accurate and reliable testing.

The ISO certification is important, as results from accredited labs tend to be more readily accepted by other laboratories, federal agencies and the courts which will save taxpayer time and resources.

ISO 17025 is the highest recognized quality standard in the world for calibration and testing laboratories. For an organization to be accredited in ISO 17025, its laboratory must be able to consistently produce precise and accurate results and have implemented a rigorous quality management system.

The additional expense of establishing an accredited laboratory was provided through the support of an FDA cooperative agreement.

MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTIONS BUREAU

Overview: The Iowa Meat and Poultry Inspections Bureau assures a safe, wholesome, and truthfully labeled supply of meat and poultry products from the establishments under the Bureau's inspection. The Bureau enforces, Iowa Code Chapter 189A, the Meat and Poultry Inspection Act. This Chapter's objective is "to provide for meat and poultry products inspection programs that will impose and enforce requirements with respect to intrastate operations and commerce that are at least equal to those imposed and enforced under the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Federal Poultry Products Inspection Act". To this end, the Bureau has adopted Federal meat and poultry inspection regulations for the administration of the mandatory inspection requirements in the state inspected establishments.

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) completes ongoing oversight through self-assessments and on-site reviews to assure that the state program provides a system of inspection that is at least "equal to" the provisions found in the Federal Acts.

The Bureau also cooperates with industry, academia, government, and the citizens of Iowa to enhance their knowledge of safe food production and handling practices at all levels in the food chain.

MINES AND MINERALS BUREAU

Overview: The Mines and Minerals Bureau is responsible for licensing mining operations in the state, enforcing appropriate environmental regulations during extraction and reclamation, and performing reclamation of coal mine locations. The goal is to assure that extraction occurs in a manner that is environmentally safe and restores the landscape following mining to appropriate standards of reclamation and soil productivity.

Highlighted program:

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation

Iowa has more than 13,000 acres of abandoned coal sites that were mined prior to 1977 and are eligible to be reclaimed under Title IV of the Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (Public Law 95-87). The Department was granted primacy for its Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Program in 1983 by the Secretary of Interior and works cooperatively with the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).

While abandoned coal sites may include processing facilities, waste banks, and hoisting shafts from old underground mines, most are former surface mines where the material lying above the coal was removed to extract the coal, without any provision for reclamation following mining. Some 300 Iowa sites, located mostly in the southeastern part of the state, are part of an inventory maintained jointly by the Department and OSMRE.

The Department receives grant funding annually to reclaim eligible sites selected from this inventory. Criteria for selecting sites are based on potential hazards to public health and safety, as well as environmental problems. The inventory is continually updated to add more site specific information and to reflect the elimination of problem areas as a result of project completions.

The AML staff develops potential projects by preparing a site inventory, an environmental analysis, and a reclamation design prior to expending grant funds for construction. Construction solutions eliminate dangerous highwalls, acid mine drainage, clogged streams, and hazardous water bodies. Ridges of acid-forming shale are also graded and vegetated. Priority is given to eliminating health and safety hazards, restoring impacted land and water resources, and eliminating off-site environmental impacts.

Secondary benefits of completed projects include improved water quality and reduction of sediment deposition and clogging of streams off-site. The AML program works with landowners in the design and development of a reclamation plan that will provide a suitable land use following completion of the project. While the sites remain fragile, landowners see their property returned to a manageable condition that allows some productive or beneficial use.

Both private and public landowners are eligible participants. Working partners include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Office of Historical Preservation, and other federal, state, and local agencies.

One successful Iowa project can be found in the City of Logan (Harrison County). The project there won the National Award for Abandoned Mine Land reclamation in 2018.

PESTICIDE BUREAU

Overview: The Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship Pesticide Bureau facilitates the judicious use of pesticides through state regulatory programs, education, and outreach in order to protect human health and the environment and to ensure access to safe, effective pest control measures.

Regulatory programs administered by the Bureau are mandated under the Pesticide Act of Iowa found in Chapter 206, Iowa Code, including primary enforcement responsibility for pesticide use/misuse violations under sections 26 and 27 of the Federal Insecticide, Rodenticide and Fungicide Act (FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. §136). Established regulatory programs involve a state/federal/public relationship to meet federal requirements for enforcement and applicator certification programs (7 U.S.C. §136). These programs are supported by state and federal funds through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Highlighted program:

Certifications and licensing

The Iowa Department of Agriculture Pesticide Bureau oversees licensing for pesticide dealers, commercial pesticide applicators, aerial applicators, and registration for consultants. The Pesticide Bureau also collaborates with Iowa State University Extension, which offers private and commercial applicator certification training through the University.

The Pesticide Bureau is also charged with crafting the joint State of Iowa-EPA plan for pesticide compliance. Certification exams and review of programs offered by Iowa State University Extension and industry also fall within the purview of the Pesticide Bureau.

The Pesticide Bureau within Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is responsible for responding to complaints and helping protect citizens from misuse of the products. In addition, education and testing on the safe use of pesticides is administered to all licensed pesticide applicators in conjunction with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. The Department's pesticide investigator gathers information by providing notification of inspection, conducting interviews, obtaining statements, reviewing application records and pesticide labels, taking photographs and making on-site assessments. The information gathered helps document whether a violation of state and/or federal pesticide law occurred.

WATER RESOURCES BUREAU

Overview: The Water Resources Bureau is responsible for implementation of several programs and initiatives within the Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality, including support for special projects, wetlands and water quality improvement initiatives, watershed planning and projects, and programs that are not explicitly carried out through field offices or Iowa Financial Incentives cost-share. Over the last few years, changes in legislation and funding patterns have redefined the role of the Water Resources Bureau, and presently much of the work being completed in the bureau is connected to the Water Quality Initiative and a series of state-federal partnerships.

Additionally, Water Resources Bureau staff serve on various intergovernmental working groups and provide technical and administrative support to the Iowa Water Quality Initiative (WQI).

Highlighted programs:

Agricultural Drainage Well Closure

Agricultural drainage wells (ADWs) were developed in the early to mid-1900's and discharge cropland tile drainage water to underground aquifers. As part of the Groundwater Protection Act passed by the Iowa Legislature in 1997, a program was created to protect drinking water aquifers by cost-sharing with landowners to close agricultural drainage wells and develop alternative drainage outlets to surface streams or install alternative management practices. Projects are typically constructed through drainage districts, although some projects are undertaken by individual landowners.

At the time the program was created, a total of 300 ADWs were registered in Iowa and were permitted by the DNR.

The ADW closure program provides landowners or drainage districts with 75% cost-share assistance for eligible expenses, which include engineering costs and construction costs associated with well closure and alternative drainage outlets. Alternative systems can be built to meet a ½" drainage coefficient; if a landowner or district opts for a higher drainage coefficient, they are fully responsible for the additional costs associated with that upgrade.

The expense associated with the remaining wells is due to the need for significant alternative drainage and physical challenges associated with the installation of that drainage (i.e. shallow limestone, topography). The remaining wells are operating under continued use permits issued by DNR which expire in 2020 and 2021.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was initiated in 2001 and is a joint effort of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the USDA Farm Service Agency to protect Iowa drinking water and reduce hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. It is a highly targeted water quality program focusing on the reduction of nitrate loads to surface waters through the restoration of strategically located and designed wetlands that intercept tile-drainage water from upper-lying cropland. Research and monitoring by Iowa State University has shown that CREP wetlands remove 40-90% of the nitrate in tile-drainage water. In addition, these wetlands provide high quality wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

2020 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

IOWA WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP

IOWAAGRICULTURE.GOV | 515.281.5321

UPDATE FROM SECRETARY NAIG

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship appreciates the continued investment from Gov. Reynolds and the Iowa legislature, which allows us to expedite the state's soil health and water quality improvement efforts. We know more now than we did when the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy began in 2013, and there are new practices available to aid in reducing nutrient losses. More farmers and partners are engaged than ever before and more funding is available to help with implementation. That's why we're investing in local technical resources to help cities, farmers and landowners add new conservation practices.

Mike Naig
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

Improving our water quality is a complex process. We're proud of the progress we've made on phosphorous through advances in reduced tillage and improved soil conservation efforts. We're building on this success and scaling up capacity for practices that reduce nitrogen losses. There's work to be done and it's not going to happen overnight. We remain committed to making measurable progress to improve water quality in Iowa and downstream — and both urban and rural citizens have a role to play in helping reach our shared water quality goals.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Department is accelerating the pace at which it's implementing water quality conservation practices.

- New technologies, funding and resources are allowing the Department to scale-up. There are currently 30 wetlands under development. By comparison, it took 15 years to construct the first 90 wetlands. Appropriately sited, every acre of these wetlands reduces 1,500 pounds of nitrogen annually.
- The Department doubled the amount of saturated buffers and bioreactors in the state over the last two years.
- Eight rural water quality and development projects, 11 urban conservation water projects and seven watershed projects were funded in 2019.
- The Department recently submitted four USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) applications and is partnering in four additional proposals.
- The Department partnered with Ducks Unlimited on four wetland restoration projects, with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) contributing to three of the four projects. The wetlands are estimated to remove 116,000 pounds of nitrogen per year.
- The Department was selected for a $1.15 million cooperative agreement from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Gulf of Mexico Program. The funding will be used to install up to six wetlands in targeted locations to improve water quality and habitat in the Middle Cedar River watershed. It is estimated this project will reduce downstream nitrogen loads by 58,000 pounds per year.

ABOUT THE IOWA WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

The Water Quality Initiative (WQI) was established during the 2013 legislative session to help execute Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS). The NRS provides a roadmap to achieve a 45 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorous losses to our waters using an integrated approach that includes point and non-point sources working together.

The WQI harnesses the collective ability of both private and public resources and organizations to rally around the NRS and add proven conservation practices to reduce nutrient loss and improve water quality in a scientific, reasonable and cost effective manner.

STATEWIDE WQI PROGRAM SUMMARY

The agriculture community recognizes the value of conservation practices and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is committed to protecting our natural resources for future generations. The Water Quality Initiative cost share funds help farmers and landowners install nutrient-reducing conservation practices around the state. The funds can be used to off-set the cost of cover crops, no-till/strip till or a nitrification inhibitor, which help improve soil health, reduce erosion and improve water quality.

Last fall, more than **2,900 FARMERS** participated

and invested **$10.2 MILLION** in funding

to match **$6.1 MILLION** through the state's WQI cost share fund.

1,700 FARMERS continued their conservation practices

1,200 FARMERS used a conservation practice for the first time

CROP INSURANCE PREMIUM DISCOUNTS FOR COVER CROP USAGE

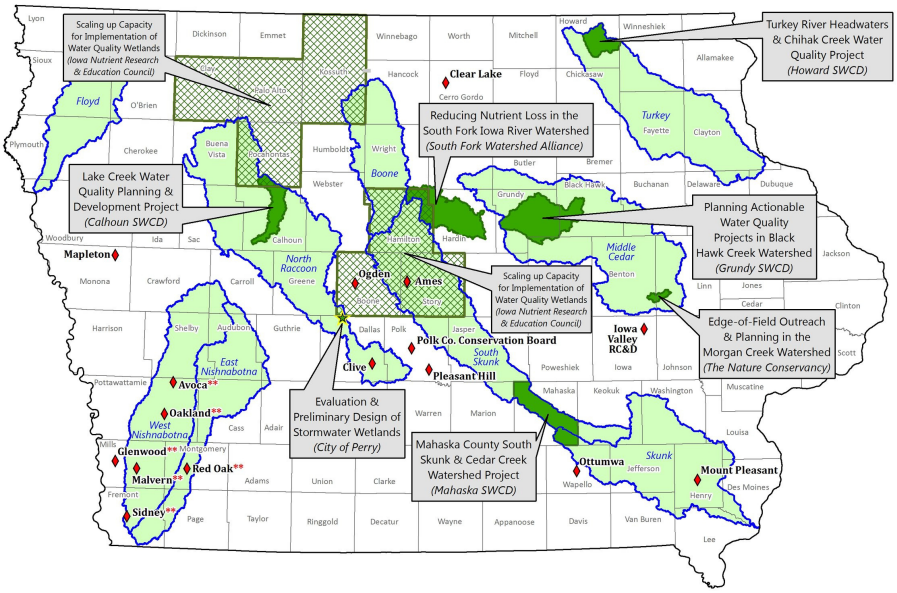
Under a joint, three-year demonstration project administered by the Department and USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA), farmers who plant cover crops in the fall may be eligible for a $5 per acre reduction on their spring 2020 cash crop insurance premiums. To qualify, the cover crop acres cannot be enrolled in other state or federal cover crop cost share programs.

Planting cover crops helps improve soil health and prevent erosion, especially during high-intensity rainfalls. Cover crops are also proven to reduce nitrogen loads by 28 to 31 percent and phosphorous loads by 29 percent, which helps improve water quality.

During the first two years, more than 1,200 applications were received for this program. The Department approved more than $1.5 million in funding for farmers and landowners to plant 305,000 acres of cover crops. Neighboring states in the Mississippi River basin have taken notice and are using Iowa's cover crop insurance discount program as a model to encourage adoption within their own borders.

PRIORITY WATERSHED DEMO PROJECTS

2019 WQI PROJECTS: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS & URBAN DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS



84 DEMO PROJECTS ACROSS THE STATE

9 WATER QUALITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED IN FY2020

11 URBAN WATER QUALITY PROJECTS FUNDED IN FY2020

★ Municipal Project Area
Urban Demonstration Projects
Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Priority HUC8 Watersheds
County Project Areas
** Golden Hills RC&D Urban Demonstration Project Areas
Watershed Project Areas

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Department is working alongside more than 320 public and private partners to execute Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. A total of 84 projects are located across the state to help implement and demonstrate water quality practices. This includes nine planning and development projects, 13 targeted watershed projects, seven projects focused on expanding the use and innovative delivery of water quality practices and 55 urban water quality demonstration projects. The state awarded these 84 projects over $29.5 million in funding. Private partners and landowners invested more than $49 million to support these projects.

In September, Secretary Naig and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) presented a Public-Private Partnership award to the Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance (IAWA) Business Council.

The NASDA Public-Private Partnership award recognizes private organizations that partner with a state Department of Agriculture to implement a program, project or service that positively impacts its residents. Secretary Naig nominated the IAWA Business Council, made up of 14 organizations, for collaborating with the Department to improve Iowa's water quality.

"Collaboration among public and private partners is key to scaling-up scientifically-proven solutions that improve water quality locally and downstream. These demonstration projects are great examples of what we can accomplish when public and private partners all work together to expedite the implementation of conservation practices."

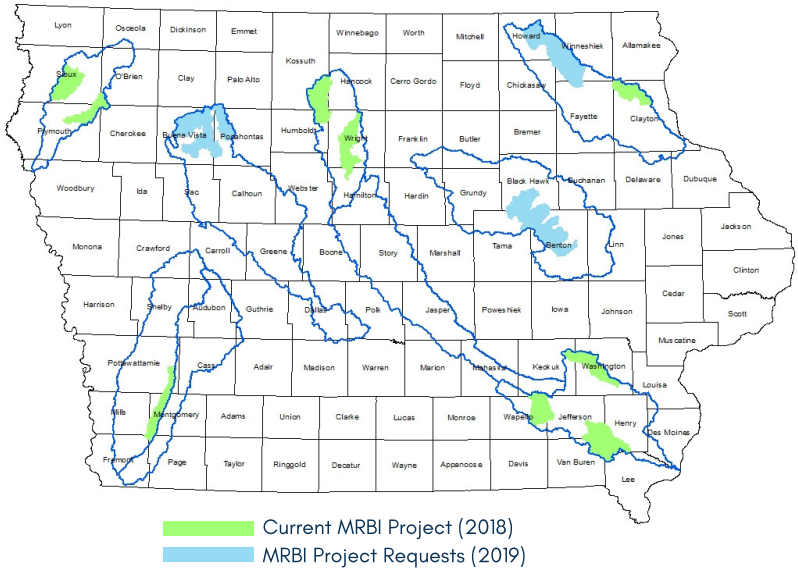
Mike Naig,
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

LEVERAGING STATE APPROPRIATIONS WITH FEDERAL FUNDING

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship worked with several WQI watershed project coordinators to submit a request to USDA-NRCS for Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative (MRBI) funding.

In 2019, five WQI projects were submitted for inclusion in the MRBI to leverage WQI funding. Funding will support practices to improve water quality in these watersheds. A critical component to qualifying for this funding was to show active projects with continued financial support, committed landowners and farmers in the watersheds, and development of watershed assessments and plans to help inform activities.

Watershed projects submitted for MRBI funding include:



MILLER CREEK WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

BENTON/TAMA NUTRIENT REDUCTION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

HEADWATERS OF THE NORTH RACCOON

CENTRAL TURKEY RIVER

TURKEY RIVER HEADWATERS

USDA-NRCS REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP)

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is currently leading or partnering in seven USDA-NRCS RCPP projects. These projects are leveraging WQI and partner funding to bring in more than $19.3 million in additional federal funding for technical and financial assistance.

PROJECT NAME	LEAD PARTNER	AWARD DATE	RCPP FUNDING AMOUNT	WQI CONTRIBUTIONS	OTHER IDALS PROGRAM MATCH
Iowa Targeted Demonstration Watersheds Partnership Project	IDALS	2015	$3,500,000	$4,600,000	$ -
Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership	IDALS	2016	$9,500,000	$2,500,000	$ -
Middle Cedar Partnership Project	City of Cedar Rapids	2015	$2,100,000	$874,000	$ -
Upper Cedar Watershed Urban-Rural Partnership	City of Charles City	2016	$1,600,000	$275,189	$540,240
Fox River Water Quality Project	Davis SWCD	2017	$900,000	$ -	$651,350
Innovative Conservation Agriculture	Allamakee SWCD	2017	$646,670	$ -	$19,000
SmithfieldGro: Sustainable Grain Supply Chains	Environmental Defense Fund	2018	$1,080,000	$100,000	$ -
		TOTALS:	**$19,326,670**	**$8,349,189**	**$1,210,590**

Projects are awarded RCPP funding for up to five years. Financial assistance is being delivered through the local NRCS offices directly to landowners and farmers to install water quality practices.

In 2019, a new RFP was released by NRCS requesting proposals for new RCPP projects. The Department partnered with several groups to lead proposals on four projects and partnered on another four. The Department committed $37.2 million in contributions to bring in more than $50.6 million from NRCS. $250 million was made available nationwide by NRCS so at least 20 percent of available funds were requested by Iowa-based projects. NRCS anticipates announcing funding decisions in the summer of 2020.

EPA GULF OF MEXICO FUNDING

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has been selected for a $1.15 million cooperative agreement by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Gulf of Mexico Program. The funding will be used to install up to six wetlands in targeted locations to improve water quality and habitat in the Middle Cedar River watershed. It is estimated this project will reduce downstream nitrogen loads by 58,000 pounds per year.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is partnering with the Cities of Cedar Rapids, Cedar Falls and Waterloo, Iowa State University and Iowa Corn Growers Association on this project to locate, promote, design and construct these wetlands.

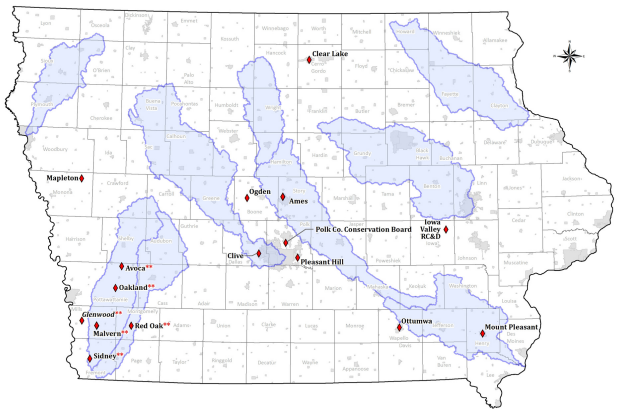
The Department also received a $1 million water quality grant from the EPA - Gulf of Mexico Program in 2018 to support conservation drainage practices in the Des Moines River Basin.

URBAN CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Urban conservation projects capture storm water and allow it to soak into the soil instead of running off the surface. This reduces the property's contribution to water quality degradation, stream flows and flooding. Partnerships, outreach and education are also key components of urban water quality projects. They raise awareness about water quality improvement practices and encourage others to adopt permanent infrastructure that reduces the nutrient loads in surface waters.

Practices which may be installed as part of these urban projects include bioretention cells, bioswales, native plantings, permeable pavement, rain gardens, soil quality restoration and wetlands.

Funding was established for 11 new urban projects in 2019: Amana Colonies, Ames, Avoca, Clear Lake, Clive, Des Moines, Glenwood, Malvern, Mapleton, Mount Pleasant, Oakland, Ogden, Ottumwa, Pleasant Hill, Red Oak and Sidney.



"We're on a journey to improve our natural resources for the next generation of Iowans. Whether you own a quarter acre lot in town or a quarter section in the country, you have a role to play. We must all work together to reach our shared water quality goals. We ask rural and urban citizens and public and private partners to work alongside us to raise awareness about conservation practices, promote available funding sources, and help us implement effective solutions."

Mike Naig,
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

The new 2019 projects received over

$900,000

in state funding.

The communities will also contribute

$2 MILLION

in matching funds from public and private partnerships.

IOWA NUTRIENT RESEARCH CENTER

The Iowa Nutrient Research Center at Iowa State University funded 16 new projects related to water quality. The Center addresses needs or gaps in nitrogen and phosphorus research that are important to helping Iowa reduce nutrient losses. Its research is evaluating the performance of current and emerging practices, providing recommendations on using new or tested practices and developing tools to help decision-makers adopt effective management practices. The Center has funded more than 60 projects led by scientists at Iowa State University, the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa in cooperation with other interested partners.

More information can be found at cals.iastate.edu/inrc/.

MONITORING AND MEASUREMENT

Iowa State University, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship issue an INRS annual report to provide progress updates on point source and nonpoint source efforts to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loads leaving the state. The reports can be viewed at nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu.

From 2018-2019, the Iowa State University Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology partnered with the Iowa Nutrient Research and Education Council (INREC), Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to employ a new best management practices land survey to better measure the number of permanent, land-based practices implemented across the state.

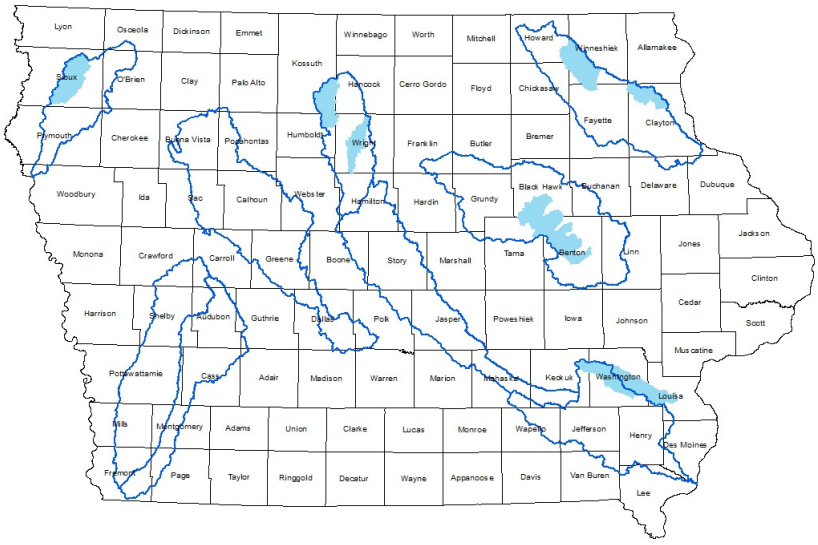
LOOKING FORWARD

Increased funding is allowing the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to add targeted full-time staff to accelerate the adoption of conservation practices.

- Added watershed coordinators in targeted watersheds (North Raccoon, South Skunk, Middle Cedar, Floyd River and Boone River) to work with urban planners, farmers and landowners.
- Hired an edge-of-field coordinator to work state-wide and streamline the process of adding edge-of-field conservation practices, including wetlands, saturated buffers and bioreactors.
- Will have one dedicated Conservation Assistant to support each Soil and Water Conservation District office.

Contracts with engineering and construction companies to streamline and reduce the backlog of infrastructure-based practices. Currently, there are more than 30 wetlands under development in Iowa.

Additional funding was established for seven Water Quality Initiative demonstration projects starting mid-2020:



BENTON/TAMA NUTRIENT REDUCTION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

BOONE RIVER WATERSHED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

TURKEY RIVER WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

DEMONSTRATION OF TARGETED NUTRIENT REDUCTION SYSTEMS FOR CLAYTON COUNTY

MILLER CREEK WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WEST BRANCH OF THE FLOYD RIVER WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE PROJECT

WEST FORK CROOKED AND LONG CREEK WATER QUALITY AND SOIL HEALTH PROJECT

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BUREAU

Overview: This Bureau inspects and licenses for commercial use all weights and measures or weighing and measuring devices, which includes many consumer-facing devices used to measure everything from petroleum products (e.g., fuel pumps) to food (e.g., commercial food scales). Additionally, this bureau conducts petroleum product sampling and testing, tests and certifies antifreeze, and conducts random package and labeling inspections of products offered for sale.

The Weights and Measures Bureau oversees bonds for commercial scale installations, registers and licenses all service agencies and persons who service or repair commercial measuring devices, and approves blueprints for new scale installations. The Bureau follows the rules and regulations of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and uses weights and measures standards that are traceable to NIST. The Bureau facilitates increased production and consumption of products made from Iowa's agricultural commodities by encouraging the production and use of renewable fuels and coproducts.

Highlighted program:

Fuel Pump Inspections

Iowa currently has over 42,000 fuel meters, which is up from 39,811 meters in 2016. During such inspections, experts examine the functionality of pumps to ensure that the display readings consumers view correspond accurately with the quantity of product actually dispensed. Inspectors also examine the technical and physical integrity of pump components. Additionally, pump examiners have been briefed on how to look for credit card “skimmers,” which are devices thieves use to steal personal information from unsuspecting customers. Local law enforcement partners with inspectors and conducts an investigation in the event that fuel pump payment system tampering is suspected.