



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE &  
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

# 2021 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 issuitable 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 fertilizer and soil conditioner 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 per year, dairy plants a minimum of four times per year, grader/haulers once per year, and milk truck/tankers once per year. Additionally, staff perform hundreds of pasteurization inspections and equipment tests each 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 is also charged with establishing the labeling requirements for 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 Iowa's 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and the 500 elected SWCD commissioners. 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 cost share programs and low and no-interest loan programs.

*Highlighted program:*

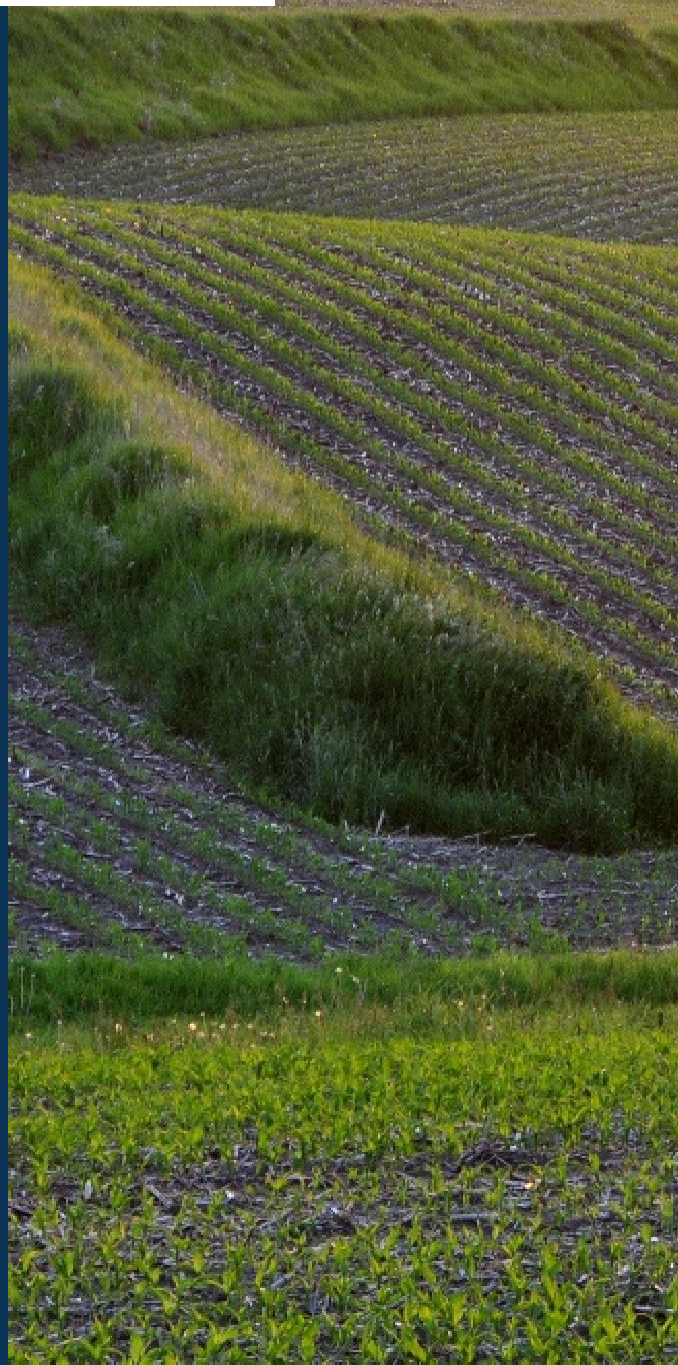
**Soil Conservation Cost Share Program**

**(SEE NEXT PAGE)**



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE



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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE &  
LAND STEWARDSHIP



## UPDATE FROM SECRETARY NAIG

Thank you for continuing to support the state's ongoing soil health and water quality improvement programs. Through the Iowa Financial Incentives Program (IFIP), the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship helps farmers and landowners adopt conservation practices, like terraces, grassed waterways, cover crops and grade stabilization structures, by sharing some of the planning, engineering and development costs. The IFIP cost share program serves to protect our valuable soil resources and further complements other conservation efforts, like the Water Quality Initiative.

I'm pleased to tell you that, despite the pandemic, there was record enrollment in the state's conservation cost share programs in 2020. For every dollar the state invests in conservation cost share programs, farmers, landowners and our private-sector partners invest additional dollars to implement practices that help the state make progress towards the goals outlined in Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and our public and private partners know there is more work to do, but we are on the right track. In 2021, we remain committed to helping cover Iowa in cover crops and other practices that improve soil health and water quality in our state and downstream.



**Mike Naig**  
Iowa Secretary  
of Agriculture

**\$6.5M**

STATE CONTRIBUTION

**1,452**

IOWA FARMERS ENROLLED IN 2020

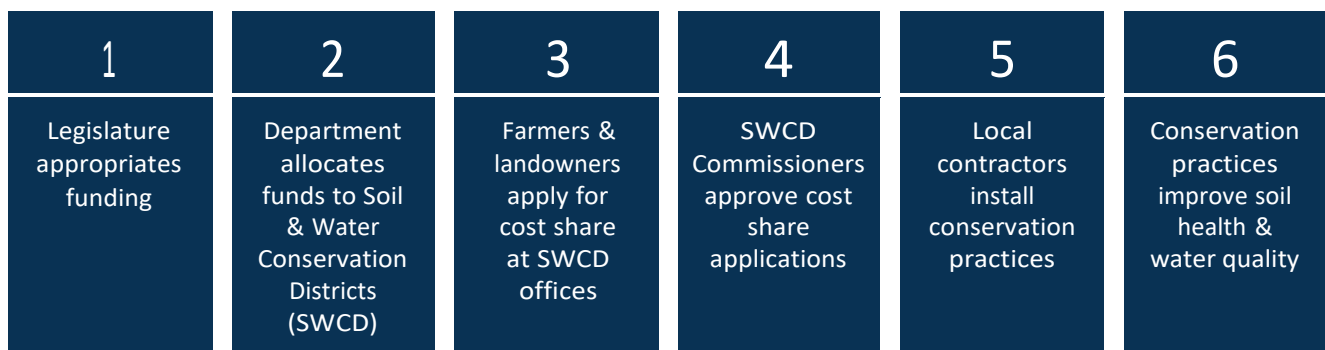
**\$6.5M**

IOWA FARMER CONTRIBUTION

**85%**

OF COST SHARE DIRECTLY BENEFITS THE LAND

### HOW COST SHARE WORKS

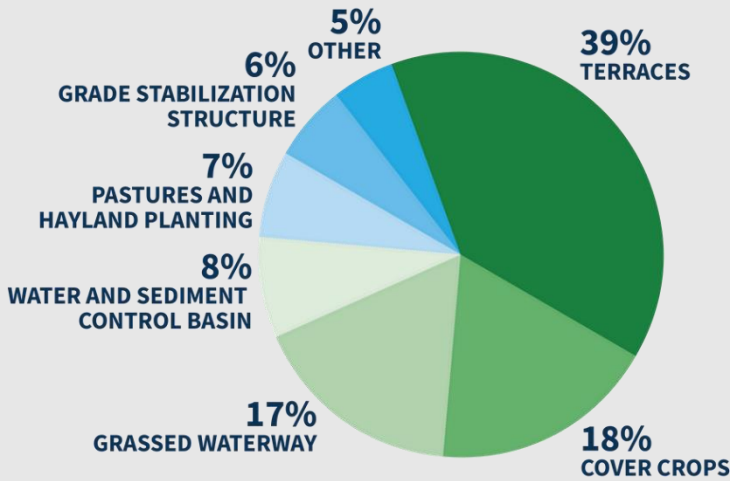


Each Soil and Water Conservation District is led by five locally-elected commissioners who help administer state and federal programs and direct activities such as field days, water quality projects and awards programs. Thirty-five technicians and 100 conservation assistants support conservation work 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.

# COST SHARE IN 2020

**1,452** IOWA FARMERS

used cost share to install conservation practices, including:



## COST SHARE IN ACTION: TAYLOR COUNTY SUCCESS STORY

More than 50 soil health and water quality improvement practices were installed in Taylor County in 2020 including:

- 16 miles of terraces
- 337 acres of pasture and hayland plantings
- 4 grade-stabilization structures

Local conservation leaders also leveraged other state and federal funding sources to complete an additional 75 practices in Taylor County.

This comprehensive conservation strategy benefits the landowners, local and downstream water sources, and the state's economy.

## PRACTICE EXAMPLES



TERRACES



COVER CROPS



GRASSED WATERWAYS



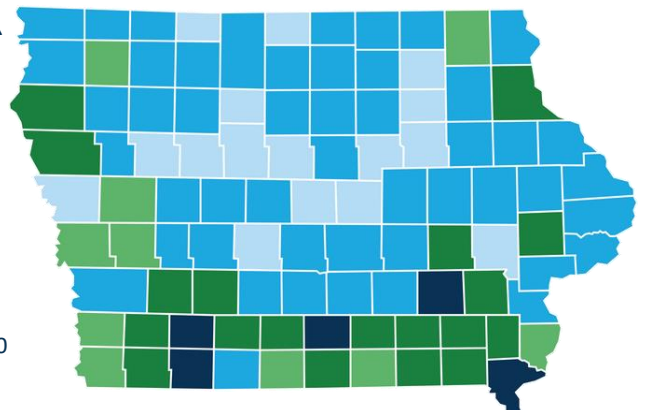
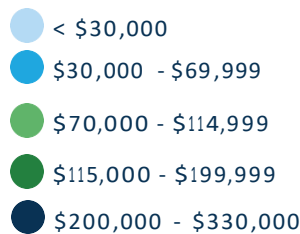
WATER & SEDIMENT CONTROL BASINS



GRADE STABILIZATION

## 2020 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 each county needs and receives.





# MEASURING LAND-BASED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

1

The Department 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 recently been 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

2

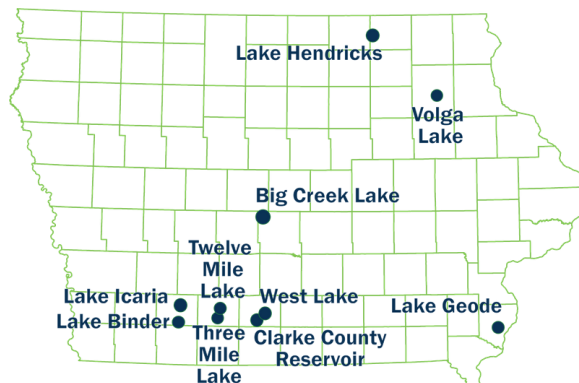
Farmers living within watersheds of designated lakes can apply for up to

**75%** COST SHARE

in order to establish practices to protect water quality.

5% of cost share is designated to protect the water quality of public lakes.

## ELIGIBLE LAKES FOR FY 2020



3

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

The partnerships between the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, 100 SWCDs and USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are critical to the success of the state's conservation efforts. The Department's technicians and conservation assistants are part of the 100 SWCDs, which operate out of the USDA's service centers. Additional conservation partners include the Conservation Districts of Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Rural Development, State Soil Conservation and Water Quality Committee, ISU Cooperative Extension Service, county conservation boards, the county board of supervisors, drainage districts, levee districts and other community 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 and Land Stewardship. The fund also provides coverage for grain sold and delivered to a grain dealer licensed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. 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 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 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.

*Highlighted program:*

### ISO Certification

In February of 2019, the Laboratory Bureau received ISO 17025 accreditation from the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA).



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 saves 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.

*Highlighted program:*

### Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program

In 2019, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship established a Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) Agreement with USDA-FSIS. The CIS program allows participating state-inspected meat and poultry establishments with less than 25 full-time employees to ship products across state lines.

## 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 Mahaska County. The 60-acre De Ronde project was completed in December 2020. The reclamation plan utilized natural regrade and conventional methods to mitigate the environmental effects of surface mining from the 1900s, address lingering safety and health concerns and return the land to beneficial use. Practices like terraces, basins, rock checks and permanent seeding help redirect water and improve soil health. Several wetlands were also created at the site to filter surface water runoff to help protect the Des Moines River downstream. This project won the National Award for Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation in 2021.



## PESTICIDE BUREAU

**Overview:** The Iowa Department of Agriculture and 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 and Land Stewardship 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 is responsible for responding to complaints and helping protect citizens from misuse of pesticide 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, including support for special projects, wetlands and water quality improvement initiatives, watershed planning and projects, agricultural drainage well closures, and programs that are not explicitly carried out through field offices or Iowa Financial Incentives cost-share. Much of the current work of 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:*

#### **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)***





# IOWA WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

IOWA'S NUTRIENT REDUCTION  
STRATEGY IN ACTION



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE &  
LAND STEWARDSHIP**



# UPDATE FROM SECRETARY NAIG

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is grateful that Gov. Reynolds and the Iowa Legislature continue to invest in the state's ongoing soil health and water quality improvement programs. The funding allocated through the Water Quality Initiative is critical to helping farmers, landowners and municipalities scale-up rural and urban conservation practices to achieve the goals outlined in Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. By doing so, we're protecting our rich soil and water sources for future generations of Iowans.

I'm pleased to tell you that, despite the pandemic, 2020 was a record year for participation in the state's conservation programs. I visited more than a dozen water quality project sites to speak with the farmers, landowners, community leaders and conservation experts who are our boots on the ground. Thanks to these individuals, we're adding conservation practices at a faster rate than ever before.

We're also attracting new private partners, like Ducks Unlimited, Nestlé Purina and Pheasants Forever, who are contributing significant funding and technical resources to help us build nutrient-reducing wetlands in priority watersheds.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and our public and private partners know there is more work to do, but we are on the right track. In 2021, we remain committed to working with our partners to continue scaling-up soil health and water quality improvement practices in rural and urban areas across the state.



**Mike Naig** Iowa  
Secretary of  
Agriculture

## FUNDING SOURCES

### 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 phosphorus losses to our waters using an integrated approach that includes point and nonpoint sources and public and private partners working together. The WQI cost share funds help farmers and landowners install nutrient-reducing conservation practices around the state.

### SENATE FILE 512

In 2018, the Iowa Legislature with support from Gov. Kim Reynolds, passed Senate File 512 which allocated more than \$270 million to help fund the state's water quality efforts through 2029. FY2021 is the first year the Department is receiving \$15 million to fund edge-of-field practices, like wetlands, saturated buffers, bioreactors and urban conservation projects. In 2020, the Department used this funding to hire technical resources in targeted watersheds, and to construct 10 wetlands, 15 bioreactors and seven saturated buffers.

## 2020 WQI HIGHLIGHTS

**3.5K**

FARMERS & LANDOWNERS  
ENROLLED IN 2020

**18K**

FARMERS & LANDOWNERS  
ENROLLED IN WQI SINCE 2013

**\$19M**

WQI FUNDS  
OBLIGATED IN 2020

**44**

WETLANDS  
UNDER DEVELOPMENT

**585K**

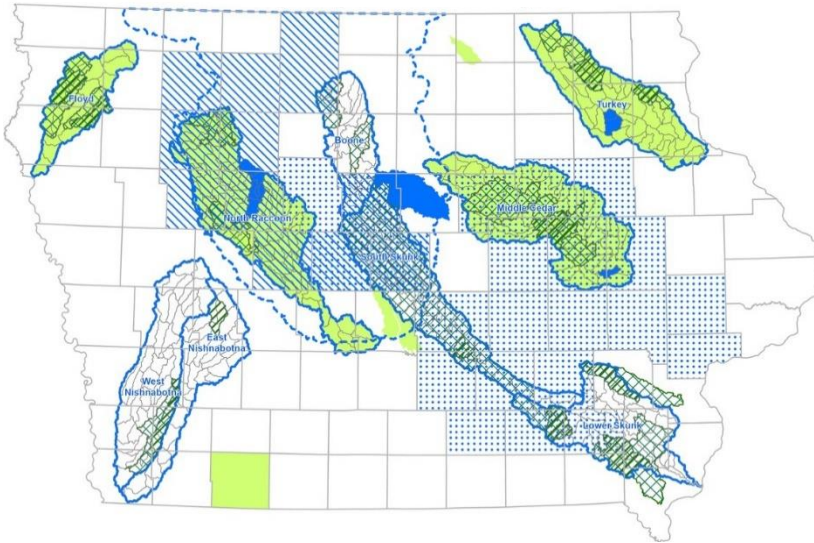
COVER CROP ACRES APPROVED  
FOR WQI FUNDS IN 2020

**45**

SATURATED BUFFERS AND BIOREACTORS  
UNDER DEVELOPMENT



# 2020 WQI PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS



- 32** PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2020
- \$10M** WQI FUNDS OBLIGATED IN 2020
- 50** PROJECTS FUNDED SINCE 2013
- \$34M** WQI FUNDS OBLIGATED SINCE 2013

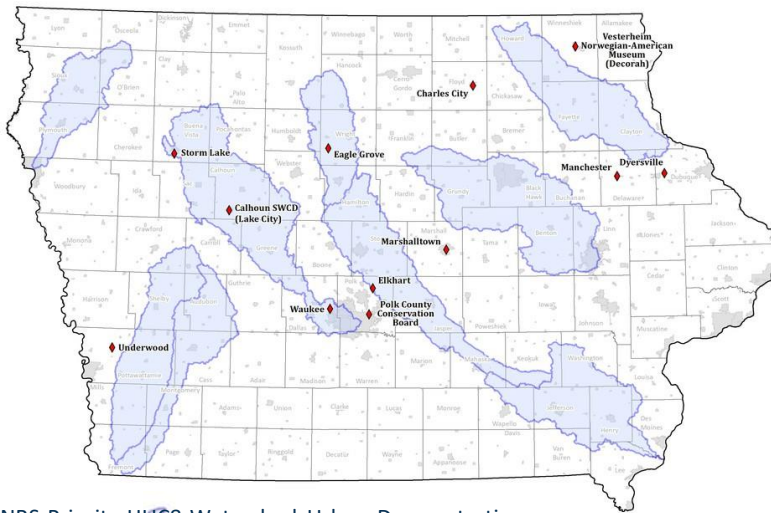
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| <p><b>Planning &amp; Demonstration Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Watershed Project Areas (non-HUC8)</li> <li> Ducks Unlimited Project Area</li> <li> Watershed Project Areas (HUC8s - Soil &amp; Water Outcomes Project)</li> <li> INREC Project Area</li> <li> Soil &amp; Water Outcomes Project Area</li> </ul> | <p><b>Watershed Demonstration Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Complete</li> <li> Active</li> </ul> <p><b>Practice Demonstration Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Practice Demonstration Projects</li> </ul> |
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## IOWA SYSTEMS APPROACH TO CONSERVATION DRAINAGE RCPP

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is working alongside 15 partners on the Iowa Systems Approach to Conservation Drainage project. This is a five-year, \$10 million demonstration project funded by USDA NRCS through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). It demonstrates the connection between in-field practices that improve agronomic, soil health and nutrient use efficiency, and edge-of-field practices that further improve water quality. When it is complete, the project is expected to reduce nitrogen losses by 1.185 million pounds per year and phosphorous losses by 40,000 pounds per year.



# 2020 URBAN CONSERVATION PROJECTS



NRS Priority HUC8 Watersheds Urban Demonstration Projects

**12** PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2020

**\$1M** WQI FUNDS OBLIGATED IN 2020

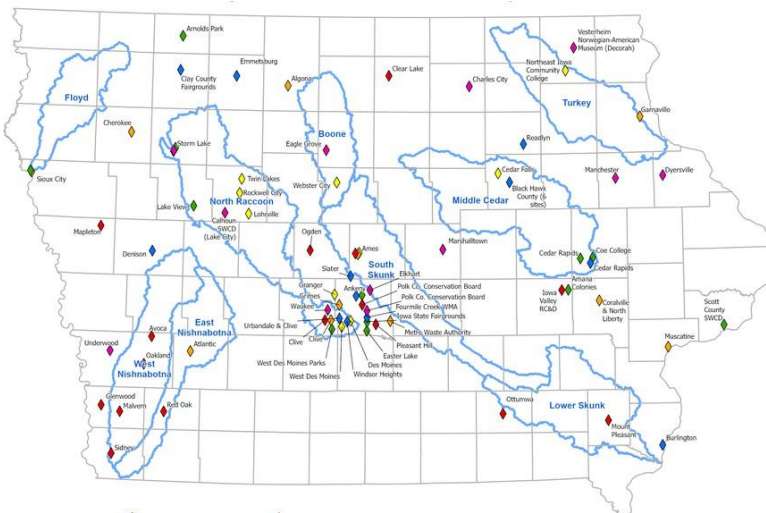
**\$8M** PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN 2020

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.

New projects were funded in 2020 in Charles City, Decorah, Des Moines, Dyersville, Eagle Grove, Elkhart, LakeCity, Manchester, Marshalltown, Storm Lake, Underwood and Waukege.

# ALL WQI URBAN CONSERVATION PROJECTS



◆ FY2015    ◆ FY2018  
◆ FY2016    ◆ FY2019  
◆ FY2017    ◆ FY2020

Iowa NRS Priority HUC8 Watersheds

**67** PROJECTS FUNDED SINCE 2015

**\$5M** WQI FUNDS OBLIGATED SINCE 2015

**\$19M** PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENTS SINCE 2015



# CROP INSURANCE DISCOUNTS FOR PLANTING COVER CROPS

Under a joint, ongoing 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 cash crop insurance premiums the following spring. To qualify, the cover crop acres cannot be enrolled in other state or federal cost share programs. Interest in the program continues to grow and new farmers and fields join each year. 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. Since the program began four years ago, nearly 1,700 farmers and landowners have enrolled more than 500,000 acres of cover crops in the WQI crop insurance discount program.



**665** FARMERS & LANDOWNERS ENROLLED IN 2020

**198K** COVER CROP ACRES ENROLLED IN 2020

**\$1M** WQI FUNDS OBLIGATED FOR COVER CROPS IN 2020

# STATEWIDE COST SHARE FOR IN-FIELD CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Each summer, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship encourages farmers and landowners to enroll in the WQI cost share program and adopt in-field conservation practices that improve soil health and water quality, including cover crops, no-till/strip-till practices or a nitrification inhibitor. Since this initiative began, more than 13,000 farmers and landowners have enrolled more than 1.2 million acres of cover crops in this WQI program.

**\$6M** WQI FUNDS OBLIGATED IN 2020

**3.5K** FARMERS & LANDOWNERS ENROLLED IN 2020

**\$12M** PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN 2020

**11K** NEW STRIP-TILL/NO-TILL ACRES APPLIED FOR IN 2020

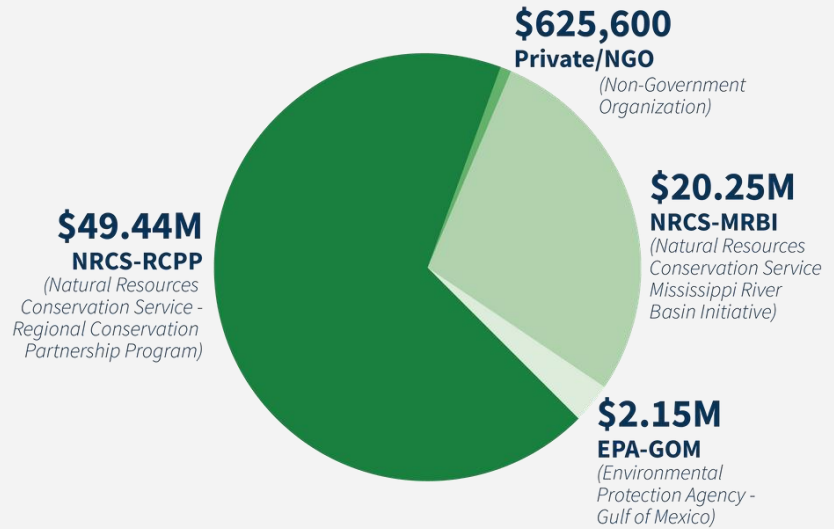
**387K** COVER CROP ACRES APPLIED FOR IN 2020

**6K** NEW NITRIFICATION INHIBITOR ACRES APPLIED FOR IN 2020

## PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNER PROJECTS

The Department is working alongside more than 350 public and private partners to execute Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. This includes federal agencies, private businesses, individual landowners, farmer-led organizations, community groups and local municipalities. Private partners provide significant financial assistance to help leverage state funding and additional technical resources to support farmers and landowners at the local level. The success of these partnership projects has allowed the state to acquire additional federal funding to further scale-up conservation efforts. Working together, Iowans are adding more conservation practices at a faster rate and more cost-effectively today than when the WQI began in 2013.

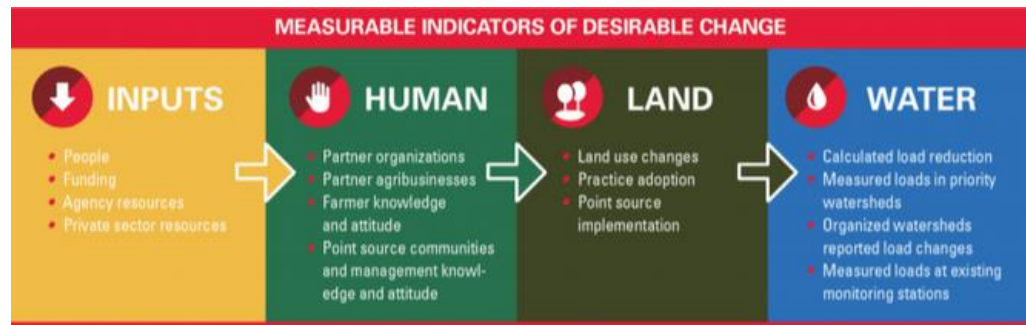
### PARTNERSHIP/COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF WQI



*Note: Summary is the total amount received since the start of the WQI and directly tied to WQI project activities. Many of these projects are multi-year and are in various stages of their project term. These totals do not include investments made by individual farmers or landowners.*

## PARTNERS IN MEASURING PROGRESS

Iowa State University, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship issue an annual report providing progress updates on point and nonpoint source efforts to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loads leaving the state. Progress is measured using the logic model that guides the INRS. The reports can be viewed at [nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu](http://nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu).



*The Logic Model of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, guided by measurable indicators of desirable change. (Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Measure of Success Committee, Water Resource Coordinating Council)*

From 2019-2020, the Iowa State University Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology partnered with the Iowa Nutrient Research and Education Council (INREC), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to employ a best management practices land survey to better measure the number of land-based practices implemented across the state.



## PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORIES

There are soil health and water quality improvement projects underway all across the state. Here are two examples of planning and implementation projects that were completed in 2020.



### EDGE-OF-FIELD CONSERVATION PRACTICES – LINN COUNTY

The Department partnered with the USDA, Linn Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), City of Cedar Rapids, Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority, Ecosystem Services Exchange, Sustainable Environmental Consultants, and local farmers and landowners to install two saturated buffers and two bioreactors in the Indian Creek watershed during the fall of 2020. Plans for an additional bioreactor and wetland are being finalized. The two constructed bioreactor projects will treat approximately 165 acres of subsurface drainage and will reduce nitrate loads by 43 percent. The two saturated buffers will treat approximately 85 acres and will reduce nitrate loads by 50 percent. These projects are part of the Indian Creek Soil Health Partnership, which works with farmers to improve soil health while reducing nutrient loss.



### WATER QUALITY WETLAND - FAYETTE COUNTY

The Department completed a unique partnership project with the Fayette SWCD and USDA NRCS to help a landowner install a water quality wetland on their farm. The wetland is nine acres and treats about 716 acres of land. This wetland is estimated to remove about 8,000 pounds of nitrogen annually. The landowner was able to secure EQIP funding from USDA to cover a portion of the cost to install the practice. The Department supported the design, the remainder of the restoration costs and established a permanent easement on the site. This is one of the first NRCS-EQIP sites in Iowa and one of four recently completed wetlands using this partnership model.

## 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.

