



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
**AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

2022 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.

Iowa's livestock farmers are always finding new ways to responsibly raise their animals while guarding against devastating diseases. They do this because they want to ensure a nutritious and affordable protein-packed product can be on a family's dinner table. We have many dedicated professionals at the department working with our industry partners and farmers to protect animal health and ensure that we are prepared for any foreign animal disease threat. Whether it is Foot and Mouth Disease or African Swine Fever or Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, we must be prepared.

Unfortunately, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) hit our state again this year, affecting our turkey farmers and egg producers. In 2022, 26 farms were impacted (as of December 6); far fewer than the 77 farms in 2015. Many lessons were learned from 2015 and in working with affected producers and the United States Department of Agriculture, we implemented many improvements to our coordinated response. Moving ahead, we will continue to refine and reassess our response to ensure we are prepared to confront the potential threats ahead.

CHOOSE IOWA

Overview: Iowa farmers have a longstanding tradition of producing high-quality food and Choose Iowa is about connecting consumers to the great products Iowans are growing, raising, processing, and marketing every day. With Choose Iowa, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is establishing an easily recognizable brand that can be used by producers and processors, farmers markets, grocery stores, restaurants, and many others in the supply chain. The program is intended to increase the visibility of Iowa-grown products to meet the growing consumer demand for local foods. In this time of disrupted supply chains and high inflation, these efforts will help shorten the supply chain and distance between farms and plates. There is so much potential to harness Iowa's incredible creativity and productivity to develop and grow new market opportunities, capture more margin, and give Iowa's consumers even more homegrown choices. Iowa has a great brand for agriculture and we



are proud of the critically important role that we play in providing safe and nutritious food to consumers here and around the world. Choose Iowa is focused on further expansion of that brand. Iowans know how to build upon our incredible ingenuity and productivity to grow and establish new market opportunities. Choose Iowa will help unleash that potential and be a win-win for both Iowa producers and consumers.

Highlighted program:

Choose Iowa Marketing and Promotion Grant Program

The Choose Iowa Marketing and Promotion Grant Program exists to identify, evaluate, and financially support programs and services that add value to agricultural products, enable new technologies, and support alternative marketing strategies. In its first grant cycle, the Choose Iowa Marketing and Promotion Grant received more than \$2 million in grant requests. With only \$250,000 available to disburse, the grant selection was extremely competitive. In total, the Choose Iowa Marketing and Promotion Grant Program awarded 13 projects including a brewery, direct-to-consumer meat sales, on-farm dairy processing, cut flowers, and many others.

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)



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP

IOWAAGRICULTURE.GOV | 515.281.5321



UPDATE FROM SECRETARY NAIG

Thank you for continuing to support the state’s ongoing conservation efforts through the Iowa Financial Incentives Program (IFIP), which we commonly refer to as “Cost Share.” This program helps farmers and landowners adopt conservation practices that reduce soil erosion — for example, terraces, grassed waterways and grade stabilization structures — by sharing some of the planning, engineering and development costs.



The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship continues to see strong demand for the cost share program.

In 2021, \$6.5 million of cost share funds and \$8.1 million of matching funds were used to assist 1,090 landowners implement conservation practices. More than 85 percent of the cost share funding was used to build permanent structural practices, like terraces and basins. These changes to the landscape help hold Iowa’s rich and fertile soil in place, especially when the snow melts in the spring and heavy rainfall events occur in the summer.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship’s Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality administers the IFIP program, and project applications are reviewed and approved at the county level through the SWCD offices. This gives the SWCD the power to prioritize practices that are best suited for their counties’ landscapes and the projects that have the greatest impacts on their local communities.

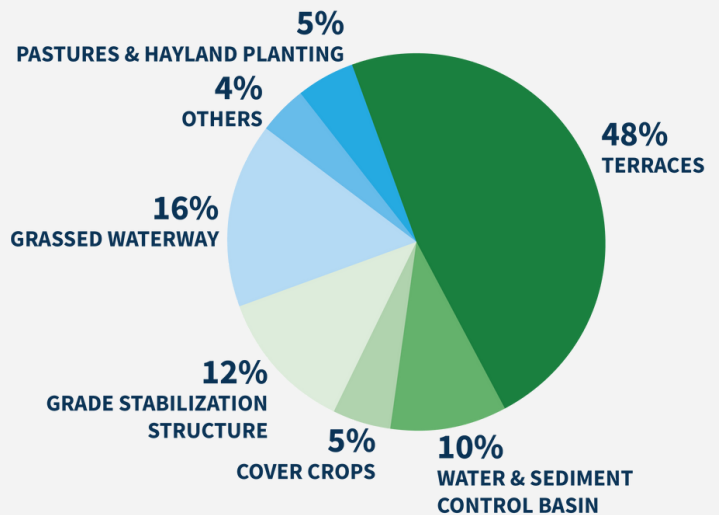
IFIP complements the state’s other conservation programs, like the Water Quality Initiative (WQI) and Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP), that focus on water quality and habitat. Thank you for providing dedicated funding that allows us to continue working alongside our public and private partners to protect every aspect of our state’s precious natural resources.

Mike Naig
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

COST SHARE IN 2021

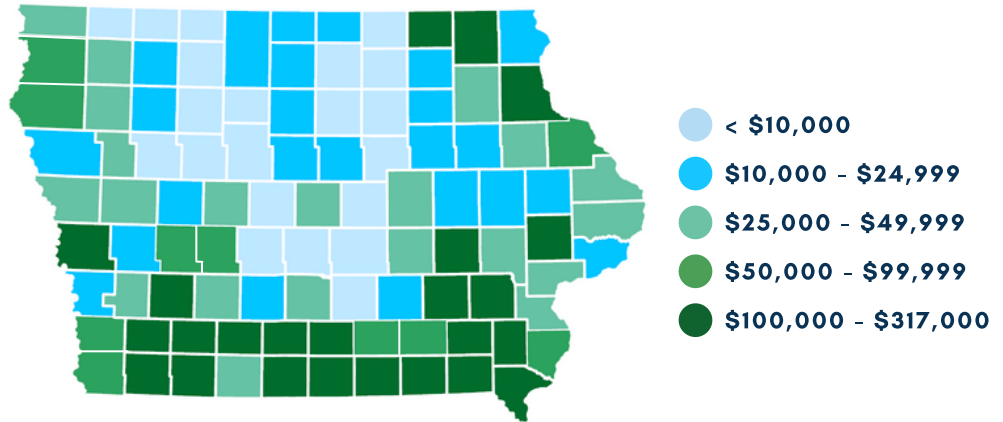
- \$6.5M** STATE CONTRIBUTION
- \$8.1M** IOWA FARMER CONTRIBUTION
- 1,090** IOWA FARMERS ENROLLED IN 2021
- 85%** OF COST SHARE PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED REDUCE EROSION FROM FIELDS AND PROTECT TOP SOIL FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS

COST SHARE ASSISTANCE BY PRACTICE TYPE

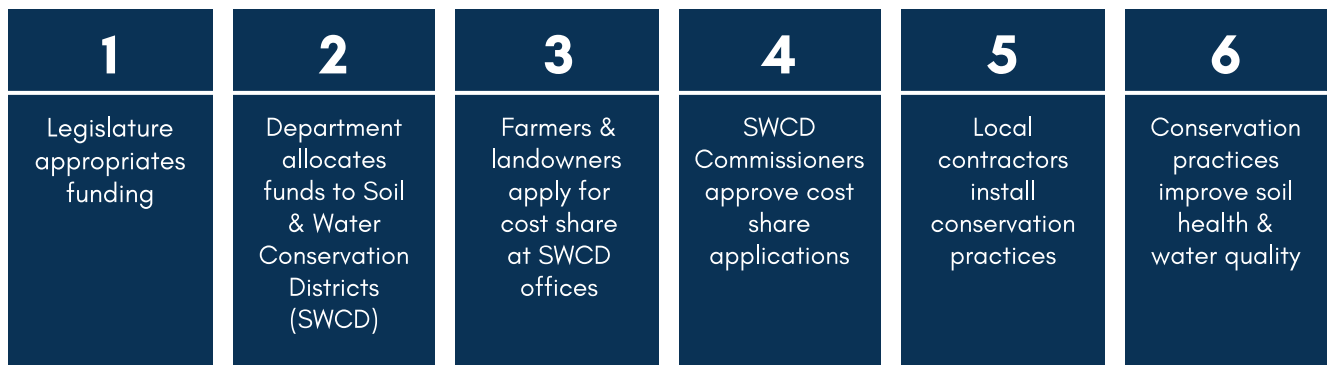


2021 COST SHARE PAID TO IOWA FARMERS

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.



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.

PRACTICE EXAMPLES



TERRACES



COVER CROPS



GRASSED WATERWAYS



WATER & SEDIMENT CONTROL BASINS



GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES

COST SHARE IN ACTION: HOWARD COUNTY

Howard County has become a leader in the promotion of cost share programs to assist farmers in meeting their on-farm conservation goals. The local staff and partners have been instrumental in assisting to implement practices and have tripled the number of practices installed through IFIP over the last three-year period including 75 waterway projects and over 250 practices completed across all state cost share programs.

Howard SWCD also leveraged other federal programs and initiatives as part of their successful conservation program delivery efforts and have worked with local landowners to establish several new local watershed projects focusing on water quality and soil health benefits. This comprehensive conservation strategy adopted by the district benefits the landowners, local and downstream water sources, and the state's economy.

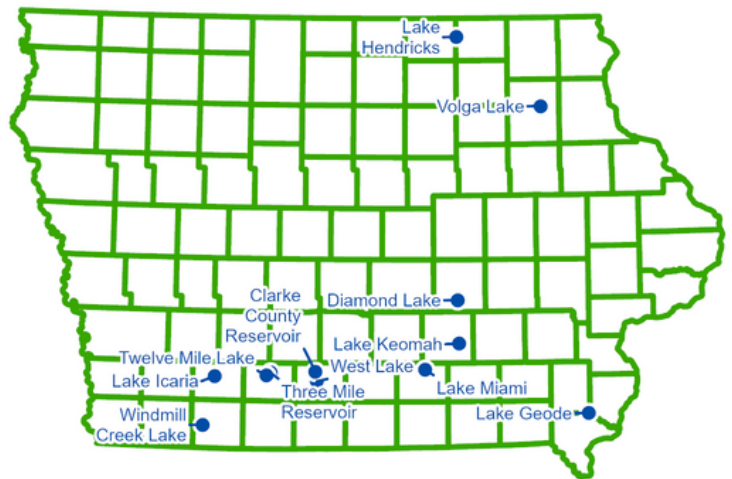


PROTECTING LAKES

The Publicly Owned Lakes Program provides financial assistance to help farmers and landowners implement conservation practices that prevent soil erosion in areas that drain into publicly owned lakes and reservoirs. Reducing sediment runoff into these water sources helps support recreational opportunities and preserve water quality.

Landowners with fields within these priority watersheds can apply for up to 75 percent cost share to install conservation practices. In 2021, this program provided funding for the completion of approximately 35 practices including 11 erosion control structures and over 25,000 feet of terraces.

ELIGIBLE LAKES FOR FY 2021



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 provide assistance to the 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, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, county conservation boards, the county boards 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)



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

IOWA WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

**IOWA'S NUTRIENT
REDUCTION STRATEGY
IN ACTION**



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

IOWAAGRICULTURE.GOV | 515.281.5321



UPDATE FROM SECRETARY NAIG

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is working alongside our public and private partners to add science-based conservation practices in priority watersheds (map on page 4) throughout our state. We're targeting these areas because that's where conservation practices have the greatest effect on soil health and water quality.

The Department has achieved some important milestones in 2021. We completed the 100th CREP-funded wetland in September. There are now 110 water quality wetlands completed and more than 40 state-funded, locally led wetland projects under development in Iowa as of the fall of 2021. We've installed 47 saturated buffers and 18 bioreactors this year. An INREC survey shows farmers and landowners are now planting more than 2 million acres of cover crops in Iowa, and the use of conservation tillage and no-till are up too. These statistics are important because changes to the landscape and soil management lead to positive changes in water quality locally and downstream.

We have been focused on scaling up the number of soil health and water quality practices in Iowa, but there's still work to do to achieve the goals outlined in the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

During the 2021 legislative session, I requested additional funding to help farmers and landowners install more soil health and water quality practices. Thank you to the Iowa Legislature and Gov. Kim Reynolds for answering the call and passing a 10-year extension of the water quality infrastructure funding. This dedicated funding source allows the Department to continue allocating dollars to support future conservation projects so there's a continuous stream of edge-of-field projects in the works.

Because we've been able to show success with our locally led soil health and water quality projects, the state has been awarded more than \$40 million in federal funding in 2021 to support new and ongoing conservation partnership programs. These federal funds help the Department and its public-private partners better leverage state and private dollars so we can add even more practices to our fields.

Thank you for your continued support as we enrich the health of our soil and water quality.

Mike Naig

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture



2021 WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE (WQI) HIGHLIGHTS

4.2K FARMERS & LANDOWNERS
ENROLLED IN 2021

19.5K FARMERS & LANDOWNERS
ENROLLED IN WQI SINCE 2013

\$21M WQI FUNDS
OBLIGATED IN 2021

42 WETLANDS
UNDER DEVELOPMENT

614K COVER CROP ACRES APPROVED
FOR WQI FUNDS IN 2021

100+ SATURATED BUFFERS AND BIOREACTORS
UNDER DEVELOPMENT

FUNDING SOURCES

WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

The Water Quality Initiative (WQI) was established during the 2013 legislative session to help implement the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The Nutrient Reduction Strategy provides a roadmap to achieve a 45 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus losses to our waters through collaborative efforts between point and nonpoint sources and public and private partners. The WQI cost share funds help farmers and landowners install nutrient-reducing conservation practices around the state.

WATER QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

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. During the 2021 Legislative Session, legislators passed a 10-year extension, making an additional \$320 million of funding available through 2039 to help implement water quality practices including wetlands, saturated buffers, bioreactors and urban conservation projects.

In 2021, the Department used this funding to provide technical resources in targeted watersheds and to construct 6 wetlands, 47 bioreactors and 18 saturated buffers.

USDA NRCS REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Department is currently leading or participating in 13 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (RCPPs). Through this federal program, NRCS co-invests with state and local conservation partners to implement projects that offer solutions to on-farm, watershed or regional natural resource concerns. The Department and its conservation partners were awarded more than \$40 million in RCPP funding in 2021 to support new and ongoing projects, including the:

- Floyd River Water Quality Partnership
- Cedar River Source Water Partnership
- Southeast Iowa Watershed Partnership
- Soil and Water Outcomes Fund
- Iowa Partners for Natural Infrastructure
- Midwest Ag Water Quality Partnership (renewal)

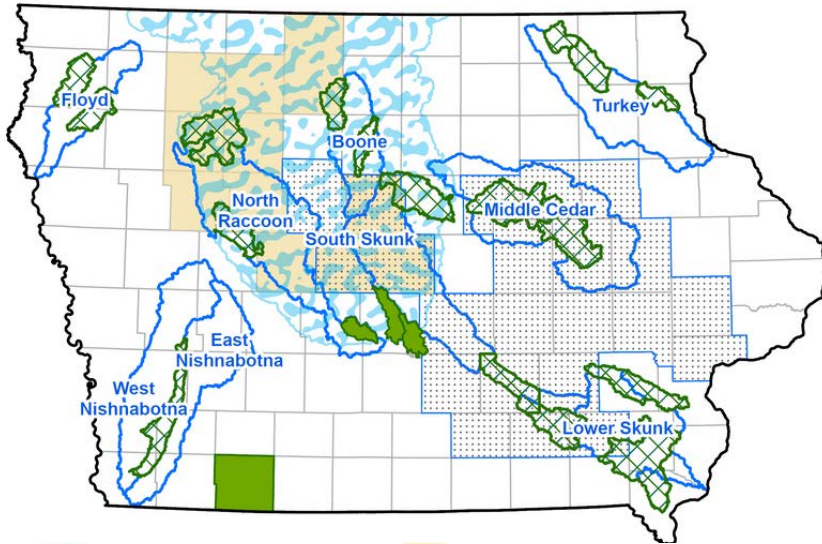
EPA "FARMER TO FARMER" GRANT PROGRAM

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded the Department \$1 million through the "Farmer to Farmer" grant program in 2021. These federal dollars are being used to build eight wetlands as part of a demonstration project in the North Raccoon River watershed, which is a source of drinking water for more than 500,000 residents and helps support recreational opportunities in Iowa's rivers and lakes.

LEVERAGING STATE FUNDS

EPA Gulf of Mexico	NRCS Mississippi River Basin	NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Programs	Private/Non- Government Organizations
\$3.3M	\$20.2M	\$82.5M	\$843,600

2021 WQI PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

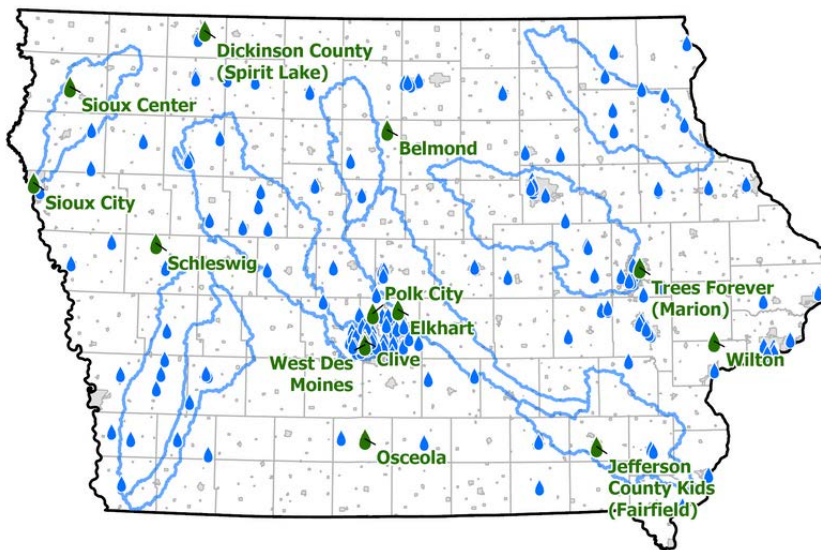


○ INRS HUC8 Watersheds INREC Project Area
 WQI Watershed Projects Ducks Unlimited Project Area
 WQI Practice Demonstrations Soil and Water Outcomes Project Area (Regions)

- 2** NEW PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2021
- \$12M** WQI FUNDS OBLIGATED IN 2021
- 52** PROJECTS FUNDED SINCE 2013
- \$37M** WQI FUNDS OBLIGATED SINCE 2013

2021 URBAN CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Urban conservation projects capture storm water and allow it to soak into the soil instead of running off the surface, reducing the property's contribution to water quality degradation, stream flows and flooding.



▲ 2021 Urban Projects
▲ 2015-2020 Urban Projects
○ Iowa NRS Priority HUC8 Watersheds

- 13** PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2021
- \$1.1M** WQI FUNDS OBLIGATED IN 2021
- 80** PROJECTS FUNDED SINCE 2015
- \$6.1M** WQI FUNDS OBLIGATED SINCE 2015

COVER CROP INSURANCE DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Through a joint project with 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 grows each year.

Since the program began five years ago, more than 1,700 farmers and landowners have enrolled more than 700,000 acres of cover crops in the WQI crop insurance discount program. Illinois and Indiana have created similar programs to encourage the adoption of cover crops within their states.



COVER CROP INSURANCE DISCOUNT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



660 FARMERS & LANDOWNERS ENROLLED IN 2021



200K COVER CROP ACRES ENROLLED IN 2021



\$1M WQI FUNDS OBLIGATED FOR COVER CROPS IN 2021

STATEWIDE COST SHARE FOR IN-FIELD CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Each summer, the Department 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 13,700 farmers and landowners have enrolled more than 1.3 million acres of cover crops in this WQI program.

\$6.9M

WQI FUNDS OBLIGATED IN 2021

3.5K

FARMERS & LANDOWNERS ENROLLED IN 2021

\$14M

ESTIMATED FARMER & LANDOWNER CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2021

13.7K

NEW NO-TILL/STRIP-TILL ACRES APPLIED FOR IN 2021

413K

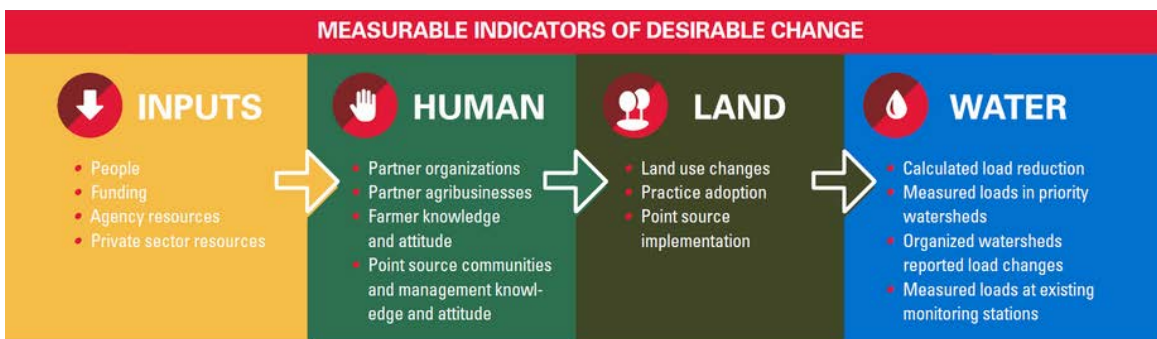
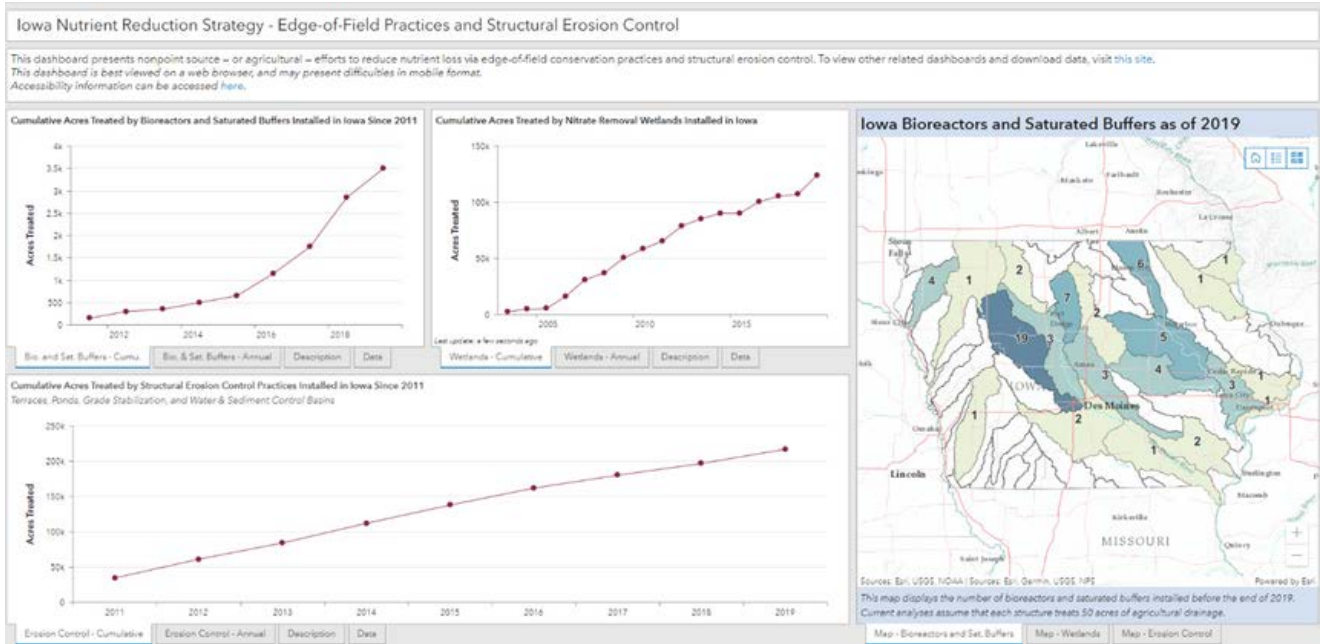
COVER CROP ACRES APPLIED FOR IN 2021

5.4K

NEW NITRIFICATION INHIBITOR ACRES APPLIED FOR IN 2021

NEW ONLINE REPORTING DASHBOARD

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa State University launched an online dashboard to improve the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy’s reporting process in 2021. The online dashboard uses visual reporting tools, like charts, graphs and maps, to share the data. The online dashboards will be updated regularly as data is collected from a variety of sources and partners. Each update will focus on one of the “measurable indicators of desirable change” – inputs, human, land and water – that guide the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The online dashboard is available at nrtracking.cals.iastate.edu.



The Logic Model of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, guided by measurable indicators of desirable change.

PARTNERS IN MEASURING PROGRESS

The Department is working alongside hundreds of public and private partners to execute the Iowa 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 secure additional federal funding to further scale-up conservation efforts. Working together, Iowans are adding more conservation practices at a significantly faster rate and much more cost-effectively today than when the WQI began in 2013.

PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORIES

CENTRAL IOWA WATER QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The Department joined Polk and Dallas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Polk County, USDA NRCS and the Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition to complete the first phase of the Central Iowa Water Quality Infrastructure Project in 2021.

The unique water quality project created a framework to streamline and scale up the adoption of saturated buffers and denitrifying bioreactors in Polk and Dallas Counties by simplifying the financing and construction processes for landowners.



2021: PHASE 1

40

SATURATED BUFFERS



11

BIOREACTORS



2022: PHASE 2

80-100

ADDITIONAL PRACTICES IN PROCESS



PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORIES

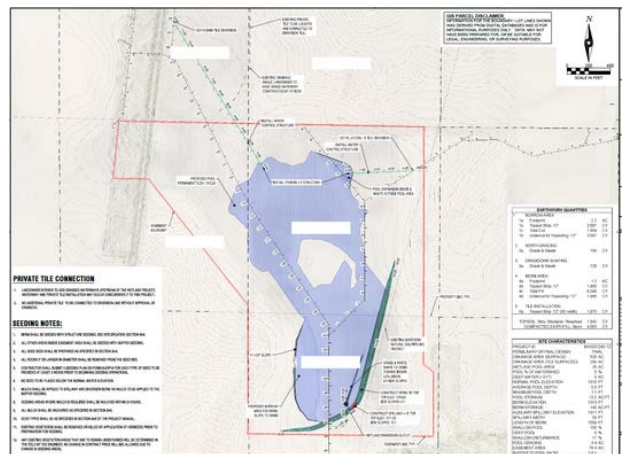
GULF OF MEXICO PROJECTS

The Department is actively managing three Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Gulf of Mexico Division (GOM) funded Farmer to Farmer projects focused on advancing innovative water quality infrastructure projects in priority watersheds. A portion of this funding also supported the before mentioned Central Iowa Water Quality Infrastructure Project.

In 2021, the Department facilitated the installation of two of the first drainage water recycling projects in north central Iowa. Drainage water recycling involves capturing excess water from cropland, storing it in an adjacent reservoir to assimilate nutrients, and using the stored water to irrigate crops as needed through dry periods of the growing season.

In an effort to expand the opportunities for water quality wetland implementation in Iowa, the Department and several partners continue to identify and install alternative wetland designs in various landscapes across Iowa. One example, supported by one of the EPA Farmer to Farmer projects, is the implementation of a "tile-zone" wetland project in the North Raccoon Watershed. This project involves restoring targeted wetlands in locations that maximize nutrient reduction by utilizing existing topography and landscape features. These wetlands provide a variety of benefits including nitrogen reduction, carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat.

These are just a few examples of projects supported by the EPA-GOM Farmer to Farmer projects providing cleaner drinking water to Iowans and reducing nutrient loading downstream to the Gulf of Mexico.



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 51,000 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.

