

# INFRASTRUCTURE STATUS REPORTS

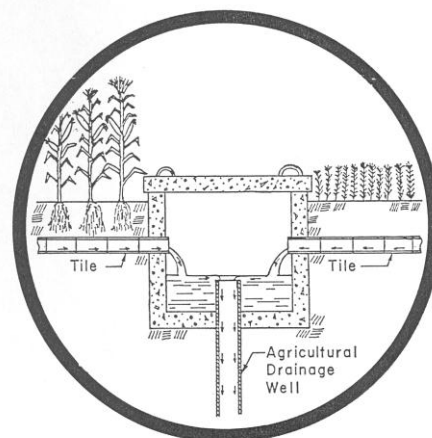
12/31/13



DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION

## AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE WELL CLOSURE ASSISTANCE FUND

Agricultural drainage wells (ADWs) were developed in the early to mid 1900's and discharge cropland tile drainage water to underground aquifers. The fund was established in 1997 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. Some of the remaining wells to be closed are located in karst areas with shallow limestone. Iowa State University recently finished a study to develop alternatives with ADWs in these areas that also benefit the environment.



- 300 registered agricultural drainage wells (ADWs) in Iowa
- 97 ADWs closed by landowners, Watershed Improvement Review Board funding, or determined by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to not be ADWs or to be non-functioning
- 134 ADWs closed to date using \$10.09 million of assistance funds
- 19 ADW closures currently under construction
- 12 ADW closures are in planning and design
- 34 ADWs remain in continued use with DNR permits. Some are in shallow limestone areas.
- 8 ADW closures anticipated for FY15
- FY15 appropriation request = \$1,200,000

### FUND STATUS

FY14 Appropriation	\$0
One-time General Fund funding	\$1,620,000
Balance 6/30/13 Brought Forward	\$3,339,638
Interest to Date	\$3,245
Expenditures to Date	\$517,684
Obligated/Encumbered	\$4,445,199
Unobligated	\$0

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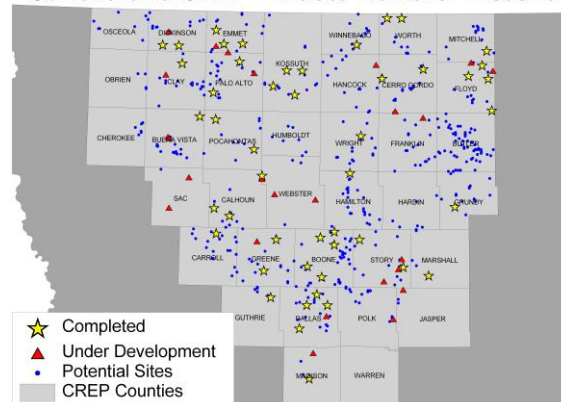
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# IOWA CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

The Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was initiated in 2000 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.

Current Iowa CREP - Nitrate Removal Wetlands



- Research and monitoring by Iowa State University has shown that CREP wetlands remove 40-90% of the nitrate in tile-drainage water
- Wetlands restored to date (72) and those currently being designed (23) are estimated to remove over 93,300 tons of nitrogen over design life—these wetlands will provide water quality protection for 121,100 acres of land
- Hundreds of potential sites exist for landowner consideration
- Average lifetime nitrogen removal costs: \$0.23/lb.
- Currently there is over a 7-year waiting list of applicants that have requested state funding.
- State funds are matched with Federal funds
- FY15 appropriation request = \$1,000,000



## FUND STATUS

FY14 appropriation	\$1,000,000
Balance 6/30/13 Brought Forward	\$4,131,562
Expenditures to Date	\$1,232,792
Outside Contributions	\$1,467,724
Obligated/Encumbered	\$5,366,494
Unobligated	\$0

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## DISTRICT INITIATIVES/BUFFER INITIATIVE

The District Initiatives/Buffer Initiative (Conservation Reserve Program-CRP) was established in 2000 as a part of the Iowa Water Quality Initiative. Program initiatives are delivered through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to leverage dollars for federal conservation programs, increasing Iowa's overall participation in both state and federal programs. Locally-led initiatives prioritize and target sensitive areas, by providing funds and resources to protect our soil and water resources.



- Iowa leads the nation in the USDA Continuous CRP with 624,987 acres enrolled.
- 166 acres were enrolled in Iowa buffers protecting Iowa's lakes, rivers and streams.
- SWCD have partnered with Pheasants Forever and IDNR to support habitat improvement projects on private land.
- 100 acres of grazing were planned on CRP land in contracts expiring in 2014 & 2015, providing permanent cover rather than intensive cropping.
- SWCDs receive funds to provide technical assistance to enroll CRP and install Federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) practices.
- SWCDs work one-on-one with landowners and operators.
- Under the EQIP program, landowners have invested over \$13,000,000 along with over \$27,000,000 from federal funds.
- FY15 appropriation request = \$1,000,000

<b>FUND STATUS</b>	FY14 Appropriation	\$ 1,000,000
	Balance 6/30/13 Brought Forward	\$ 945,638
	Expenditures to Date	\$ 233,730
	Obligated/Encumbered	\$1,711,908
	Unobligated	\$0

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## INTEGRATED FARM & LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

The Integrated Farm and Livestock Management demonstration program was initiated in 2000 as part of the Iowa Water Quality Initiative to demonstrate the adaptability and effectiveness of conservation systems with farming operations. New and emerging technologies are demonstrated on private farmland to refine management input to reduce erosion and soil loss, enhance soil quality, increase infiltration, reduce runoff and lessen nutrient and sediment loading to Iowa's water bodies. Resources and infrastructure are leveraged to provide extensive information delivery and exchange for other important issues such as row crop residue harvest for biofuels, cover crops and perennial living mulch, and nutrient transport from cropped landscapes.

- Iowa Learning Farms, coordinated by Iowa State University, is building a "Culture of Conservation" through a partnership of farmers, agencies, conservation groups, agribusiness, the research community, and the public that supports continuing change for improved water and soil quality in improved tillage, cover crop, and residue management field demonstrations. Approximately 100 cooperators and conservationists in Iowa's five major soil associations allowed farmers to evaluate agronomic information and share local wisdom.



- A strong statewide awareness campaign utilizing a farmer-to-farmer, Iowan-to-Iowan grassroots approach included more than 110 public events across Iowa in 2013.
- Education and outreach to thousands of individuals strengthened society's commitment to the conservation of natural resources to sustain our quality of life.
- Iowa Soybean Association's agriculture and environment performance program has been allocated \$400,000 by legislative earmark.
- Funds leveraged with federal grants and other sources bring millions of additional dollars to Iowa.
- FY15 appropriation request = \$625,000

<b>FUND STATUS</b>	FY14 Appropriation	\$625,000
	Balance 6/30/13 Brought Forward	\$178,200
	Expenditures to Date	\$562,689
	Outside Contribution	\$6,000
	Obligated/Encumbered	\$246,511
	Unobligated	\$0

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## IOWA CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM

Iowa's Conservation Cost Share program was established in 1973 to protect the soil and water resources of the state from erosion and sediment damage. The program encourages the adoption of farm management and agricultural practices that are consistent with the capability of the land to sustain agriculture while preserving the state's natural resources. Technical assistance is provided by IDALS-DSC and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and practices are designed to NRCS technical standards. Applicants are required to enter into maintenance agreements to ensure long-term success and performance. Funds are administered locally by Iowa's 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).



- Soil and water conservation practices:
  - enhance soil quality and improve water infiltration
  - reduce erosion, soil loss and runoff
  - reduce water impairments from sediment and nutrients
  - reduce storm water impact on private property and infrastructure
- From July 1 to December 31, 2013, IDALS processed landowner payments for 1,581 soil and water conservation practices worth \$4,000,335.70
- 51,980 acres were benefited with a soil loss reduction of 254,582 tons/year
  - Includes 1,128,000' of terraces, 344 acres of waterways, 46,656 acres of cover crops, 84 grade stabilization structures, 215 water and sediment control basins
- Landowners invest a minimum of 50% of their own money on these practices
- The investment of cost-share funds and those of private landowners are reinvested in Iowa's local economies benefiting the communities
- In September 2013, 57 SWCDs requested \$22,787,977 in supplemental funds with only \$4,224,899 available, leaving \$18,563,078 of unmet demand and lost opportunities to improve our soil and water resources
- FY15 appropriation request = \$6,650,000

<b>FUND STATUS</b>	FY14 Appropriation	\$6,650,000
	Balance 6/30/13 Brought Forward	\$5,486,925
	Expenditures to Date	\$4,325,675
	Refunds & Reimbursements	\$3,605
	Obligated/Encumbered	\$7,814,855
	Unobligated	\$0

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## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATION

There is a need to improve soil quality, maintain productivity, enhance water quality, manage nutrients properly, and provide flood protection. To do so and ensure program dollars are spent effectively; we need to provide the best administrative and technical assistance possible for the Iowa Financial Incentives Program, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program, Watershed Protection Fund, Water Protection Fund Projects and State Revolving Fund Program. Staff also assist with implementing projects and practices funded by the federal government including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, and others programs in all 99 counties and 100 SWCDs.

Currently there are 28 (16 secretaries and 12 technicians) vacant positions that need to be filled so that all 100 offices will be fully functional and able to communicate and provide assistance to implement conservation practices

- Staff will assist landowners in applying over \$34,995,000 in state funded programs which will leverage an additional \$30,000,000
- Staff will help USDA/NRCS apply over \$41,000,000 federally funded conservation practices that will leverage an additional \$27,000,000



- Conservation projects have brought over \$100,000,000 to communities across Iowa that support local contractors and local businesses that create jobs and spur economic development in Iowa's communities
- Positions will assist landowners and operators with conservation practice implementation on approximately 2,000,000 acres in Iowa this year
- FY15 appropriation request = \$2,550,000

### FUND STATUS

FY14 Appropriation	\$2,550,000
Balance 6/30/13 Brought Forward	\$1,720,000
Expenditures to Date	\$1,720,000
Obligated/Encumbered	\$2,550,000
Unobligated	\$0

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## WATERSHED PROTECTION FUND

The Watershed Protection Fund was initiated in 2000 as part of the broader Iowa Water Quality Initiative. Watershed development funds are available to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) for that first important step of identifying problems in the watershed and creating a sound plan for improvement. Implementation of watershed protection projects brings together the community, both rural and urban, to target resources to reduce soil erosion, protect water quality, provide flood reduction, and protect natural resources. IDALS-DSC, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) work together in the support of these projects in order to achieve the maximum watershed improvements and water quality benefits with the state and federal program funds available to each agency.



- 23 watershed projects are underway in 36 SWCDs
- State funds are cost-shared at rates up to 75% with applicants assuming at least 25% of the cost
- 62 watershed project claims were reimbursed totaling \$372,705 and leveraging \$454,082 from other sources including applicant contributions
- 1,383 acres were protected with a soil loss reduction of 3,669 tons/year
- Sediment delivery to the state's water bodies was reduced by 4,213 tons/year
- Projects have leveraged state funds with approximately \$3,000,000 of DNR Section 319 federal program funds
- FY14 appropriation request = \$900,000

<b>FUND STATUS</b>	FY14 Appropriation	\$ 900,000
	Balance 6/30/13 Brought Forward	\$ 900,000
	Refunds & Reimbursements	\$ 0
	Expenditures to Date	\$ 418,400
	Obligated/Encumbered	\$ 1,381,600
	Unobligated	\$ 0

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## IOWA WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT REVIEW BOARD (WIRB) ADMINISTRATION

The Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) was initiated in 2005. This Board is responsible for awarding grants to water quality improvement and flood prevention projects. The WIRB is comprised of representatives from agriculture, drinking water and wastewater utilities, environmental organizations, agribusiness, the conservation community along with two state senators and two state representatives.



Administrative support to the Board is provided by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship—Division of Soil Conservation.

- The Board oversees 58 active projects lasting up to three years.
- These 58 projects have been awarded \$11,184,204 from the WIRB and have spent \$4,463,821.
- The funded projects are accountable to the WIRB through progress reports submitted biannually that summarize activities completed and provide details of expenditures. Annual project reports are also included with the WIRB annual report to the Legislature and the Governor.
- The WIRB maintains a website at: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/IWIRB.asp>

**For FY2014, \$50,000 for WIRB Administration was funded from the Iowa Conservation Cost Share Program.**

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