

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Iowa State University -- Data Collection

Purpose and History

The Iowa State University (ISU) Data Collection Program was established in [SF 494](#) (FY 2016 Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Act) with an appropriation from the Groundwater Protection Fund. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is using the funding for a three-year data collection pilot project to measure the reduction of nutrients from in-field practices. The goals of the Data Collection Program include:

- Enhance the state's ability to track the progress of reducing nutrients to watersheds in Iowa from nonpoint sources as identified in the [Nutrient Reduction Strategy](#).
- Develop a database of in-field agricultural practices and analyze the impact of those practices on the environment in the aggregate. This includes soil and water conservation practices, structures, technologies, and agriculture inputs and outputs. The College can also measure the impacts associated with agricultural production.
- The College will enter into a private-public partnership with one or more persons responsible for receiving, collecting, or holding data. The College will provide for the terms and conditions of any legal or financial arrangement that it enters into with the private sector. Although the data in the aggregate will be available to the public, individual data will remain private.
- The College will submit annual interim reports to the General Assembly by March 1, 2016, and March 1, 2017. The final report will be submitted by March 1, 2018.

The Iowa Nutrient and Research Education Council was formed in 2014, as an affiliate of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa. The Council consists of farm and commodity organizations, fertilizer and crop production companies, agricultural retailers, and crop advisors. The Council will focus on demonstrating environmental progress, develop new innovative technologies, and having crop advisors or agriculture retailers work with farmers to assist them in meeting their environmental goals.

Funding History

This Program received one-time funding of \$1.2 million from the unobligated balance of the Agriculture Management Account of the Groundwater Protection Fund.

Related Statutes

Iowa Code sections [466B.48](#) and [466B.49](#)

Revised September 14, 2016

More Information

Iowa State University Nutrient Research Center: <https://www.cals.iastate.edu/nutrientcenter>

Iowa Nutrient Research and Education Council: <http://iowanrec.org/>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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