



## IOWA WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

### **NEWLY APPROVED LONG-TERM FUNDING TO BE PRIORITIZED ON EDGE OF FIELD, INFRASTRUCTURE BASED PRACTICES**

The Iowa Legislature, with the strong support of Governor Reynolds, committed more than \$270 million for water quality efforts in Iowa over the next 12 years. This legislation provides a growing source of funding to support water quality efforts in Iowa. Funding to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will ramp up over the next two years, reaching \$15 million annually through 2029. The remaining funds will go to the Iowa Finance Authority to support communities upgrading wastewater treatment facilities and urban water quality focused practices.

With existing state and federal programs supporting robust soil conservation efforts to limit phosphorus loss and newer programs focused on encouraging cover crops and other infield nutrient management efforts, this new funding will be prioritized towards conservation infrastructure practices such as wetlands, saturated buffers and bioreactors. These practices are placed at the edge of fields to provide significant, long-term nutrient reduction and habitat benefits. The Department will also expand the technical capacity to deliver these practices as the funding increases in the years to come.

With more than 250 partners already involved, this dedicated, long-term funding will help attract even more partners and outside funding.

# LONG-TERM WATER QUALITY FUNDING

## GROWING LONG-TERM FUNDING

2019 **\$2M**

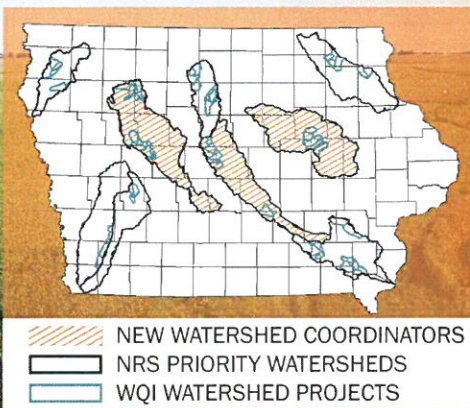
2020 **\$4M**

2021-2029 **\$15M ANNUALLY**

TARGETED WATER QUALITY WETLAND

The Department will receive approximately \$2 million this year, \$4 million next year and then more than \$15 million annually from FY2021 to FY2029 from this legislation. This funding will be in addition to the more than \$10 million the Department has received annually in recent years to support water quality demonstration projects and in-field practices such as cover crops. This long-term funding commitment is critical as the Department works to attract even more partners and outside funding.

## TARGETING PROVEN PRACTICES IN PRIORITY WATERSHEDS



SATURATED BUFFER

### PERCENT REDUCTION IN NITROGEN



New funding will focus on scaling up edge of field conservation practices that benefit water quality, specifically wetlands, saturated buffers and bioreactors. A new edge of field coordinator will provide technical assistance to local Soil and Water Conservation District offices, farmers and landowners and other partners. Three new watershed implementation coordinators will serve as regional technical resources to expand water quality efforts in the North Raccoon, Middle Cedar and South Skunk priority watersheds.

## MEASURING PROGRESS

### STATEWIDE MAPPING OF EXISTING CONSERVATION PRACTICES USING AERIAL IMAGERY SHOWS A STRONG FOUNDATION

- 114,000 POND DAMS
- 325,000 ACRES OF GRASSED WATERWAYS
- 460 MILLION FEET OF TERRACES
- 240,000 WATER AND SEDIMENT CONTROL BASINS

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

BIOREACTOR

The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy calls for a 45 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus loss from Iowa. Measuring progress towards those goals is coordinated by Iowa State University and follows a logic model of evaluation that quantifies inputs, changes in human behavior, number of conservation practices on the ground and water monitoring data. An annual report showing progress can be found at <http://www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu/documents>.



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