



SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE

SFY 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

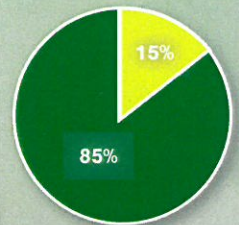
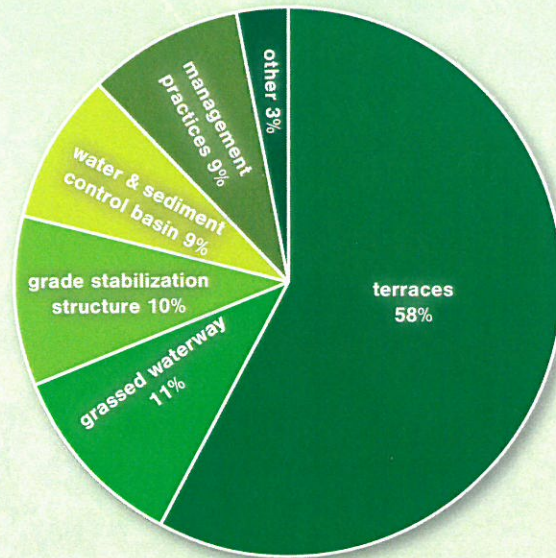
COST SHARE IN 2016

1	State contribution	\$7.5 million
	<i>(includes cost share and administrative support)</i>	
	Iowa farmer contribution	\$8.7 million
	Total investment	\$16.2 million

2 **1,313 Iowa farmers** used cost share to install conservation practices.

3 Conservation practices included...

TODAY
 we have **34 Technicians**
 and **85 Conservation Assistants**
 covering **100 offices**.
 Staff work in multiple districts to ensure work gets done across Iowa.



FUNDING

85% of the funds directly benefit the land

15% used for administration

Why so many terraces? They are an effective, long term conservation practice and trap up to 95% of the sediment and phosphorus from a field.

DID YOU KNOW? There were 370 miles of terraces installed using state cost share in SFY 2016. As a crow flies, this is the distance from Kansas City to Minneapolis!



"The cost-share program is a partnership between the local landowners and state to help get conservation practices on the land that prevent erosion and improve water quality. These funds are a great investment by the state, with farmers historically contributing \$1.50 or more for each dollar invested by the state."

- Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture





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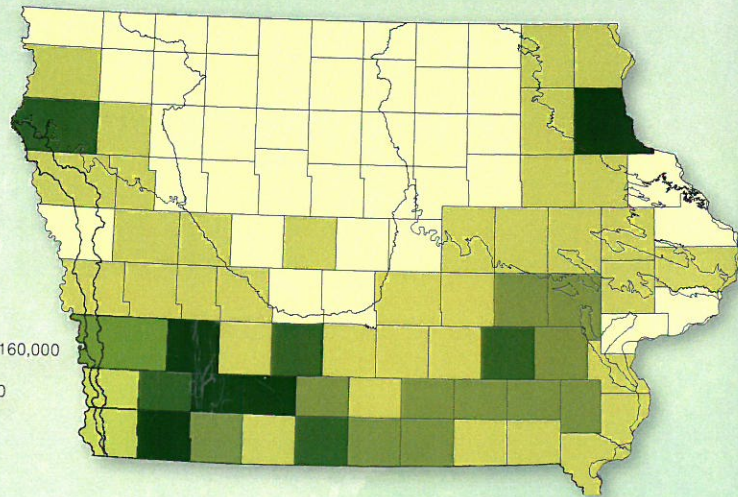
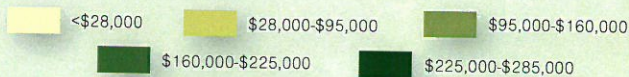
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For over four decades, Iowa's conservation cost share program has encouraged the adoption of land stewardship and conservation practices that sustain agriculture and preserve our state's natural resources.

HOW COST SHARE WORKS

1 Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS) receives appropriation from the Legislature.

Diverse landforms across Iowa directly affect the cost and type of conservation practice best for each field. Therefore, location affects the amount of funding a county needs and receives.



2 Funds are distributed to Iowa's 100 SWCDs based on land use, soil erodibility, and landowner demand.

WHAT'S A SWCD ?

A SWCD is a Soil & Water Conservation District, made up of State, District, and Federal staff, plus five elected Commissioners.

State staff in some field offices include:

TECHNICIANS:

Work with landowners/contractors. Provide technical support, develop surveys, and layout and design conservation practices.

CONSERVATION ASSISTANTS:

Work with commissioners and landowners. Provide assistance and support for district activities and outreach, and process cost-share applications and claims.



Districts and local groups partner to host educational events and field days in their communities throughout the year.

3 Then, farmers and landowners apply for cost share by visiting their local SWCDs.



Applications are accepted year round.

Cost share can be used for both management practices and permanent conservation practices.



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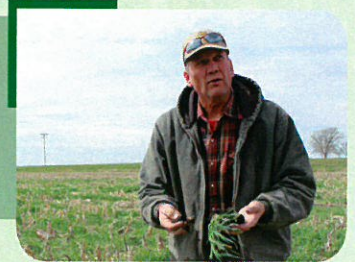
4 The five Soil & Water Conservation District **Commissioners approve applications** in their own SWCD.

WHAT'S A Commissioner ?

Someone elected to promote conservation in their county, helps administer state and federal programs, and directs activities such as field days, water quality projects, educational meetings, contests, and awards programs.

APPROVED

Humboldt County
Commissioner
& Conservation
Districts of Iowa
(CDI) President
Bob Lynch



5 Next, **farmers hire a local contractor** and get to work! Conservation practice plans are developed by staff working with landowners and local contractors.

Modern survey and design tools help in the design, customizing practices for each field.

6 **Practices are installed** and the soil conservation and water quality benefits begin!

Investing in soil conservation not only improves productivity on the farm by keeping soil in our fields, it also helps keep soil and nutrients out of the water.

PRACTICE EXAMPLES:



TERRACES



MANAGEMENT
(COVER CROPS)



GRASSED
WATERWAY



WATER & SEDIMENT
CONTROL BASIN



GRADE
STABILIZATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

Our technicians and conservation assistants are a part of the 100 Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), which are housed within federal USDA-Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS) Service Centers. They use federal equipment and other resources. Therefore, the **partnership** between IDALS, SWCDs, and NRCS is critical.

Other partners working together include the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI), USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA), USDA Rural Development, State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC), ISU Cooperative Extension Service, county conservation boards, county board of supervisors, drainage districts, levee districts, and other local groups.



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THE IMPACT OF COST SHARE

1 Cost Share allows **more conservation practices** to be installed.

Benefits

- ▶ reduce erosion, soil loss, and nutrient runoff
- ▶ improve soil health and water quality
- ▶ reduce storm water impact on private property and infrastructure

WATER QUALITY

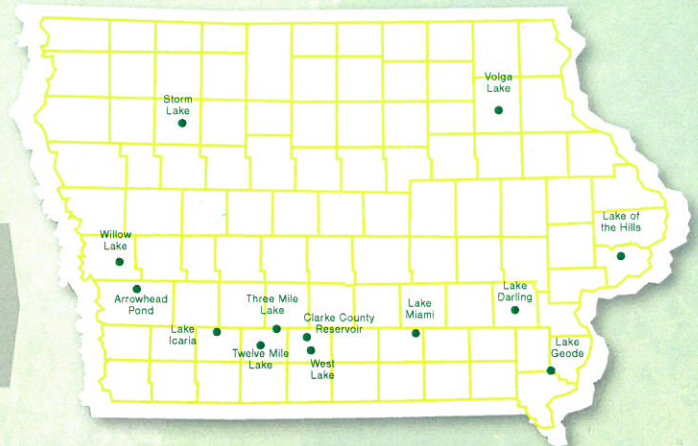
The cost share program was established to protect the production of Iowa's agriculture land. It originally concentrated on soil erosion, but every conservation practice installed also protects Iowa's water quality by reducing sedimentation and keeping phosphorus out of the water.



2 5% of each year's cost-share appropriation goes toward **protecting the water quality of public-owned lakes** in Iowa.

Local SWCDs submit applications to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to become a designated lake.

This map shows chosen lakes for SFY2016. Farmers living within the selected lakes' watersheds can apply for up to 75% cost share in order to establish practices to protect water quality.



3 **It's good for Iowa's economy.** Money gets reinvested in Iowa's local economies benefiting local communities.



Dale and Karen Green from Winneshiek County were awarded the 2016 Conservation Farmer of the Year. The Greens have been featured as Keystone Stewardship Producers by the Winneshiek SWCD for contributing to written publications, implementing signage to market completed conservation practices, and mentoring other farmers about conservation. The Greens are considered integral contributors to the success of the Yellow River Headwaters Water Quality Project. Their farm, Spring Valley Farm, is a fifth generation farm and they strive to protect the heritage of the farm for future generations.

