

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

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UPDATE FROM SECRETARY NAIG

Thank you for continuing to support the state's ongoing soil health and water quality improvement programs. Through the Iowa Financial Incentives Program (IFIP), the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship helps farmers and landowners adopt conservation practices, like terraces, grassed waterways, cover crops and grade stabilization structures, by sharing some of the planning, engineering and development costs. The IFIP cost share program serves to protect our valuable soil resources and further complements other conservation efforts, like the Water Quality Initiative.

I'm pleased to tell you that, despite the pandemic, there was record enrollment in the state's conservation cost share programs in 2020. For every dollar the state invests in conservation cost share programs, farmers, landowners and our private-sector partners invest additional dollars to implement practices that help the state make progress towards the goals outlined in Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and our public and private partners know there is more work to do, but we are on the right track. In 2021, we remain committed to helping cover Iowa in cover crops and other practices that improve soil health and water quality in our state and downstream.



Mike Naig
Iowa Secretary
of Agriculture

\$6.5M

STATE CONTRIBUTION

1,452

IOWA FARMERS ENROLLED IN 2020

\$6.5M

IOWA FARMER CONTRIBUTION

85%

OF COST SHARE DIRECTLY BENEFITS THE LAND

HOW COST SHARE WORKS

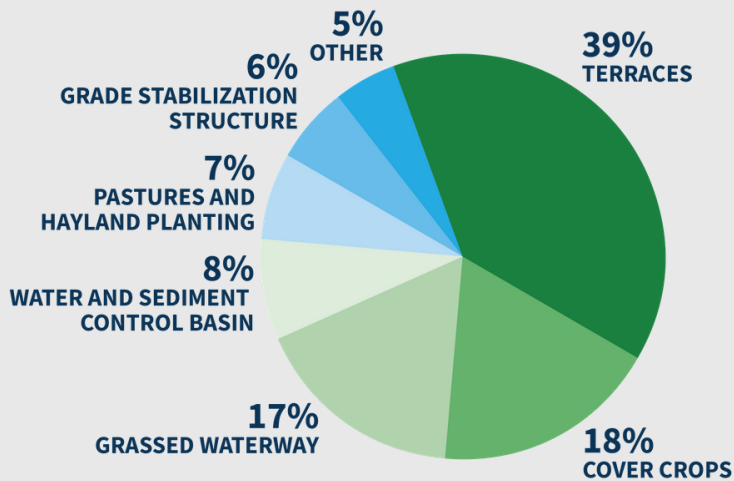
1	2	3	4	5	6
Legislature appropriates funding	Department allocates funds to Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)	Farmers & landowners apply for cost share at SWCD offices	SWCD Commissioners approve cost share applications	Local contractors install conservation practices	Conservation practices improve soil health & water quality

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.

COST SHARE IN 2020

1,452 IOWA FARMERS

used cost share to install conservation practices, including:



COST SHARE IN ACTION: TAYLOR COUNTY SUCCESS STORY

More than 50 soil health and water quality improvement practices were installed in Taylor County in 2020 including:

- 16 miles of terraces
- 337 acres of pasture and hayland plantings
- 4 grade-stabilization structures

Local conservation leaders also leveraged other state and federal funding sources to complete an additional 75 practices in Taylor County.

This comprehensive conservation strategy benefits the landowners, local and downstream water sources, and the state's economy.

PRACTICE EXAMPLES



TERRACES



COVER CROPS



GRASSED
WATERWAYS



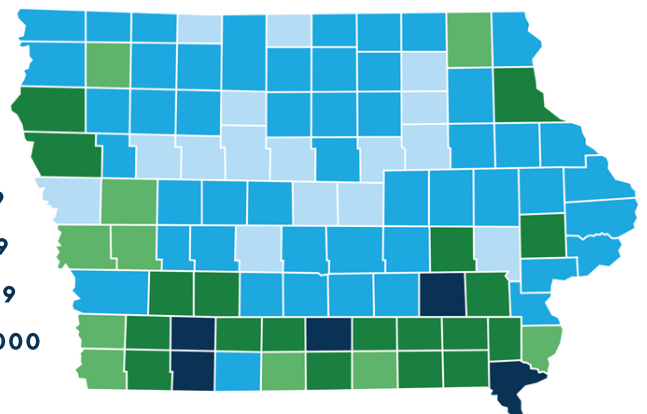
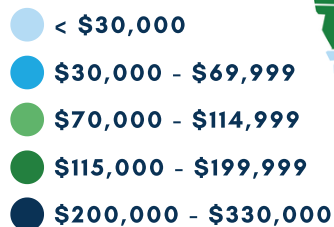
WATER & SEDIMENT
CONTROL BASINS



GRADE
STABILIZATION

2020 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.



MEASURING LAND-BASED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

1

The Department has **partnered with farmers and landowners for more than four decades** to support the adoption of proven conservation practices. A statewide effort to identify and map six types of common conservation practices has recently been completed and provides the most comprehensive inventory of conservation practices in the nation, including:

460,000,000

FEET OF TERRACES

114,000

POND DAMS

240,000

WATER AND SEDIMENT
CONTROL BASINS

325,000

ACRES OF GRASSED
WATERWAYS

2

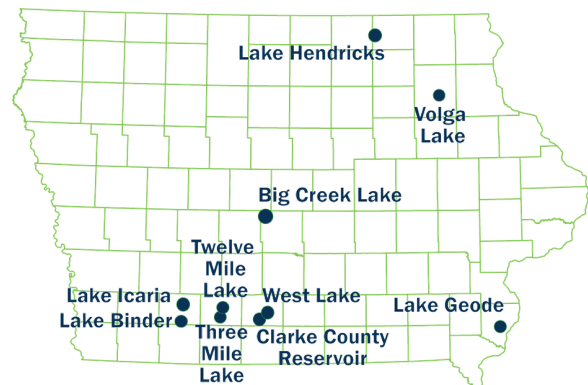
Farmers living within watersheds of designated lakes can apply for up to

75% COST SHARE

in order to establish practices to protect water quality.

5% of cost share is designated to protect the water quality of public lakes.

ELIGIBLE LAKES FOR FY 2020



3

It's good for Iowa's economy. Money gets reinvested in Iowa's communities to protect natural resources, recreational activities and local businesses.

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 are part of the 100 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, ISU Cooperative Extension Service, county conservation boards, the county board of supervisors, drainage districts, levee districts and other community groups.