



# CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP

## Description:

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, in partnership with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), is seeking interns to work on a variety of soil conservation and water quality program support tasks in field offices across the state. While SWCDs are present in every county, internship opportunities will be available in approximately 10 to 20 offices. The specific locations offering internships will be finalized in December 2025.

Internship positions offer the opportunity to learn a diverse set of conservation skills required for conservation work in both field and office environments. Successful candidates will work as part of a local team in a SWCD office, as well as independently to support the timely completion of conservation practices. Daily activities may include working with the public, landowners and customers, spending time outdoors during summer months (rough terrain and inclement weather as required) and completing office assessments and application processing.

Successful candidates will be required to satisfactorily complete a federal background investigation and fingerprint check. Applicants must maintain a valid driver's license.

**Location:** SWCD offices (locations determined December 2025)

**Duration:** May 2026 - December 2026 (not to exceed 480 hours)

**Compensation:** Up to \$14.00 per hour (qualification dependent)

## Preferred Skills:

- Interest in hands-on learning about Iowa's soil and water conservation programs
- College enrollment majoring in a field of study related to agriculture, conservation, engineering, construction trades, GIS, communications, public relations, urban planning or environmental sciences.

## Example Tasks for Summer 2026:

- Conservation planning assistance (agricultural and urban) landowner and farmer contacts
- Conservation practice layout and checkout
- Preparation of outreach materials (news articles, social media, etc.) water monitoring
- GIS mapping
- Abandoned Mine Land (AML) reclamation program assistance Report to SWCD commissioners summarizing intern experience

## Application Process:

Interested applicants should contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District Field Office. Students will be contacted for interviews once internship locations are finalized. Questions may be directed to Sadi Hawk: [sadi.hawk@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:sadi.hawk@iowaagriculture.gov) or (515) 776-2565.

