

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
**AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

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COST SHARE IN 2019

\$6.5 M STATE CONTRIBUTION

\$6.5 M IOWA FARMER CONTRIBUTION

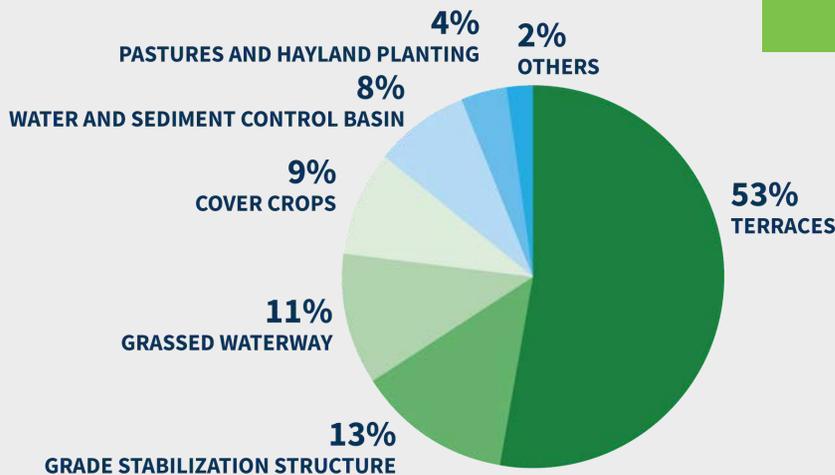
\$13 M TOTAL INVESTMENT

"The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is dedicated to working with farmers, landowners and hundreds of partners to accelerate the adoption of conservation practices across the state. I am grateful for the Iowa Legislature's continued funding of the cost share program, which allows farmers and landowners to implement practices on their fields."

- Mike Naig,
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

978 IOWA FARMERS

used cost share to install conservation practices, including:



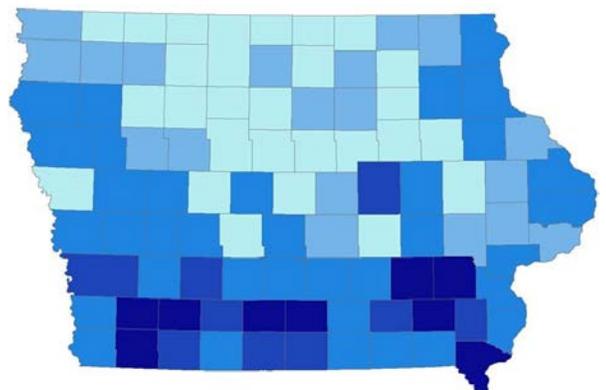
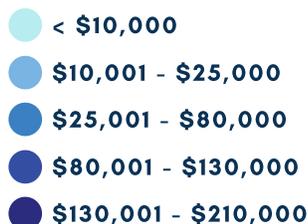
There were **191 miles of terraces** installed using state cost share in SFY 2019. As a crow flies, this is the distance from Des Moines to Kansas City!

Why so many terraces?

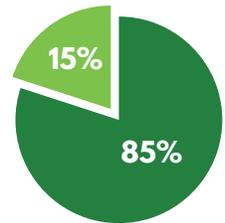
- Effective
- Long term
- Trap up to 95% of the sediment and phosphorus

2019 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 a county needs and receives.



HOW COST SHARE WORKS



01

FUNDS APPROPRIATED

by the Iowa Legislature to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for soil conservation cost share.

02

FUNDS ARE DISTRIBUTED

to Iowa's 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) based on land use, soil erodibility and landowner demand.

85% of the funds directly benefit the land, and the rest is used for administration.

03

FARMERS & LANDOWNERS APPLY FOR COST SHARE

year-round for both annual management practices and permanent conservation infrastructure practices at local SWCDs.

04

SWCD COMMISSIONERS APPROVE APPLICATIONS

Commissioners are elected to promote conservation, help administer state and federal programs, and direct activities like field days and water quality projects.

05

FARMERS HIRE LOCAL CONTRACTOR

to do the work and develop the customized conservation practice plans with staff and the landowners, using modern survey and design tools.

06

PRACTICES ARE INSTALLED

and soil conservation and water quality benefits begin. Farm productivity improves by keeping soil in the fields, and soil and nutrients are kept out of the water.

PRACTICE EXAMPLES:



TERRACES



COVER CROPS



GRASSED
WATERWAYS



WATER & SEDIMENT
CONTROL BASINS



GRADE
STABILIZATION

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 98 **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.

THE IMPACT OF COST SHARE

01

Through the soil conservation cost share program, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship 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 been recently 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

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

02

Five percent of each year's cost share appropriation goes toward **protecting the water quality of public lakes** in Iowa. SWCDs submit applications to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to become a designated lake. Farmers living within the selected lakes' watersheds can apply for up to 75% cost share in order to establish practices to protect water quality.

ELIGIBLE LAKES FOR SFY2019



03

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

Our technicians and conservation assistants are a part of the 100 SWCDs, which are housed within federal USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Centers. Our field staff uses federal equipment and other resources. Therefore, the partnership between the Iowa Department of Ag, 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 and Water Quality Committee (SSCWQC), ISU Cooperative Extension Service, county conservation boards, county board of supervisors, drainage districts, levee districts and other local groups.