

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE

HONORING 50 YEARS
OF COST SHARE



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP

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UPDATE FROM SECRETARY NAIG

For the last half century, the State of Iowa has successfully partnered with farmers and landowners to install conservation practices through the Iowa Financial Incentives Program (IFIP), which is commonly referred to as “Cost Share.”

Iowa’s economy depends on agriculture and agriculture depends on our rich natural resources. This program has helped farmers and landowners adopt conservation practices that protect soil and improve water quality by sharing some of the planning, design and construction costs. From terraces and grassed waterways to grade stabilization structures and sediment control basins — these proven practices and many others continue to protect our soil and improve our water quality.

As we commemorate this golden anniversary, we continue to see strong demand for cost share dollars and assistance.



Over \$6 million of state cost share funds leveraged more than \$9.5 million of matching funds by 1,115 landowners to implement conservation practices in 2022. Approximately 90 percent of the cost share funding is used to build long term structural conservation practices, like basins, terraces, and grassed waterways. These changes to the landscape help hold Iowa’s rich and fertile soil in place, especially as we battle extreme weather events.

While the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship administers the program, project applications are reviewed and approved at the county level through the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices. This local perspective gives each SWCD the power to prioritize practices that are best suited for its landscapes and the projects that have the greatest impact on its local communities.

Because of this program and other public and private investments, there has never been more awareness, partners, people and actual conservation work getting done in Iowa than ever before. Despite supply chain disruptions, inflation and weather challenges, we continue to see record engagement in our state’s conservation activity.

Thank you again for your continued support of this important program. As we look ahead to the next 50 years of cost share, generations of Iowans will enjoy lasting benefits from these continued investments in our shared natural resources.

Mike Naig

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

COST SHARE IN 2022

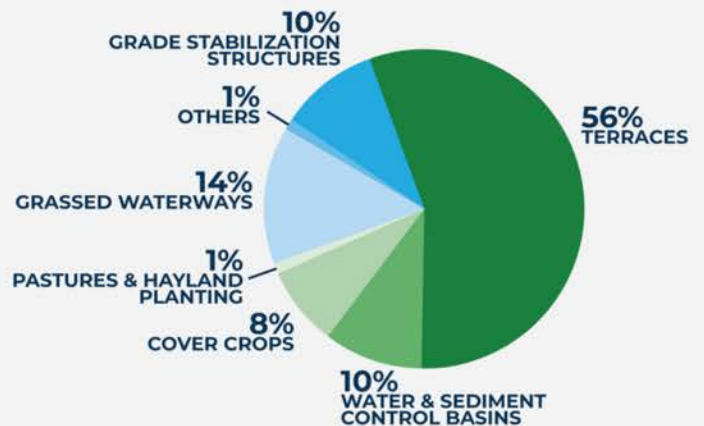
\$6M STATE CONTRIBUTION

\$9.5M IOWA FARMERS' CONTRIBUTION

1,115 IOWA FARMERS ENROLLED IN 2022

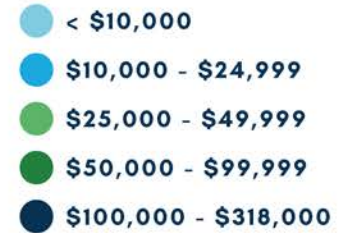
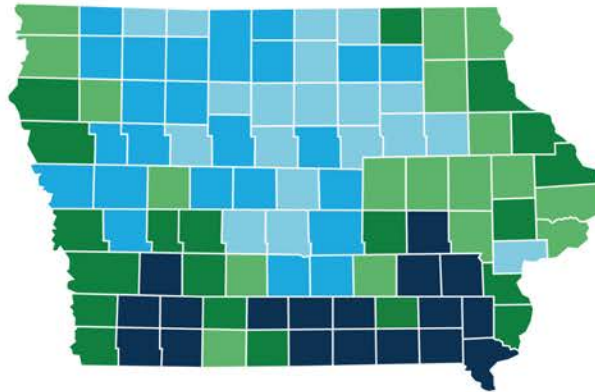
90% OF COST SHARE PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED REDUCE EROSION FROM FIELDS AND PROTECT TOP SOIL FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS

COST SHARE ASSISTANCE BY PRACTICE TYPE

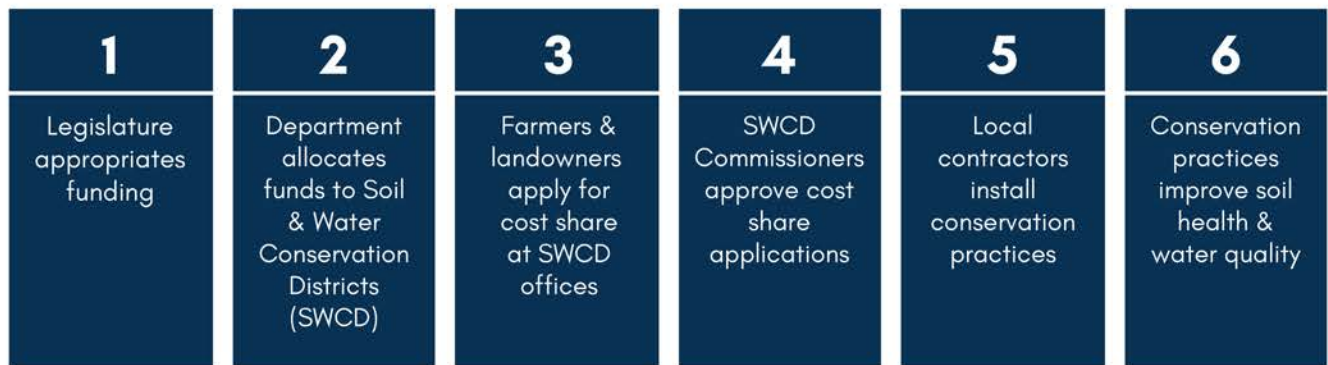


2022 COST SHARE PAID TO IOWA FARMERS

Diverse landforms across Iowa directly affect the cost and type of conservation practices best suited for each field and impact the funding each county needs and receives.



HOW COST SHARE WORKS



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 as well as process cost share applications and claims.

PRACTICE EXAMPLES



TERRACES



COVER CROPS



GRASSED WATERWAYS



WATER & SEDIMENT CONTROL BASINS



GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES

A HALF CENTURY OF COST SHARE

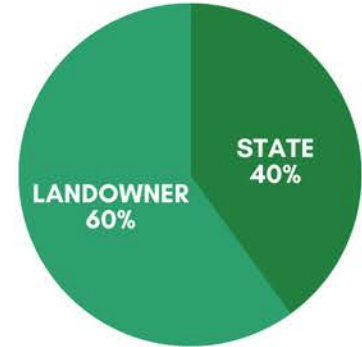
Fifty years ago, Iowa became the first state to appropriate state cost share funds for conservation practices through the Iowa Financial Incentives Program. Since 1973, the State has provided over \$300 million to support conservation practices through this program, with local farmers and landowners matching this amount with their own money. In fact, the contribution by landowners and farmers has been even greater than 1:1 over the past 15 years. This half-century tradition of partnering with farmers and landowners to increase conservation and improve water quality continues to be in high demand, with requests consistently exceeding available resources. The Iowa Financial Incentives Program has established itself as a valuable driver of conservation in our state.

PRACTICES/AMOUNTS FOR FY08-FY22 (ALMOST 15 YEARS)

OVER 27 MILLION FEET OF TERRACES
(OVER 5,000 MILES OF TERRACES)

NEARLY 81,000 ACRES OF GRASSED WATERWAYS
(OVER 3,000 GRASSED WATERWAYS)

OVER 1,300 GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES



PROTECTING LAKES

The Publicly Owned Lakes Program provides financial assistance to help farmers and landowners implement conservation practices that prevent soil erosion in areas that drain into publicly owned lakes and reservoirs. Reducing sediment runoff into these water sources helps preserve water quality and support recreational opportunities.

Landowners with fields within these priority watersheds can apply for up to 75 percent cost share to install conservation practices. In 2022, this program provided funding for the completion of approximately 14 practices including 8 erosion control structures and over 5,202 feet of terraces.

ELIGIBLE LAKES FOR FY 2022



THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

The partnership between the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, 100 SWCDs and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is critical to the success of the state's conservation efforts. The Department's technicians and conservation assistants provide assistance to the SWCDs, all of 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, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, county conservation boards, county boards of supervisors, drainage districts, levee districts and other community groups.