



GETTING CONSERVATION ON THE GROUND

Local conservation professionals work with individual land owners to understand the conservation needs specific to a farm and work to implement practices that best address those needs.

From start to finish, the local conservation team will assist with preparing an application, surveying and designing the practice(s), overseeing construction, final inspection and processing project invoices.

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

- Terraces
- Grassed Waterways
- Water and Sediment Control Basins
- Grade Stabilization Structures
- Pasture and Hayland Planting
- Field Borders and Filter Strips
- Strip Cropping
- Cover Crops
- Residue Management
- Conservation Cover

STATE COST SHARE PROGRAM



Iowa Department of Agriculture
and Land Stewardship
Division of Soil Conservation
and Water Quality
515-281-4246 | iowaagriculture.gov



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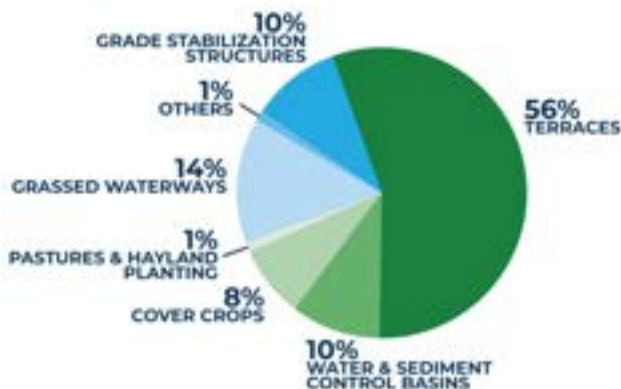
The Cost Share program was established to protect the productivity of Iowa's agricultural land. Focused on controlling soil erosion, local SWCD prioritize conservation practices to best serve landowners and meet locally identified conservation needs. Protecting the soil also protects Iowa's water quality by reducing nitrogen and phosphorus loss.

LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are led by district commissioners who prioritize conservation goals for the District and the use of cost share funds. Demand for cost share funds varies by district; speak with the staff in your local USDA Service Center office today if you are interested in cost share funds for a conservation practice.

Investing in soil conservation protects and improves the quality of the land while protecting the natural resources in the community. The work done on the farm can enhance its productivity while benefiting the quality of life for all Iowans.

All SWCDs receive funds annually to implement the conservation practices that have been prioritized by the local SWCD commissioners. Across the state, the 100 SWCDs in Iowa have spent funds on the following practices:



HOW DO I APPLY?

Apply through your local SWCD office—a partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture—Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Conservation Districts of Iowa — any time throughout the year. Staff can help prepare your application.

You can also apply online for state cost share and other state programs through FARMS at costshare.iowaagriculture.gov.

If the out-of-pocket cost of a conservation practice will be difficult for you to pay all at once, consider a loan program. The State Revolving Fund Low-Interest Loan Program caps interest rates at 3% and allows the applicant to work directly with their local lender of choice. Learn more at www.iowalinkeddeposit.com.

BEYOND COST SHARE

The standard rate for the Cost Share program is 50% of the estimated practice cost. However, each SWCD may set their own rates and eligible practice components, so be sure to speak with a local SWCD staff member to learn more about the district program rules.

There is special funding available that can increase the cost share rate from 50% up to a maximum of 75% within the watershed above a designated publicly owned lake. Watershed projects are frequently done at the same time and offer more competitive rates to land owners.

All cost share programs require a maintenance agreement be signed and that the practice be kept in good repair.

