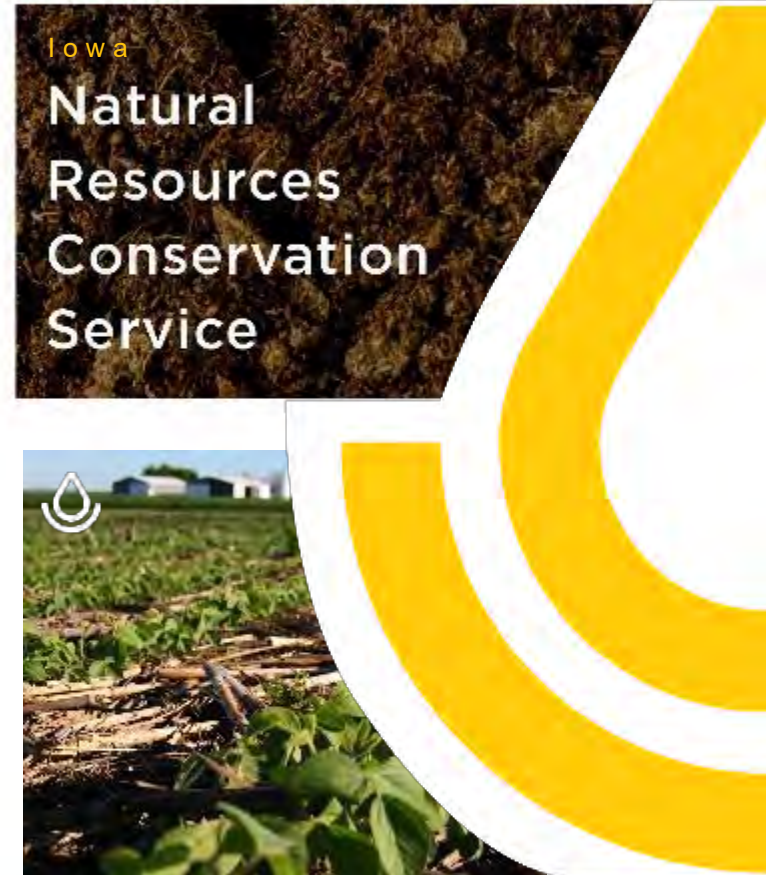




United States Department of Agriculture



Partnership Initiatives in Iowa

11/02/2023 Scott Cagle, PhD

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

NRCS Programs and Initiatives

Our natural resource conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damage caused by floods and other natural disasters.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Conservation Stewardship Program

Conservation Innovation Grants

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Wetland Mitigation Banking Program

****Many other funding opportunities are available***



Natural Resource Concerns



- Soil**
- Water**
- Plants**
- Animals**
- Land**
- Air**
- Energy**
- Climate**
- Wildlife Habitat**
- Invasive Species and Pests**



Inflation Reduction Act



The law provides \$20 billion over the next five years to support USDA's conservation programs that yield climate-related benefits while building resilience in agricultural operations.



Some Opportunities in Iowa

- State Lead

**Iowa Partners in
Conservation**

**Conservation
Innovation Grants**

- National

**Conservation
Innovation
Grants – Classic/On
Farm Trials**

**Watershed Flood
Prevention Operation**

**Regional Conservation
Partnership Program**

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Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

Conservation Innovation Grants is a competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands.

Classic

On Farm Trials



Purpose of Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.

RCPP Classic – Similar to EQIP in the way the program is managed

RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangement (Grants) – Operates like a grant

****Matching funds are required***



RCPP Conservation Activities

Land management/land improvement/restoration practices

Land rentals

Entity-held easements

United States-held easements

Public works/watersheds



RCPP projects in Iowa (2015 - Present)

Project Number	Project Name	Lead Partner		Start year / end year	NRCS Funding \$	Partner Matching \$	Lead State	Additional States
0139	Middle Cedar Partnership Project	City of Cedar Rapids		2015 – 2020	2,026,938.00	2,278,161.00	Iowa	
0480	Iowa Targeted Demonstration Watershed Partnership Project	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship		2015 - 2020	3,500,000.00	8,843,342.00	Iowa	
0590	Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Lands Enhancement Initiative	Missouri Department of Conservation		2015 – 2019	5,000,000.00	10,050,000.00	Iowa	MO
1286	Precision Conservation Management	Illinois Corn Growers Association		2016 – 2021	9,964,242.00	13,560,928.00	Iowa	IL
1327	Upper Cedar Watershed Urban-Rural Partnership	City of Charles City		2016 – 2021	1,651,750.00	1,918,650.00	Iowa	
1361	Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership *	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship		2016 – 2021	11,500,000.00	32,385,000.00	Iowa	
1425	Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation		2016 – 2021	5,523,363.00	9,617,338.00	Iowa	TX
1574	Fox River Water Quality Project	Davis Co. Soil and Water Conservation District		2018 – 2021	902,870.00	1,053,260.00	Iowa	
1588	Innovative Conservation Agriculture	Allamakee Co. Soil and Water Conservation Dist.		2018 – 2022	646,670.00	654,737.00	Iowa	
1721	SmithfieldGro: Sustainable grain supply chains	Environmental Defense Fund		2018 – 2022	1,550,455.00	1,554,640.00	Iowa	NC
1792	Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild & Rare Phase 2	Trout Unlimited Inc.		2018 – 2022	9,203,125.00	12,660,771.00	Iowa	WI
				Total FB 2014	51,469,413.00	94,576,827.00		
1894	Turkey River Watershed Partnership	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	Classic	2020 - 2025	3,000,000.00	3,903,085.00	Iowa	
1896	Iowa Systems Approach to Conservation Drainage *	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	Classic	2020 - 2025	10,000,000.00	22,537,912.00	Iowa	
1976	North Raccoon Partnership for Soil and Water	Iowa Soybean Association	Classic	2020 - 2025	9,804,703.00	16,024,022.00	Iowa	
2166	Soil and Water Outcomes Fund (AFA)	Ag Technology and Environmental Stewardship Foundation	AFA	2020 - 2023	7,307,000.00	3,740,000.00	Iowa	OH, IL
2266	Midwest Ag Water Quality Partnership (Renewal) *	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	Classic (Renewal)	2020 - 2025	8,500,000.00	40,460,000.00	Iowa	
2374	Cedar River Source Water Partnership *	City of Cedar Rapids	Classic	2021-2026	7,028,362.00	12,347,150.00	Iowa	
2448	SE Iowa Watershed Partnership	SE Iowa Watershed Partnership	Classic	2021-2026	6,363,636.00	12,757,576.00	Iowa	
2570	Floyd River Water Quality Partnership	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	Classic	2021-2024	3,200,000.00	3,360,000.00	Iowa	
2602	Iowa Partners for Natural Infrastructure	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	AFA	2022-2027	10,000,000.00	14,805,000.00	Iowa	
2696	Innovative Conservation Agriculture	Allamakee Co. Soil and Water Conservation Dist.	Classic (Renewal)	2022-2027	379,221.00	377,400.00	Iowa	
2776	Iowa Working Lands Conservation Partnership	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	AFA	2023 - 2028	5,844,156.00	5,519,550.00	Iowa	
2810	Iowa Climate Smart Switchgrass Cropping System Transition	FDC Enterprises	AFA	2023-2028	7,071,429.00	14,160,000.00	Iowa	
2857	West Nishnabotna Water Quality and Infrastructure Partnership	Golden Hills Resource and Conservation Development	Classic	2023-2028	4,600,000.00	4,705,000.00	Iowa	
2881	Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild & Rare Phase 3	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	Classic (Renewal)	2023-2028	6,120,574.00	9,109,420.00	Wisconsin	WI, IL, MN
				Total FB 2018	89,219,081.00	163,806,115.00		
2963	Rathbun Lake	Rathbun Land and Water Alliance	Classic	2024-2029	8,712,954.00	3,854,800.00		
3030	Protection and Restoration of Grasslands in Iowa	Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	AFA	2024-2029	22,987,805.00	14,380,000.00		
3135	Scott County - Iowa Working Lands for Community Resiliency	Ducks Unlimited	AFA	2024-2029	8,000,000.00	3,193,875.00		
3209	Crop Cover and Water Quality Program	GROWMARK	AFA	2024-2029	4,573,171.00	6,507,695.00		
3367	Connecting Wildlife Habitat By Integrating Conservation Corridors	Iowa Wildlife Federation	Classic	2024-2029	3,739,800.00	5,655,000.00		
				2024 Totals	48,013,730.00	33,591,370.00		
				Iowa Totals	2019-2024	137,232,811.00	197,397,485.00	
				Iowa Totals	2014 - 2019	188,702,224.00	291,974,312.00	



Concerns / Issues



**Field Office Workload Impact
Staffing**

Understanding of NRCS Funding

- **Engineering**
- **NEPA**
- **Cultural Resources (SHPO)**

Reporting of Partner Contributions

Partner Completion of Agreement Deliverables

Communication



Resources For Funding Opportunities

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives>

<https://www.grants.gov>



Helpful Hints



Visit websites (NRCS, RCPP, CIG...etc)

Visit with local NRCS staff

Contact the state Point Of Contact BEFORE you apply

Ask questions about the application

Remember what NRCS programs are designed to do

Examine staffing needs (Partner and NRCS)

Determine available resources (Matching funds)

Each state is different

Use feedback to improve applications



A Picture Worth A Thousand Words



Water infiltration in Strip-tillage (ST) and Conventional-tillage (CT)

ISU CROP 3089A

unlock the
SECRETS
IN THE
SOIL

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How Is Your Neighbor Doing?



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Keys To Partnership Success

Trust

Communication

Farm Bill Oriented

Mutual Conservation Goals and Objectives



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Partnerships Are Key To Our Success



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