

IDALS-DSC Programs

Over 94% of Iowa's land is held in private ownership, and the programs of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS-DSC) have been established to work with these landowners.

Over 90% of the landscape is used for agricultural production so much of our focus is in rural communities, but we haven't overlooked the importance of land management in urban areas.

It is critical to our understanding of both conservation and hydrology issues, that what happens on the landscape has immense consequences to the environmental health of our state and the quality of life we enjoy.

IDALS-DSC is striving to integrate our programs with other agencies and local concerns to improve water and soil quality throughout the state and nation.



Abandoned Mined Land Reclamation
Ag Drainage & Nutrient Studies
Ag Drainage Well Closure
Coal Mine Regulation
Conservation Practices No-Interest Loan
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
(CREP) Constructed Wetlands
Cooperative Soil Survey
District Initiatives/Buffer Initiative
Fishkill Restitution
Integrated Drainage-Wetland Systems
Integrated Farm & Livestock Management (IFLM)
Iowa Learning Farm (ILF)
Iowa Financial Incentives Cost Share
Local Water Protection Loans (SRF)
Minerals Mining Registration & Licensure
REAP Water Quality Protection Fund

- Practices
- Projects

Upper Mississippi River Sub-basin Hypoxia
Nutrient Committee
Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB)
Watershed Protection

- Development Grants
- Project Implementation



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Wallace State Office Building
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-281-5851
Fax: 515-281-6170



Iowa Department of Agriculture
and Land Stewardship



Division of Soil Conservation

PROGRAM SUMMARY



*working with lowans building
a culture of conservation*

DSC Program Briefs

Abandoned Mined Land Reclamation

Federal funding is received annually to reclaim priority features of surface coal mines, selected from an inventory of over 300 Iowa sites.

Ag Drainage & Nutrient Studies

Research and demonstration project addresses concerns of groundwater contamination from agricultural drainage wells, with improved in-field management of fertilizers and herbicides.

Ag Drainage Well Closure

Financial assistance provided to protect groundwater aquifers by closing agricultural drainage wells and developing alternative drainage to surface outlets.

Coal Mining

Iowa's coal regulatory mining and reclamation activities are administered and enforced.

Conservation Practices No-Interest Loans

No-interest loans are made available to eligible landowners for construction of permanent soil conservation practices, as an alternative to financial incentive.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Constructed Wetlands

Iowa CREP is a major state/federal initiative to restore wetlands, located and designed to remove nitrate from tile-drainage water while providing valuable habitat.

Fishkill Restitution

Districts work with landowners to restore streams and improve watersheds in locations where fishkills have occurred from pollution.

Integrated Farm and Livestock Management - Iowa Learning Farm (ILF)

Farmer to farmer information exchanged in public demonstration field days, showing effectiveness and adaptability of best management practices. These practices optimize production while minimizing the potential impacts of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides on soil and water resources.

Iowa Financial Incentives Cost Share

The program's effectiveness is seen across the state's landscape as terraces, waterways, erosion control structures and others.

Local Water Protection Loans/ State Revolving Loan (SRF)

Low-interest loans are available for water quality projects, in an effort to reduce sediment, nutrients and pesticides negatively impacting our streams and lakes.

Minerals Mining

Limestone, sand, gravel, gypsum and clay mine operators are licensed, as well as registering more than 1,000 mineral sites in Iowa.

(REAP) Water Quality Protection Practices & Projects

Working one-on-one with landowners, practices target and prevent off-site sediment, nutrient and livestock waste pollution problems. Landowners and partners work together to protect the state's water resources from point and non-point contamination.

Upper Mississippi River Sub-basin Hypoxia Nutrient Committee (UMRSHNC)

Five-state committee facilitates technical, programmatic and policy networking to create information on activities and programs that address the environmental concerns of nutrient transport from non-point sources to the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Zone.

Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB)

Grants awarded to Iowa SWCDs, watershed improvement committees, county conservation boards, public water supply utilities, and cities. Projects include agricultural runoff, streamband erosion, municipal discharge, livestock and storm water runoff and more.

Watershed Protection Program

SWCDs and local leaders receive grants to inventory and assess and develop implementation strategies for watershed management. Grants provide assistance for implementation of local watershed initiatives to reduce soil erosion, protect municipal drinking water supplies, provide flood control and more.

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