Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

Introduction to the

Division of Soil Conservation

IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION

Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

IDALS-DSC
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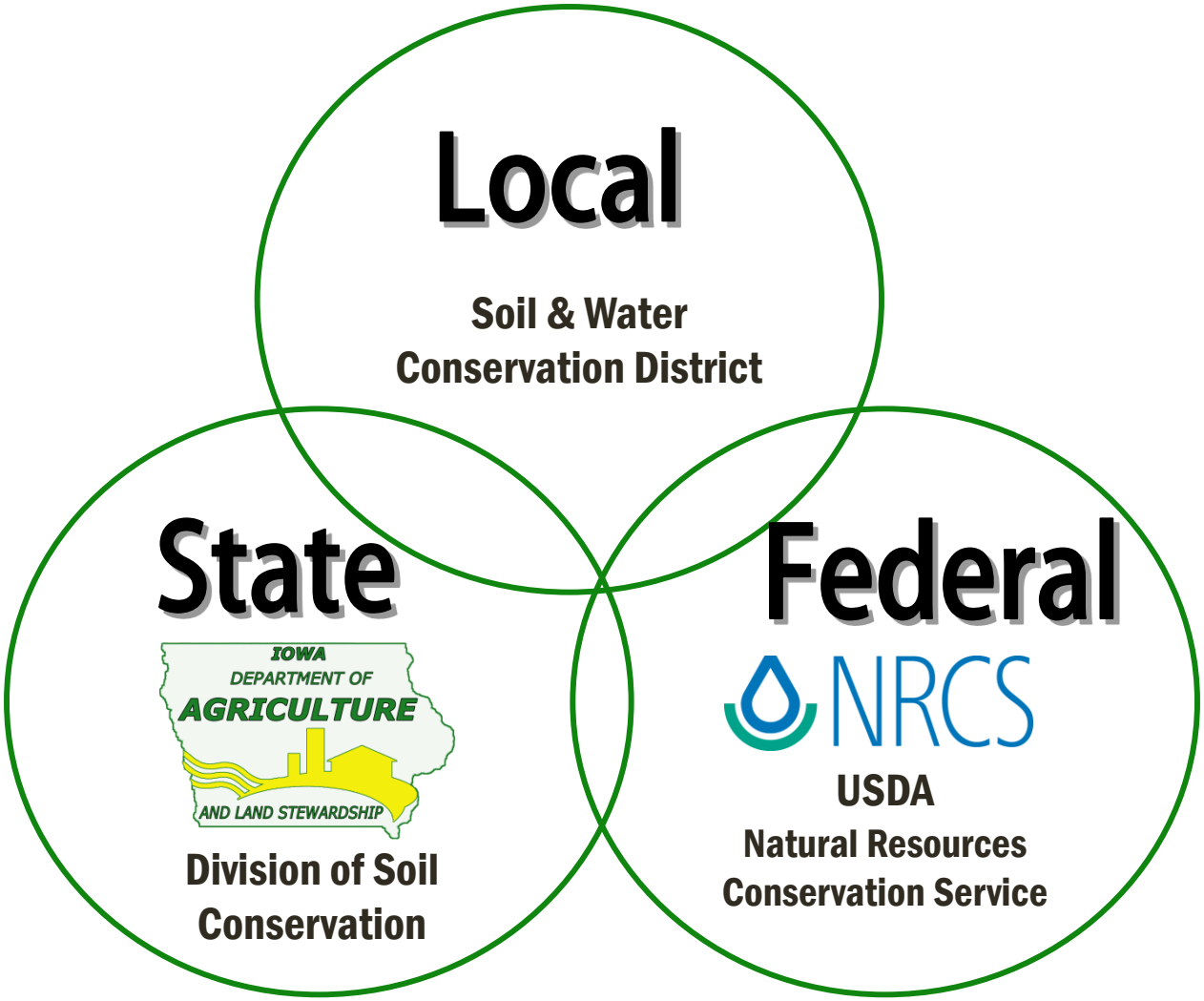
www.iowaagriculture.gov/soilconservation.asp

DSC Mission

The Division of Soil Conservation is responsible for state leadership in the **protection and management of soil, water and mineral resources**, assisting soil and water conservation districts and private landowners to meet their agricultural and environmental protection needs.

Core Conservation Partners



Core Conservation Partners

	Federal Agency	State Agency	Local Agency
Local level	100 NRCS Field Offices	IDALS-DSC Field Staff	100 Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Regional level	5 NRCS Area Offices	IDALS – DSC State Office Field Rep WS Protection & Water Quality	CDI - Regions
State level	NRCS – State Office	IDALS-DSC State Office SSCC State Soil Conservation Committee	CDI - Board
National level	USDA -NRCS	National Association of State Conservation Agencies	NACD

State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC)

The Division of Soil Conservation is administered in accordance with policies established by the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC).

Primary authorities of the SSCC are to:

- **Establish policy** and **approve rules** for the administration of DSC programs
- **Recommend a budget for the DSC** annually, to the Secretary of Agriculture
- **Provide leadership** on soil and water conservation and related issues **through research, information and education,** seeking assistance from agencies and education institutions of the state
- **Appoint commissioners** to fill vacancies in SWCDs
- **Provide a forum for discussion** of soil and water conservation issues and the development of policy and program initiatives

Timeline of Soil Conservation in Iowa

1928 USDA Circular 33, "Soil Erosion: A National Menace" was published

1936 *Soil Erosion In Iowa* was published by the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station documenting soil erosion problems

1937 President Roosevelt sent a letter to all state governors encouraging them to pass state laws establishing the soil conservation district program

1940 Soil conservation districts formed in Iowa

1971 Iowa became the first state to establish a soil loss limit law

1973 Iowa became the first state to appropriate state cost-share funds for soil conservation

1983 The Division is granted primacy for the Abandoned Mine Lands Program by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior

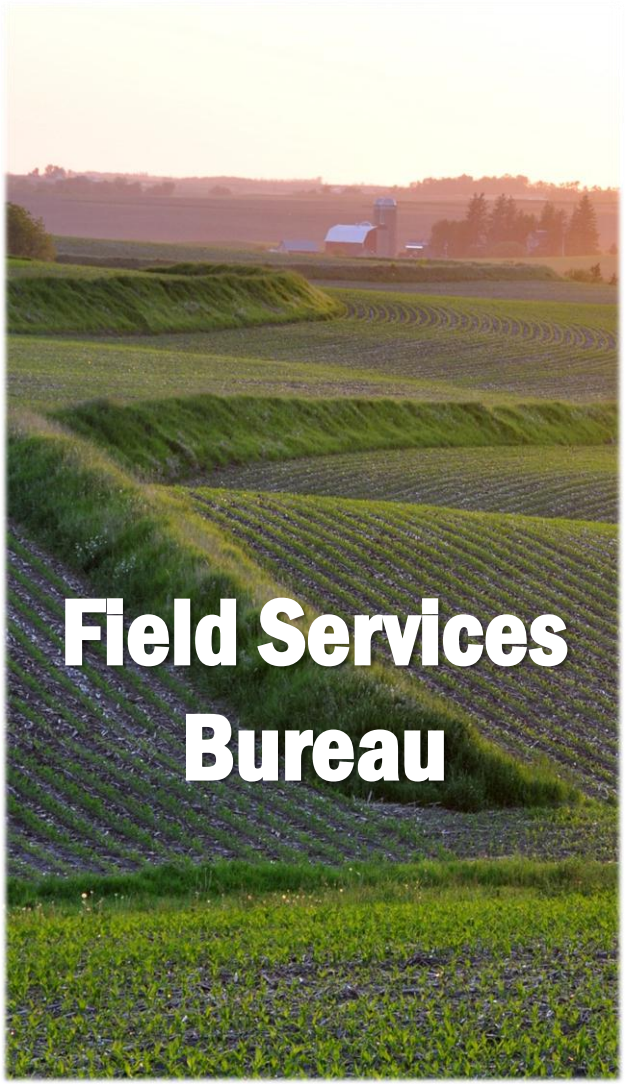
1989 Resource Enhancement & Protection (REAP) established, creating the Water Protection Fund

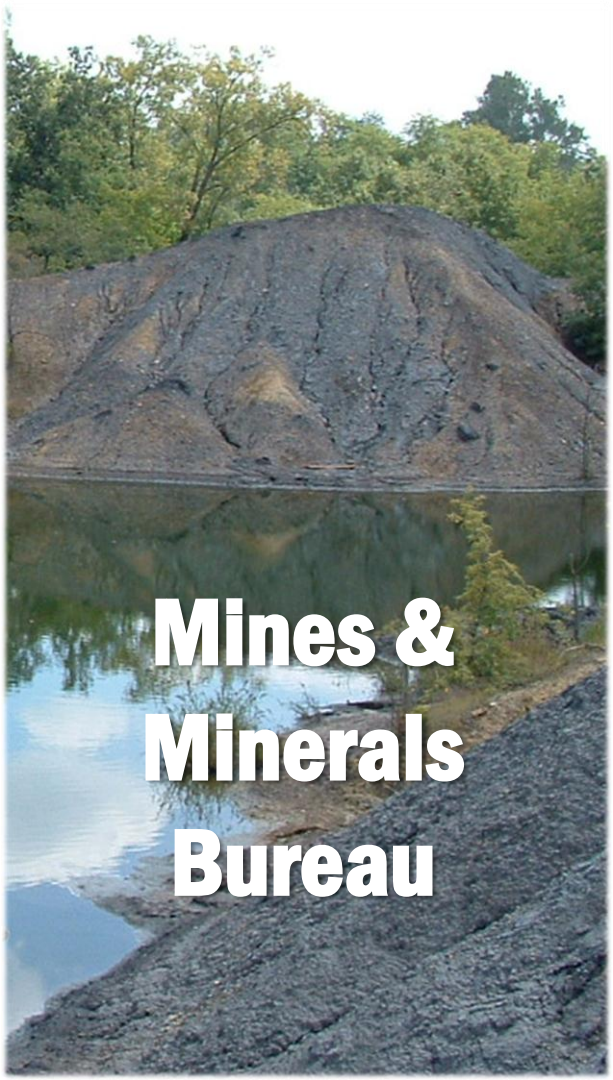
1999 Watershed Protection Fund (WSPF) is established, expanding focus on watersheds

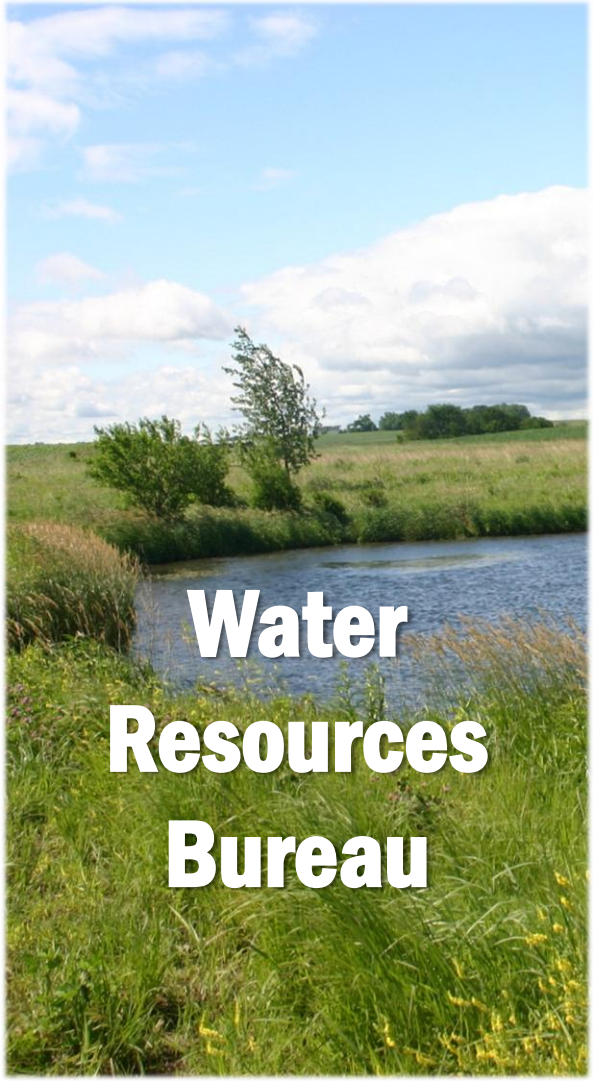
2007 Urban Conservation Program is established

2013 Iowa Water Quality Initiative begins. CleanWaterIowa.org launches. Statewide cost-share is administered and 13 demonstration projects in targeted areas begin.

DSC Structure







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Field Services Bureau

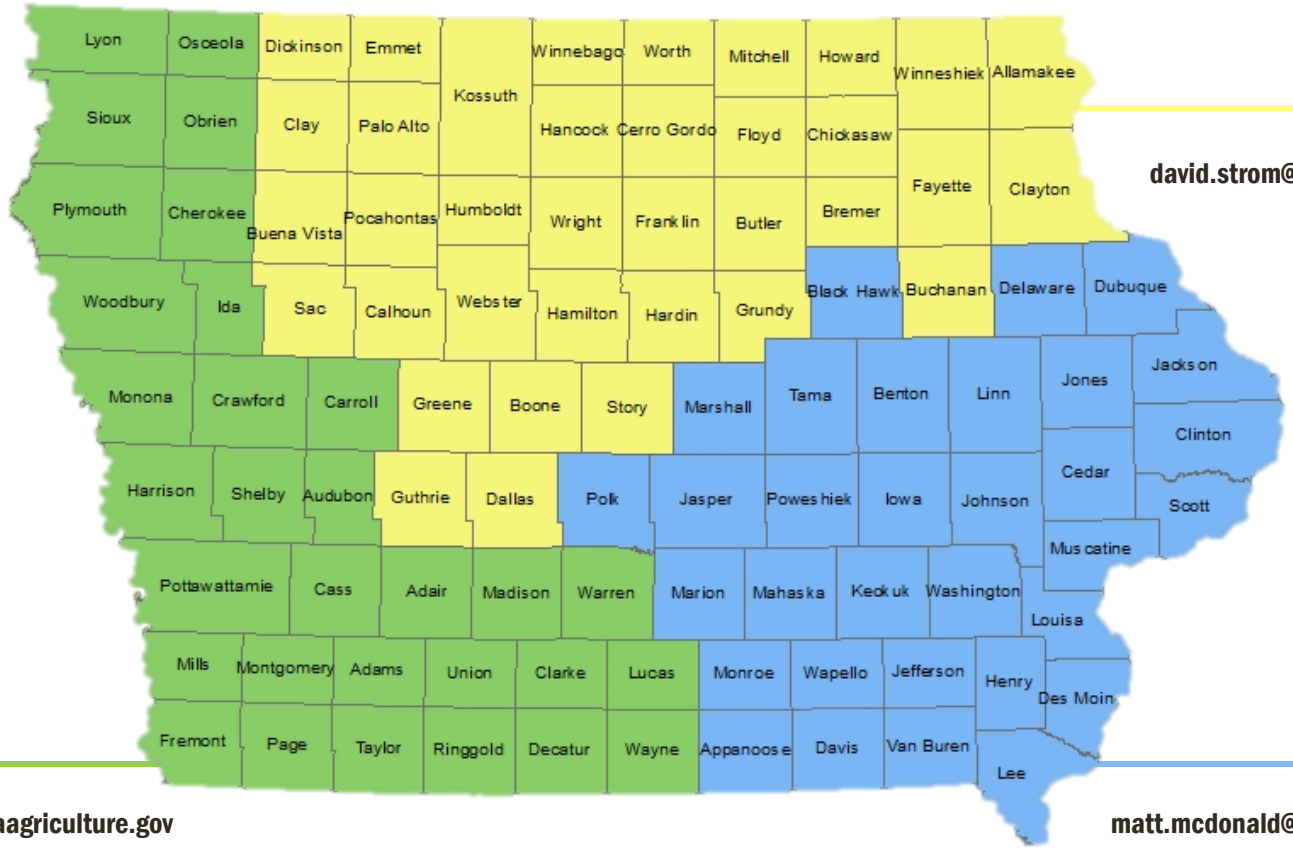
Field Services Bureau

Field Services Programs

- Cooperative Soil Surveys
- State Cost Share
- Field Office Staff
- District Initiatives
- Urban Conservation Program
- State Revolving Fund
- No-Interest Loans
- REAP Water Quality Protection Practices
- REAP Water Quality Protection Projects
- Stormwater Best Management Practices Loans

Field Services Bureau

Field Representative Areas



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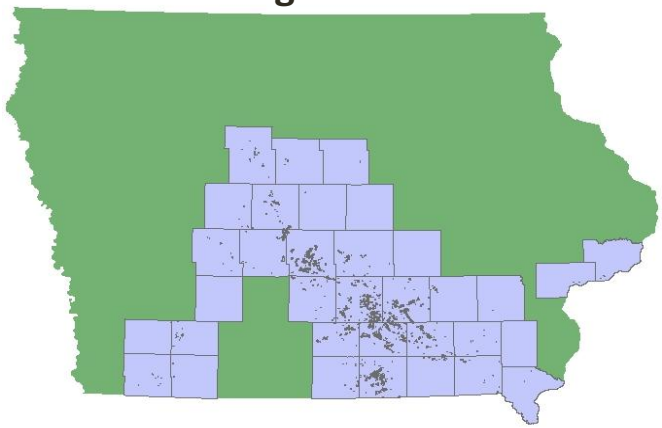
Mines & Minerals Bureau

Mines & Minerals Bureau

Mines & Minerals Programs

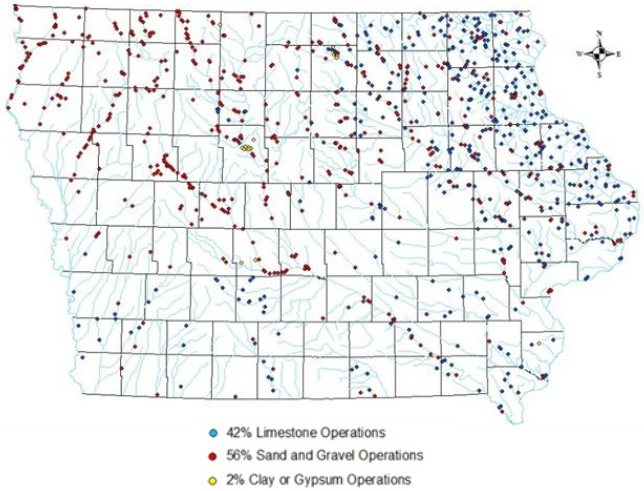
- Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program
- Coal Regulatory Program
- Minerals Program

AML Program Extents



A strip mining operation near Oskaloosa, Iowa. Compare the size of the dragline with the trucks and people in the background.

Mineral Mines in Iowa



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Water Resources Bureau

Water Resources Bureau

Water Resources Programs

Agricultural Drainage Well Closure Assistance Program

Agricultural Drainage Well Research and Demonstration Project

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

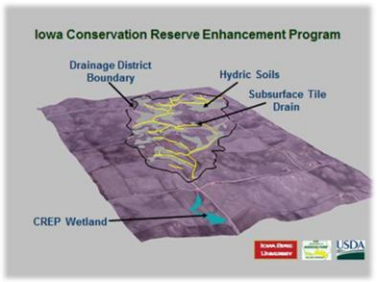
Integrated Farm and Livestock Management Demonstration Program (IFLM)

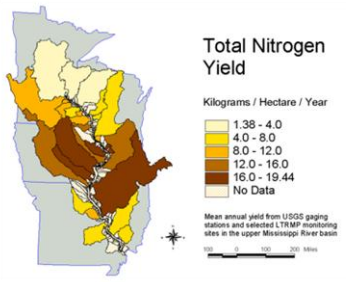
Watershed Protection Program

Watershed Improvement Review Board (IWIRB)

Watershed Improvement Fund

Upper Mississippi River Sub-basin Hypoxia Nutrient Committee





Employee Resources

IA Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

http://das.iowa.gov/

Includes information on:
Employee benefits, Employee Assistance Program, Discount Programs, Leave Programs, Training and Development Opportunities, & State job listing

IPERS – Iowa Public Employee Retirement System

http://www.ipers.org/

Online Payroll access (with password)

www.egov.state.ia.us/warrants/warrantProcessorServlet

SEHARC – State Employees Health and Recreation Committee

http://seharc.org/

Online Resources

IDALS-DSC	www.iowaagriculture.gov/soilConservation.asp
IDALS	www.iowaagriculture.gov
P&P Manual	www.iowaagdata.com
FARMS	http://idals.iowa.gov/FARMS
Iowa Legislature	http://staffweb.legis.state.ia.us/lfb
State of Iowa	www.iowa.gov/Government
Iowa DNR	www.iowadnr.gov
Iowa NRCS	www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov
AgLearn	www.aglearn.usda.gov
Conservation Districts of Iowa	www.cdiowa.org
National Assn of Conservation Districts	http://nacdnet.org
Parking at Wallace Building	www.iowa.govgovernment/crc/docs/capitol_parking.pdf

Social Media

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