

A Guide to Conservation Programs

A quick reference to financial and technical assistance for conservation on private lands.

Program	Purpose	Practices	Eligibility	Contact
Conservation Technical Assistance	assistance in planning and installing resource management systems	reduce soil erosion; improve soil, water, and air quality; improve wildlife habitat	all land users may receive technical assistance from the NRCS or local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).	NRCS, SWCDs
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	restoration of wetlands previously altered for agricultural use	wetland restoration and wildlife habitat establishment.	landowners may restore wetlands with permanent easements, 30-year easements or 10- year contracts.	NRCS, SWCDs
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	assistance to address specific natural resource concerns.	manure, management, grazing management, erosion control, and water quality improvement	farmers may be eligible for up to 75% cost-share and up to \$450,000 for all contracts for the length of the 2002 Farm Bill.	NRCS, SWCDs, FSA
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	reduce erosion, increase wildlife habitat, and improve water quality	tree planting, grass cover, small wetland restoration, prairie restoration, and others	contract of 10-15 years, depending on the type of practice — rolling general signups for offers that qualify, continuous signup is open for buffers, waterways, and other practices	FSA, SWCDs
Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)	to develop and implement a forest management plan.	forest stand improvement, tree planting, and other practices	agreement to maintain practices for estimated life span — management plan is required	DNR
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	to develop or improve fish and wildlife habitat on privately owned land	seeding, tree and shrub plantings, fencing, in-stream structures, and prairie restoration	ag and non- ag land, woodlots, pastures, and stream banks eligible — up to 60% of restoration costs	NRCS, SWCDs
Conservation Security Program (CSP)	rewards farmers and landowners for past conservation work and provides technical and financial assistance to help develop conservation plans	any existing and new stewardship practices and activities are credited in the application process	most Iowa farmland will be eligible except for land in WRP, CRP and GRP — signup is open on a watershed-by-watershed basis	NRCS, SWCDs, FSA
State Cost-Share	cost-share or incentives for conservation practices to control erosion and reduce sediment	includes terraces, waterways, and structures.	any landowner can enter into an agreement with the district to install and maintain an approved conservation practice	DSC, SWCDs, NRCS
State Watershed Protection Practices	provides cost-share or incentives to address local water quality protection needs	SWCDs set priorities, including tree plantings, windbreaks, land use conversion practices, and traditional erosion control practices	landowners can enter into agreements with the district to install and maintain approved conservation practices	DSC, SWCDs, NRCS
Iowa Water Protection Fund (REAP)	for water quality improvement practices in watersheds above priority lakes and streams and to protect ground water	land treatment and nutrient management practices	landowners and operators with approved projects are eligible — permanent practices require 20-year maintenance agreements	DSC, SWCDs, NRCS
Iowa District Initiative	to accelerate implementation of federal conservation programs.	buffer strips, waterways, riparian buffers, shallow water areas for wildlife, wellhead protection, etc.	landowners whose land qualifies for federal conservation programs	DSC, SWCDs, NRCS
State Loan Program	no-interest loans for the construction of permanent soil conservation practices.	terraces, waterways, and other structures.	landowners must be able to secure a loan, be capable of repaying the loan, and be a cooperater with the SWCD	SWCDs, DSC, NRCS