

Available to Iowa Landowners

Program	Purpose	Practices	Eligibility	Contact
Local Water Protection Loan Program	loans for permanent soil conservation practices	to improve water quality and to prevent surface water runoff from open feedlots	cannot be used for projects in concentrated animal feed operations (CAFOs)	SWCDs, DSC, NRCS
On-Site Wastewater Assistance Fund	low interest loans (\$2,000 to \$10,000 / up to 10 years)	repair or replace on-site septic systems	borrower must be able to secure and repay the loan and be approved by the county	County, DNR
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	incentives to establish wetlands for water quality improvement in the tile-drained regions areas	wetland restoration and adjacent buffer establishment	continuous enrollment — eligible land must be in one of thirty-seven counties in North-Central Iowa	SWCDs, DSC, FSA, NRCS
Shelterbelt Program	funding for tree and shrub planting for energy conservation and wildlife habitat	for new or expanded tree and shrub shelterbelts around farmsteads or feedlots for energy conservation benefits	plantings must be around occupied farmsteads and feedlots in Iowa	DNR
Farm Pond Program	to provide quality fishing opportunities for licensed anglers	DNR will provide fish free of charge if ponds meet the criteria	pond must be new or renovated and free of fish; surface area of at least 1/2 acre; maximum depth of at least 8 feet, etc.	DNR
EPA Section 319 Program	for watershed-based water quality projects	traditional and innovative conservation practices that provide water quality benefits	individuals and legal entities that participate in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Section 319 water quality projects	DNR, SWCD, EPA
General Non-Point Source Program (Low-Interest Loans)	for the restoration of wildlife habitat	stream bank stabilization, urban storm water management, remediation of storage tanks, etc.	more details through the Iowa DNR	DNR
Livestock Water Quality Facilities Program (Low-Interest Loans)	low-interest loans for livestock operations	for lagoons, manure management structures, etc	more details through the Iowa DNR	DNR
Debt Cancellation Conservation Contract (Debt for Nature)	cancels a portion of indebtedness in exchange for a conservation contract	more details through FSA and FWS	landowner must owe the FSA and have marginal croplands or other environmentally sensitive lands for conservation, recreation, and wildlife purposes	FSA, FWS
FWS Programs	land acquisition and technical assistance	more details through FSA and FWS	more details through FWS	FWS

Table compiled by Dick Tremain Public Affairs Specialist, Iowa NRCS

Where to Go for Assistance

NRCS, DSC, and local SWCD staff are located at the local USDA Service Center in every county in Iowa. They provide free technical assistance on a voluntary basis to landowners to help them conserve and protect the soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources on their land.

The Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau has 13 district forestry offices that provide free technical assistance to landowners in establishing new tree and riparian buffer strip plantings, and in woodland management planning and timber stand improvements. Landowners may purchase select seedlings at cost from

the State Forest Nursery at 1-800-865-2477. Iowa DNR biologists also provide conservation assistance to landowners throughout the state.

Numerous other organizations and agencies provide conservation assistance or programs, including local Pheasants Forever Chapters, Ducks Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa State University Extension, and Resource Conservation and Development offices. Contact your local NRCS office for ideas and local contact information.