

The Iowa Soybean Association Can Help



IOWA SOYBEAN

ASSOCIATION

Expanding Opportunities. Delivering Results.



The Conservation Security Program (CSP) has given conservation-minded growers some hope of recouping money they've spent on terraces and grassed waterways, wildlife habitat and re-establishing wetlands. Granted, funding hasn't allowed all farmers who qualify to participate in the program, but there's still hope that Congress will eventually realize the importance of this program.

For growers who are not quite ready for CSP, there are other programs that can help them get up to speed.

The list includes technical assistance for conservation planning, as well as financial assistance for everything from buffer strips, ponds, waterways and terraces to nutrient management practices and manure treatment and holding facilities. Examples of available programs can be found on pages 10 and 11.

One of the main programs designed to allow growers to try out new practices is the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). This program, funded through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, is administered at the local level by county Soil Conservation District Commissioners. County or district commissioners may choose from a menu of practices aimed at conserving soil and protecting water quality.

The Iowa Soybean Association (ISA), through its work in watershed programming and the On-Farm Network™, has written proposals for EQIP funded practices that have been used in the association's strip trial studies. These include:

- Nutrient management strip trials that compare nitrogen application rates, forms and timing, as well as the need for nitrogen when manure has been applied (providing it is not a violation of an existing manure management plan)
- Pre-sidedress soil nitrate testing
- Sidedressing strip trials
- Pre-harvest nitrate stalk sampling
- Pre-harvest guided stalk sampling, based on remote sensing and soil maps.

All Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts have the option to make EQIP cost sharing available to growers for these practices.

Participating in On-Farm Network nutrient management strip trials can help you learn the most economical way and time to provide corn with nitrogen. Using reduced rates can help growers qualify for the Conservation Security Program.

Additionally, ISA environmental planning specialists or contracted consultants are available to help guide farmers through the environmental planning process, including writing nutrient management plans, whole farm environmental management plans, and completing applications for CSP.

Much of the information on ISA's On-Farm Network agronomic studies and environmental and watershed programming can be found on the Internet at www.isafarmnet.com.

To learn more about the ISA On-Farm Network or participate in any of the strip trial programs, contact Patrick Reeg at preeg@iasoybeans.com.

To learn more about ISA environmental planning or get assistance in applying for CSP, contact Heath Ellison by email at hellison@iasoybeans.com.

Or you can write to either Ellison or Reeg at:

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