

CEMSA snapshot

Each CEMSA farm goes through a simple process of planning, implementation, evaluation, and review about the business decisions they make on their farm that affect the environment. The process evaluates environmental risks on the farm, prioritizes them, and designs an action plan to address them. During the CEMSA process, farmers will:

- Document the conservation practices in place
- Inventory the operation and resources available
- Identify areas/activities that have an environmental impact
- Prioritize impacts and develop objectives to address them with available resources
- Consider the dollars and cents of any changes to be made
- Create a personalized action plan

Is CEMSA only for farms that have an impact on the environment?

“Every Iowa farm has an impact on the environment. We all have a duty and a responsibility to be good stewards of the environment, and the CEMSA



Heath Ellison, left, manages the CEMSA program for ISA, with Roger Wolf, ISA director of environmental programs.

process is helping farmers make progress toward their environmental goals. CEMSA was designed to let farmers evaluate that impact and make improvements that will enhance both farm profits and the environment. In the long run, the kind of documentation we can provide through CEMSA is going to protect farmers in regard to environmental issues.”
—Roger Wolf, director of environmental programs, Iowa Soybean Association.

History of Iowa Soybean Association Environmental Programs

Iowa farmers founded the Iowa Soybean Association in 1964 to develop new products, create new markets, and improve profits for soybean producers. The Iowa Soybean Association is now the largest state-based, row-crop commodity organization in the country with 6,174 members.

The environmental leadership of the Iowa Soybean Association began to take shape in 1992, when its farmer-directors started seeking practical tools to achieve measurable results for lowering row crop agriculture’s loss of nutrients to ground and surface waters.

Today, the Iowa Soybean Association is aggressively pursuing the use of emerging technology to help growers improve agronomic, economic and environmental performance on the farm. The programs are actively demonstrating for farmers how to achieve significant improvement in nitrogen management with reductions of nitrogen loss alongside stable or increased yields, and net economic profitability.

Iowa Soybean Association environmental programs mission:

To deliver innovative projects providing growers with service and support to meet agronomic and environmental objectives.

