

SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE

SFY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

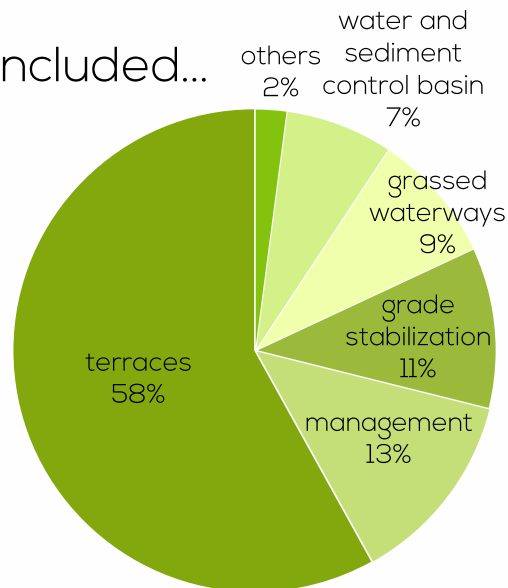
COST SHARE IN 2014

- State** contribution **\$9.5 million**
(includes cost share and administrative support)
Iowa farmer contribution **+ \$13 million**
Total investment **\$22.5 million**

- 2,382 Iowa farmers** used cost share to install conservation practices.

- Conservation practices included...

Why so many terraces? Terraces are an effective, long term conservation practice. They trap 95% of the sediment and phosphorus from a field.

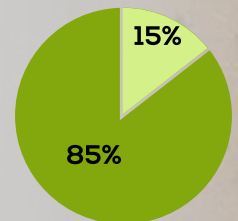


"The cost share program is a partnership between the local landowners and state to help get conservation practices on the land that prevent erosion and improve water quality. These funds are a great investment by the state, with farmers historically contributing \$1.50 or more for each dollar invested by the state."

Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, pictured in his field with cover crops planted into corn.

TODAY
we have **34 Technicians**
and **84 Secretaries**
covering **100 offices**.

Staff work in multiple districts to ensure work gets done across Iowa.



FUNDING

85% of the funds directly benefit the land

15% used for administration

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For over four decades, Iowa's conservation cost share program encourages the adoption of land stewardship, conservation practices that sustain agriculture and preserve the state's natural resources.

HOW COST SHARE WORKS

- Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS) receives appropriation** from legislature.

Diverse landforms across Iowa directly affect the cost and type of conservation practice best for each field. Therefore, location affects the amount of funding a county needs and receives.

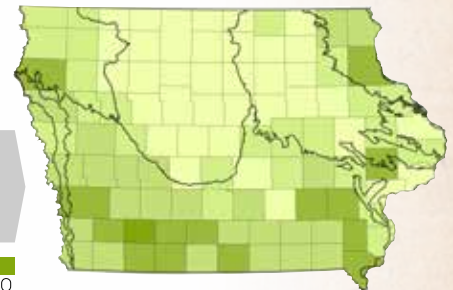
0-\$30,000

\$30,000 - \$90,000

\$90,000 - \$170,000

\$170,000 - \$310,000

\$310,000 - \$555,000



- Funds are distributed** to Iowa's 100 SWCDs based on land use, soil erodibility and landowner demand.

WHAT'S A SWCD?

A SWCD is a Soil & Water Conservation District, made up of State, District, and Federal staff, plus 5 Elected Commissioners.

State staff in some field offices include:

TECHNICIANS:

Work with landowners/contractors. Provide technical support, develop surveys, create layout, and design of conservation practices.

SECRETARIES:

Work with commissioners and landowners. Provide administrative support for district activities and process cost share applications and claims.



Local staff work directly with landowners.

- Then, **farmers and landowners apply for cost share** by visiting their local SWCDs.



Applications are accepted year round.

Cost share can be used for both management and permanent practices.

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- 4 The five Soil & Water Conservation District **Commissioners approve applications** in each SWCD.

WHAT'S A Commissioner ?

someone elected to promote conservation in their county, helps administer state and federal programs, directs activities such as field days, educational meetings, contests, and award programs.



- 5 Next, **farmers hire a local contractor** and get to work! Conservation practice plans are developed by staff working with landowners and local contractors.

Modern survey and design tools help in the design, customizing practices for each field.

- 6 **Practices are installed** and the soil conservation and water quality benefits begin!

Investing in soil conservation not only improves productivity on the farm by keeping soil in our fields, it also helps keep soil and nutrients out of the water.

PRACTICE EXAMPLES:



TERRACES



MANAGEMENT
(COVER CROPS)



GRASSED WATERWAY



WATER AND SEDIMENT
CONTROL BASIN



GRADE STABILIZATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

Our technicians and secretaries are a part of the 100 Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), which are housed within federal USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) buildings. They use federal equipment and other resources. Therefore, the **partnership** between IDALS, SWCD and NRCS is critical.

Other partners working together include the Conservation Districts of Iowa, USDA Farm Services Agency, USDA Rural Development, State Soil Conservation Committee, county conservation boards, county board of supervisors, drainage districts, levee districts and other local groups.

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1 Cost Share allows **more conservation practices** to be installed.

- ▶ reduce erosion, soil loss and nutrient runoff
- ▶ improve soil health and water quality
- ▶ reduce storm water impact on private property and infrastructure

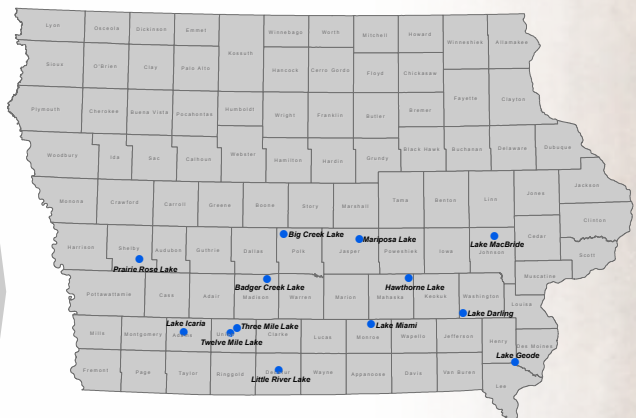


This soil
would
fill only
1 dump
truck

The amount of soil saved in one year through this program is enough to fill 26,000 (15 ton) dump trucks.

2 5% of each year's cost share appropriation goes towards **protecting the water quality of public-owned lakes** in Iowa.

This map shows which lakes have been chosen for FY2015. Farmers living within the selected lakes' watersheds can apply for up to 75% cost share, to establish practices to protect water quality.



3 It's good for Iowa's economy. Money gets reinvested in Iowa's local economies benefiting local communities.



Bill and Margaret Thomas have always believed in soil conservation. Bill started no-tilling in the 80's and they built their first terrace in 1983. Since then they have completely terraced their farm (49,305 feet of terraces). Some of the terraces were built with cost share funding and some without.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to the generations before us - their hard work of preserving the land and their love of being farmers."

- Bill & Margaret Thomas, Montgomery County