

## IDALS-DSC Programs

Over 94% of Iowa's land is held in private ownership, and the programs of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS-DSC) have been established to work with these landowners.



Over 90% of the landscape is used for agricultural production so much of our focus is in rural communities, but we haven't overlooked the importance of land

management in urban areas.



It is crucial to our understanding of both conservation and hydrology issues,

that what happens on the landscape has immense consequences to the environmental health of our state and the quality of life we enjoy.

IDALS-DSC is striving to integrate our programs with other agencies and local concerns to improve water and soil quality throughout the state and nation.



- Abandoned Mined Land Reclamation
- Ag Drainage & Nutrient Studies
- Ag Drainage Well Closure
- Coal Mine Regulation
- Conservation Practices No-Interest Loan
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Constructed Wetlands
- Cooperative Soil Survey
- District Initiatives/Buffer Initiative
- Fishkill Restitution
- Integrated Drainage-Wetland Systems
- Integrated Farm & Livestock Management (IFLM) - Iowa Learning Farm
- Iowa Financial Incentives Cost Share
- Local Water Protection Loans
- Minerals Mining Registration & Licensure
- REAP Water Quality Protection Fund
  - Practices
  - Projects
- Staffing to Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Upper Mississippi River Sub-basin Hypoxia Nutrient Committee
- Watershed Improvement Review Board
- Watershed Protection
  - Development Grants
  - Project Implementation

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*Iowa Department of Agriculture  
and Land Stewardship  
Division of Soil Conservation*



## PROGRAM SUMMARY



*Working with Iowans building  
a culture of conservation.*

## Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship-Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS-DSC) – Program Briefs

Abandoned Mined Land Reclamation The DSC receives federal funding annually to reclaim eligible sites selected from an inventory of over 200 Iowa sites.

Ag Drainage & Nutrient Studies A research and demonstration project address concerns about contamination of groundwater through use of agricultural drainage wells including improved in-field management of fertilizers and herbicides.

Ag Drainage Well Closure This program provides financial assistance to protect groundwater aquifers by closing high priority ag drainage wells and developing alternative drainage outlets to surface streams.

Coal Mining The DSC regulates coal-mining activities and reclamation in Iowa.

Conservation Practices No-Interest Loans Loans are made available to eligible landowners at no interest for the construction of permanent soil conservation practices. It offers an alternative financial incentive to landowners and for some provides tax advantages.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Constructed Wetlands Iowa CREP is a major state/federal initiative to develop wetlands which are strategically located and designed to remove nitrate from tile-drainage water from cropland areas.

Cooperative Soil Survey The goal of this a nationwide partnership is the development, maintenance and application of reliable soil resource information which is critical in dealing with water and soil quality, crop production efficiency and farm profitability, and urban and suburban development and is the foundation for all land use planning, value and taxation.

District Initiatives Locally-led initiatives in Iowa 's soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) prioritize and target sensitive areas by providing funds and re-

sources where they do the most good. The statewide Buffer Initiative is one very successful example.

Fishkill Restitution Districts work with landowners to restore streams and make improvements in watersheds where fishkills resulted from pollution releases.

Integrated Farm and Livestock Management—Iowa Learning Farm Landowners in projects statewide demonstrate the effectiveness and adaptability of proper agricultural inputs of tillage, fertility, and pest management to optimize production and minimize potential impacts of sediment, nutrients and pesticides on the state 's soil and water resources.

Iowa Financial Incentives Cost Share Cost-sharing with private landowners is the cornerstone of soil and water conservation practice application in Iowa and evidence of the program 's effectiveness can be seen across the landscape in terraces, waterways, erosion control structures and other conservation practice applications.

Local Water Protection Loans Low-interest loans are made available for a variety of water quality projects in an effort to reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides negatively impacting Iowa streams and lakes.

Minerals Mining The DSC licenses limestone, sand, gravel, gypsum and clay mine operators, and bonds and registers more than 1,000 mineral sites in Iowa.

REAP Water Quality Protection Practices & Projects One-half of the DSC 's allocation of REAP funds is used for practices and one-half for projects. By working one-on-one with landowners, practices protect water quality in Iowa by targeting and preventing off-site sediment, nutrient and livestock waste pollution problems. Projects bring landowners and other partners together within a watershed to protect the state 's water resources from point and non-point sources of contamination.

Staffing to Soil & Water Conservation Districts DSC staff are assigned to each SWCD in Iowa. Each is unique in the resource conservation problems it addresses and the way it chooses to package and deliver programs to landowners, farm operators, and local communities.

Upper Mississippi River Sub-basin Hypoxia Nutrient Committee The DSC coordinates the activities of this five-state committee to facilitate technical, programmatic and policy networking for the purpose of assembling a body of information on existing activities and programs addressing the environmental concerns of nutrient transport from nonpoint sources to the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Zone.

Watershed Improvement Review Board Grants are awarded to SWCDs, local watershed improvement committees, county conservation boards public water supply utilities and cities to improve water quality in Iowa. Projects may include agricultural runoff and drainage, streambank erosion, municipal discharge, storm water runoff, unsewered communities, industrial discharge and livestock runoff.

Watershed Protection Program SWCDs and local leaders receive Development Grants to inventory, assess, and develop implementation strategies for watershed management. The result is efficient and productive expenditure of program funds. Implementation Grants provide technical and financial assistance for the implementation of local watershed initiatives to reduce soil erosion, protect municipal drinking water supplies, provide flood control, restore wildlife habitat, and protect water, soil and other natural resources.

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