

Our Iowa. Our Water.

THE WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE (WQI) is a collaborative, research-based strategy to improve water quality – with progress evaluated and reported by independent researchers from Iowa State University. This comprehensive approach allows us to work with farmers and cities alike to adopt conservation practices that fit their needs.

Everyone has a role to play in improving our water quality. When we all work together, we can make big strides.

Established during the 2013 legislative session, the WQI assists the implementation of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS), which provides a roadmap to achieve a 45% reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus losses to our waters using an integrated approach of point (cities and industries) and non-point (farms and residential areas) sources.



STATEWIDE COST-SHARE

More than **\$11 million** has been made available statewide for farmers to try a new practice on their farm in the past four years. These funds are matched or exceeded by all participants.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) currently funds **45** demonstration projects: **16** watershed demonstration projects, **7** practice demonstration projects, and **22** urban conservation projects.

These multi-year projects are designed to implement, display, and monitor the effectiveness and adaptability of conservation practices highlighted in the NRS.

please see reverse for more info

*In four years of the initiative, **9,440+** farmers have tried water-quality practices that have protected more than **932,000** acres of farmland.*

more than
150
organizations
collaborate within
WQI projects

Wetlands publicly funded through 2015 treat more than 99,000 acres of Iowa land. That's more than 75,000 football fields!*

*NRS 2016 Annual Report

SELECTED CONSERVATION PRACTICES



Bioreactor



Cover Crops



Extended Crop Rotation



Buffer



No-Till/
Strip Till



Nutrient
Stewardship



Saturated
Buffer



Terrace



Wetlands