



Cost Share Opportunities

Cover crop- \$30 per acre. (Cover crops can be chopped or grazed.)

No Till- \$15 per acre

**Terrace, Grass Waterways, and Water and Sediment Control Basins–
Up to 75% cost share.**

If you have any questions or would like us to look at a proposed project give us a call or stop by the NRCS Office.

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Conservation Partners:



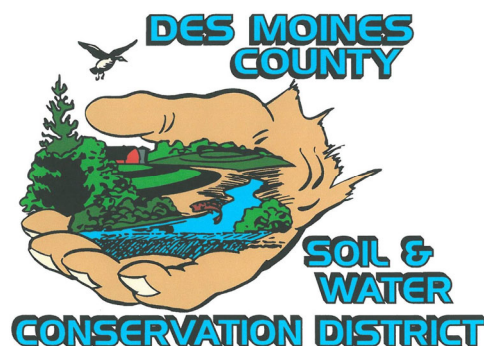
Natural Resources Conservation Service



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
**AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

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Equal Opportunity Employer



July 2026

Watershed Project Update

Landowner and Operator Engagement

To ensure the success of the watershed project, increased involvement from landowners and operators is essential. Active participation will help address ongoing challenges and achieve project goals.

Water Quality Results

Recent water test results for April, May, and June indicate that levels of phosphorus, nitrate plus nitrite, and total suspended solids continue to exceed the EPA's recommended standards for running streams. These findings highlight the need for continued and enhanced conservation practices within the watershed.



Cover Crop Implementation

The state has established a goal of planting 500 acres of cover crops in the 4,600-acre watershed. Currently, approximately 350 acres are planted each year. The aim is to reach 500 acres of cover crops this fall. Increasing cover crop acreage will support soil health and water quality improvements.

Conservation Project Opportunities

Landowners and operators interested in terrace or waterway projects are encouraged to discuss potential designs and receive quotes. There is up to a 75% cost share available for terrace construction, grass waterways, and water and sediment control basins. We are also looking for potential pond and wetland sites.

Edge-of-Field Practices

Programs are available for implementing edge-of-field practices such as buffer strips and prairie strips. These options are particularly beneficial for low-production acres, allowing landowners to reduce input costs by not planting those areas. Participation in these programs can further enhance water quality and provide economic advantages.



This is my daughter on May 26th at Big Hollow Lake. She was unable to swim due to the duckweed. Just one week before this picture there was no duckweed and she was able to swim. The DMC Conservation team works hard to try to keep this algae away from the beach, but visitors can’t always utilize the swimming area at the beach.

	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	Phosphorus	ortho-Phosphate as P	Total Suspended Solids
Site 1				
Apr 7, 2026	21	0.11	0.07	11
May 21, 2026	20	0.08	0.05	11
Jun 19, 2026	17	0.17	0.44	9

	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	Phosphorus	ortho-Phosphate as P	Total Suspended Solids
Site 2				
Apr 7, 2026	15	0.03	0.02	11
May 21, 2026	15	0.03	0.02	6
Jun 19, 2026	18	0.08	0.03	34

	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	Phosphorus	ortho-Phosphate as P	Total Suspended Solids
Site 3				
Apr 7, 2026	16	0.03	0.02	2
May 21, 2026	18	0.03	0.02	7
Jun 19, 2026	21	0.07	0.08	5

	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	Phosphorus	ortho-Phosphate as P	Total Suspended Solids
Site 4				
Apr 7, 2026	15	0.04	0.02	14
May 21, 2026	15	0.05	0.03	9
Jun 19, 2026	17	0.13	0.05	41

	Nitrate + Nitrite nitrogen as N	Phosphorus	ortho-Phosphate as P	Total Suspended Solids
Site 5				
Apr 7, 2026	18	0.13	0.05	31
May 21, 2026	NA	NA	0.04	18
Jun 19, 2026	22	.20	0.01	21

Goals: Total Phosphorus levels below 0.05 mg/L and Nitrate levels below 10 mg/L. For orthophosphate, looking at how much of the total phosphorus is made up of dissolved phosphorus (ortho P) we can see whether inputs are coming from tile lines (dissolved P) or from overland flow (sediment attached phosphorus).