

Protect soil, water

BEN BADER

JESUP — We need a consistent team effort and innovation to protect Iowa's soil and water.

That's why I like Iowa's nutrient reduction strategy. It gives farmers like me the science and research we need to make the best decisions for our land and the flexibility and support we need to put water quality and soil-protecting solutions into practice. The farmers I talk to are eager to get to work, and we're already seeing results around the state.

On our farm, we use grassed waterways, buffer strips and terraces to prevent soil loss and GPS technology to apply fertilizer more precisely. We've also started experimenting with cover crops to hold the soil in place.

There's no overnight solution to our state's soil and water challenges, but farmers and other Iowans are putting practices into place today that will make a difference for decades.