

Finegan, Chance - NRCS - Waterloo, IA

From: Adam Kiel <AKiel@iasoybeans.com>
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 8:44 AM
To: Funk, Emily - NRCS-CD, Clarion, IA; Voigts, Bruce - NRCS-ST, Clarion, IA; Roys, Connie - NRCS, Clarion, IA; Finegan, Chance - NRCS - Waterloo, IA; Cibula, Tina - NRCS, Vinton, IA; Matthias, Jeff - NRCS, Knoxville, IA; Maxwell, Tony - NRCS, Washington, IA; Munn, Teresa - NRCS-ST, Washington, IA; Lechtenberg, Matthew
Subject: WQI Article to ISA Members

All,

The link below is to an article published in this week's Iowa Soybean eWeekly Newsletter. The newsletter is distributed to over 3,500 ISA members statewide. Thought you might like to see the article.

[ISA to partner in five watershed demo projects](#)

Adam

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**Environmental
Programs & Services**
IOWA SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION



ISA to partner in five watershed demo projects



Iowa Soybean Association's Environmental Programs and Services and On-Farm Network are partners in five of eight projects recently selected for funding through the Iowa Water Quality Initiative over the next three years.

The five projects ISA will partner with were granted a total of more than \$3.1 million in state funds. With local matching funds, total expenditures for the five projects are expected to be nearly \$6 million.

Water Quality Initiative funding for the eight projects selected was \$4.1 million, which with matching funds will mean more than \$8 million of total funding for these projects.

"We were extremely pleased by the number of high quality applications and are excited for these projects to get started," said Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey. "These watershed demonstration projects will play an extremely important role in demonstrating water quality practices and encouraging additional farmer adoption so we can continue to make water quality improvements across the state."

The eight projects are within the watersheds prioritized by the Iowa Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC), which include the Floyd, Boone, South Skunk, Skunk, Middle Cedar, and Turkey.

The demonstration watersheds selected cover 605,774 acres. The projects will implement and demonstrate the effectiveness and adaptability of a host of conservation practices including, but not limited to: cover crops, nutrient management, wetlands, terraces, bioreactors, buffer strips, no-till, strip-till, nitrogen inhibitors, extended rotations, conservation cover, drainage water management and manure management.

More than 30 partners from agriculture organizations, institutions of higher education, private industry, the local, state and federal government, and others, are working together on these projects with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) serving as the project leaders.

ISA Environmental Programs and Services and On-Farm Network staff will help these project by providing farmers opportunities to engage in field-scale water monitoring, field trials, and plant tissue sampling. These services will provide farmers the information needed to incorporate conservation practices with their farming operation. ISA will also provide project organizational and marketing assistance.

“These projects present a unique opportunity for farmers in targeted watersheds to adopt new practices designed to address nutrient loss and improve local water quality,” says Roger Wolf, director of ISA Environmental Programs and Services. “A key feature of the projects will be demonstration and outreach. Information and knowledge gained from the targeted watersheds will be of interest to other areas and farmers across Iowa.”

Details of these five projects are:

- **Benton/Tama Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Project**

Grant award: \$468,000

Total project: \$747,000

Project leaders: Benton SWCD

Partners: Tama SWCD, DuPont Pioneer, Iowa State University Extension, Benton County Extension Service, Iowa Soybean Association, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Iowa Learning Farms, Iowa Farm Bureau, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Project Details: This project will partner with multiple organizations to demonstrate a host of nutrient reduction practices on cropland devoted to seed corn production. Seed corn acres have largely been neglected in traditional conservation practice implementation. Through the use of conservation practice demonstrations, field trials, and field days the project intends to prove the adaptability of these practices and how they can be translated across seed corn production industry wide.

- **Boone River Watershed Nutrient Management Initiative**

Grant award: \$1,009,803

Total project: \$1,853,103

Project leaders: Wright SWCD

Partners: The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Soybean Association, Kossuth SWCD, Humboldt SWCD, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance, Hagie Manufacturing, The Conservation Fund, North Central Cooperative, Iowa State University Extension

Details: The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District has assembled a broad group of partners to help implement a demonstration project in the designated watersheds. Public and private groups are committed to creating at project that demonstrates the practices and approaches outlined in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The foundation of the project will be to develop and promote “Farmer Champions” as advocates of implementing conservation practices by providing an example for others to follow.

- **Miller Creek Water Quality Improvement Project**

Grant award: \$499,530

Total project: \$751,501

Project leaders: Black Hawk SWCD

Partners: Iowa Soybean Association, BMC Aggregates, Tama SWCD, Black Hawk County,

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Details: The Miller Creek Water Quality Improvement Project addresses the challenge of improving water quality by creating a demonstration watershed so producers within and around the region can learn about the installation and effectiveness of conservation practices to help foster adoption on their farms. The project seeks to broaden awareness of nutrient loading issues and solutions, engage private sector partners, foster adoption of in-field, edge-of-field, and off-field practices, and to reduce nutrient loss in the watershed.

• Van Zante Creek Water Quality Improvement Project

Grant award: \$639,839

Total project: \$1,534,839

Project leaders: Marion SWCD

Partners: Jasper SWCD, Pathfinders RC&D, Iowa Soybean Association, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Details: The Van Zante Creek Water Quality Improvement Project is coordinating with stakeholders including: farmers, landowners, agricultural service providers, agronomists, and contractors to provide a collaborative effort to reduce nutrient loss. Using the Nutrient Reduction Strategy, the project will assess a baseline for producers and develop adaptive steps to achieving reductions in nitrogen and phosphorus loads to the stream on a farm by farm basis.

• West Fork Crooked Creek Water Quality and Soil Health Initiative

Grant award: \$484,250

Total project: \$866,800

Project leaders: Washington SWCD

Partners: Keokuk SWCD, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Iowa State University Extension, Iowa Soybean Association

Details: The West Fork Crooked Creek Water Quality and Soil Health Initiative will demonstrate and accelerate the adoption of conservation practices that have been proven to be most effective in reducing nitrate-N and phosphorus in streams. This project will build upon work completed in the one portion of the designated watersheds and demonstrate the effectiveness and adaptability throughout the larger project area.



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