



LOWER CEDAR WMA

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Heartland Co-op Update for the Lower Cedar
Watershed Management Authority





WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW:

- Iowa is completely out of the drought now. This year has been a big change from the last 3 years of dry weather to now dealing with excess moisture.
- The past 3 weeks I have seen a lot of airplanes, helicopters, and high boy sprayers out applying fungicides to the corn and soybean crops.
- Farmers are making cover crop plans for fall. Airplanes and high boy sprayers will begin applying cover crops in late August to early September. Hopefully, now that we have adequate moisture we will see an increase in cover crop adoption. I will be enrolling farmers in the Practical Farmers of Iowa Cover Crop cost share program again this year.

BATCH AND BUILD CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY!



8/7/24, 2023 Chase Broulik is the contractor that will be building the 40 edge-of-field practices this summer and fall. Andy Mackrill, engineer with Ecosystem Services Exchange, is providing the construction oversight and design.



8/12/24 Chase and Dale Broulik pause for a photo with the first bioreactor pit.

Cover Crop Cost-Share



Already using cover crops?

Want to start using cover crops or plant more acres?

- Receive \$10 or \$15 / acre on unlimited acres!
- Acres can overlap with any publicly funded cost-share program!

Practical Farmers of Iowa Cover Crop Cost Share

Cover Crop enrollment started in June and enrollment goes through December 2nd, 2024. This year farmers have the option of a \$10 or \$15/ac payment rate.



**PROGRAM OPEN UNTIL
DECEMBER 2, 2024**

Field Day Update

July 2nd, we had a soil health field day with the folks up at South Valley Farms, Mt. Vernon, IA. They shared their long history of successful no-till farming, looked at planter set up, and did in-field soil health tests. We had a great turnout with nearly 60 in attendance!



Upcoming Field Day: Erosion Reduction Workshop

Date: September 5th 10am-noon

Location: South Valley Farms, 297 Standing Rock Rd, Mt. Vernon, IA 52314

Topics:

- Rainfall Simulator Demonstration using long term no-till soils, conventionally tilled soil, and others
- Worldwide erosion trends from Traveling Nuffield Scholar, Ruth McCabe including Brazil, Canada, SE Asia, and Australia
- Conservation farming discussion with South Valley Farms
- Lunch will be served



Thank you for your partnership in making it possible for us to work with farmers to adopt conservation practices in the Lower Cedar Watershed. We are very excited to see the progress that will happen over the next few years!

WATERSHED COORDINATOR DELIVERABLES UPDATE:

2 year update on the 3 year Watershed Coordinator contract

Practices:

Cover Crops: Goal: 20,000 acres; Acres to Date: 24,879

No-Till/Strip Till: Goal: 3 farmers; Adoption to date: 0 farmers

Edge-of-Field Practices: Goal: 45 outlets; Outlets to date: 47

Outreach:

Winter Grower Meetings: Goal: 3; Meetings to date: 2

Summer Field Days: Goal: 6 field days; Field days to date: 4

Farmers Engaged: Goal: 100 Farmers Engaged to date: 168

Farmer Outreach (phone calls, one on one meetings, etc:

Goal: 450 Engagements to date: 615

Value Provided:

Cover Crops: \$3/ac X 24,879ac= \$74,637

Edge of Field Practices: \$1,000/outlet X 47outlets= \$47,000

Winter Grower Meetings: \$2,000/meeting X 2 meetings= \$4,000

Summer Field Days: \$800/field day X 4 field days= \$3,200

Farmers Engaged: \$300/Farmer X 168 Farmers = \$50,400

Farmer Outreach: \$25/engagement X 615 engagements= \$15,375

Total Value Provided= \$194,612

Total Amount Invoiced= \$100,000