



LOWER CEDAR WMA

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW:

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- Harvest is wrapping up with 90% of corn harvested and 97% of soybeans harvested statewide as of 11/5/23
- Yields have been much better than expected in a drought year. I've heard reports in the watershed that the yields for corn and soybeans are above average.
- We are on the tail end of cover crop season. Most of the cover crops are planted in October but farmers are still applying on fields that are newly harvested.



Air seeders mounted on vertical tillage tools are proving to be a popular and effective way to plant cover crops in the Lower Cedar Watershed.



COLD SPRING FARMS COVER CROP FIELD DAY



August 22nd, 2023 Attendees learned all about cover crops. We discussed basic strategies in a corn and soybean system and had time for experienced cover croppers in the area to share what has been working for them.



J.D. Hollingsworth uses a rainfall simulator to demonstrate how different management techniques affect soil infiltration and runoff. .

Cover Crop Cost-Share



Already using cover crops?

Want to start using cover crops or plant more acres?

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

**PROGRAM OPEN UNTIL
DECEMBER 1, 2023**

Farmers are finishing planting cover crops for the year. Fertilizer is also being applied in preparation for next year's crops. The dry weather has been good for field work but most of Iowa is still in a drought. Fall cover crop growth will be limited due to lack of rainfall.



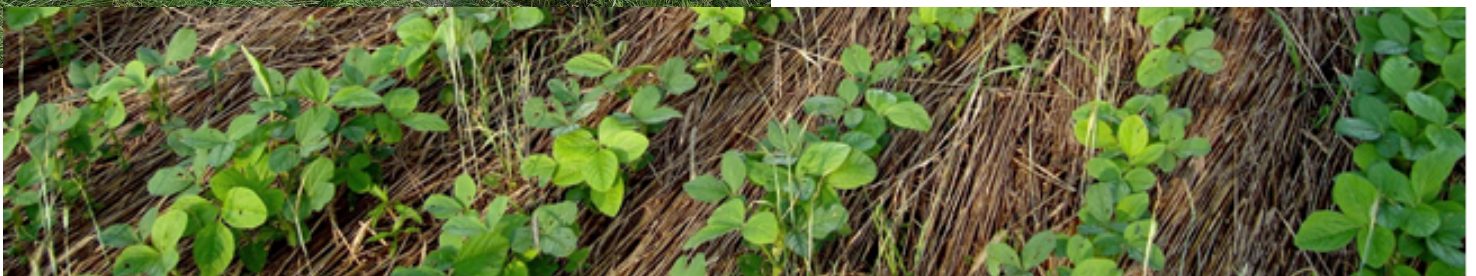
Practical Farmers of Iowa Cover Crop Cost Share

Cover Crop enrollment started in June. To date, 54 farmers have enrolled over 15,350 acres in the cover crop program for this fall. Enrollment goes through December 1st, 2023.



Lower Cedar Batch and Build Update

40 structures (25 saturated buffers and 15 bioreactors) are in the final stages of approval and are planned to be constructed in 2024. Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has agreed to complete the public bid process.



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!