



# LOWER CEDAR WMA

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





# WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW:

- Farmers are mostly finished with harvest. Yields were very good this year with a minimal number of rain days.
- Nearly all of the cover crop acres should be planted by now and are getting good moisture.
- This moisture will be helping the overwintering cover crops germinate and grow heading into late fall. We had a hot and dry start to the cover crop season but the weather pattern has shifted to cooler and wetter now.

# BATCH AND BUILD CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY!



Above: Newly installed saturated buffer is already removing nitrates from tile water in a filter strip near West Branch.



Above: Cover crops are getting great fall growth due to the recent rains. The cover crops will be helping to keep soil and nutrients in place going into the next crop season.

# 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!



**PROGRAM OPEN UNTIL  
DECEMBER 2, 2024**

## 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. This program is stackable with federal and state cost share programs. We've signed up about 35,000 acres so far in the Lower Cedar Watershed.

### Field Day Update

September 5th, we had a soil erosion reduction workshop with the folks up at South Valley Farms, Mt. Vernon, IA. Conservation Manager, Ruth McCabe, presented on her findings from traveling to other grain producing countries. We also had a rainfall simulator presentation, cover crop equipment on display, and a drone cover crop application. We had about 60 in attendance.



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**