

LOWER CEDAR WMA

Heartland Coop's Update to the Lower
Cedar Watershed Management Authority





PROGRESS TO DATE

- Met with Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Linn, Cedar, Muscatine, and Johnson Counties
- Met with Board of Supervisors from Linn, Cedar, Muscatine, and Louisa Counties
- Held 2 Grower Meetings for farmers to promote the Lower Cedar WMA plan, cover crop signup, and Heartland led Batch and Build
 - First was 9/9/2023 at the Fawcett Pond. We had lunch and had about 20 farmers in attendance
 - Second was 2/1/2023 at the Pedersen Shop. We had a catered dinner, door prizes, and about 57 in attendance
- 5,010 acres of cover crops planted with PFI cost share in the fall of 2022
- Grown our farmer contact list to about 66 new farmers in the watershed, plus landowners and tile contractors



VALLEY VIEW FARMS FIELD DAY

Attendees dined and learned about saturated buffers at the Valley View Farms Shop located east of West Branch. We introduced our “Batch and Build” for saturated buffers and bioreactors. I’ve been impressed with the enthusiasm from farmers and landowners in the Lower Cedar Watershed.

This event had almost 60 attendees and wouldn’t have been possible without very generous farmer support. Several farmers shared their contacts with me and even called their contacts to generate interest.



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Current Activities

We are currently preparing for the spring survey season where we will collect information about tile systems and streams to pass on to private engineers for the design of saturated buffers and bioreactors.

Batch and Build

Currently working with about 18 interested landowners to assess their farms for edge of field practices

Collecting tile maps and assessing sites using computer software

Will transition over to field survey work next week. This includes GPS survey (see above), soils investigation, and cultural resource screening.



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 course of this partnership!