

Iowa GHP Workplan #1 background



Credit Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance

Significant long-term and dedicated resources in Iowa to implement practices in recent years

- ARPA, RCPP/MRBI, State Appropriations \$40M+/yr

Need to invest in non-traditional technical support

- Many partners want to engage and be a part of these efforts in their local areas.
- Don't expect someone else to do it. Likewise ALLOW partners to help implement projects!
- Compelling reasons to engage: Nutrient Reduction Exchange, Soil and Water Outcomes Fund, practices that achieve multiple benefits, interest in practices that benefit a critical watershed, location and/or landscape.



GHP Workplan- Conservation Agronomists

Leverage trusted advisors for conservation practice delivery



Build network with individuals/organizations that farmers are familiar in working with and trust

Adapted from similar efforts and addressed challenges

Currently 8 agronomists with 7 ag retailers and expanding (2) with new Gulf Hypoxia Program funding over the next 4 years.

Gov./NGO partners include: Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance, City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, Iowa Soybean Association, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation USDA-NRCS, Walton Family Foundation

Retail partners: AgState, Cooperative Farmers Elevator, Heartland Co-op, Landus Cooperative, Linn Co-op, New Co-op, Nutrien Ag Solutions

Credit: Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance



GHP Workplan– Conservation Agronomists

Leverage trusted advisors for conservation practice delivery



Photo credit: Iowa Soybean Association (oxbow) and Heartland Cooperative (cover crop)

Will help advance urban/rural, batch and build, and improve overall conservation practices installed in priority watersheds

Link Conservation Agronomists with agency/NGO staff experienced with conservation programs delivery

Assist in delivering over 230k acres of covers, 160 saturated buffers/bioreactors, and reduction in tillage/improved nutrient use efficiency practices

Est. reductions of 2M lbs. of N, 57k lbs. of P and 235k tonnes of CO₂e over the next 4 years



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GHP Connection with Batch & Builds

How to install Edge of Field practices faster and more efficient



Credit to John Swanson, Polk County

Early phases have focused on saturated buffer and bioreactor installs.

Install batches of practices on behalf of farmers/landowners vs. individually (traditional method)

Adapted from municipal projects (evolution of practice delivery)

Shared investment, benefits and roles

Currently 4 active projects in watersheds underway in Iowa and growing (Ames, Des Moines/Polk County, Cedar Rapids/Linn County, and Boone County).

1st 2 years of project have installed 100+ practices



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