



Cost-Share Opportunities Abound for Soil Health and Water Quality

If you have an interest in water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat then now is a great time to come visit the USDA Service Center. The USDA has 2 fantastic program opportunities available right now with upcoming sign-up deadlines; the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a program where an annual rental payment is paid in exchange for planting long lived grasses and flowers which will clean water, provide wildlife and pollinator habitat, and help reduce soil loss. EQIP is a program which helps with many water quality, soil health, and wildlife type projects. EQIP applicants can apply to start no-till farming and receive financial assistance for 1-3 years and can start or enhance their cover crop practices with contracts ranging from 1-5 years. If you are interested in these and other conservation practices, please contact the Marion USDA Service Center as soon as possible.



CRP is now available which helps with water quality, increase farm profitability, and provides wildlife habitat.

Cover Crops

This year was a tough year for planting cover crops with a drill due to difficult harvesting conditions but farmers that were able to aerially apply the seed had good success due to plenty of moisture. Cover Crops have many benefits including holding nutrients in the crop field, weed suppression, reducing erosion and grazing.

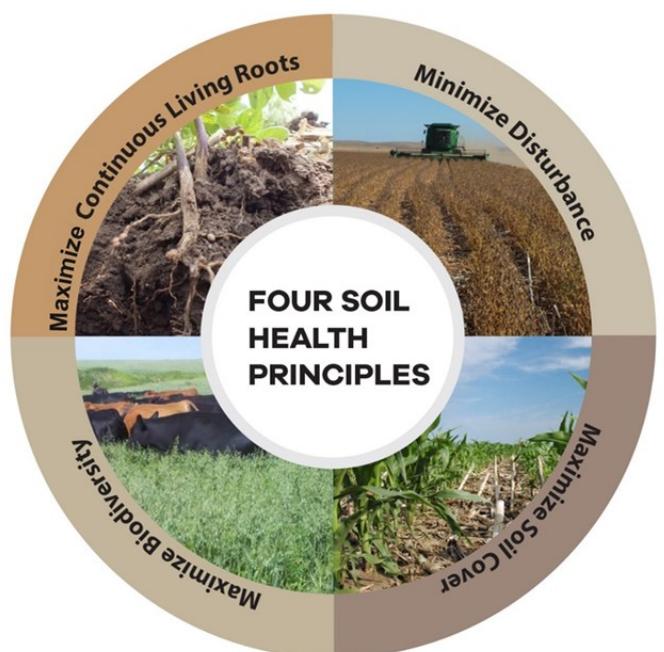
Upcoming Events

CRP Informational Workshop

January 14th at 5:30pm
 Lowe Park Environmental Center– Marion, IA
 More workshops available statewide– see www.lowaPF.net for details

Soil Health Workshop

February 26th 10:00am-3:00pm
 Cedar Rapids Public Library-Cedar Rapids, IA
 A Complementary meal will be provided
 Please RSVP to Stacie.buhr@usda.gov or call 319-472-2161, ext 4045 by Feb. 19th.



The Four Soil Health Principles courtesy: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Indian Creek Watershed drains 93 square miles of agricultural land, suburban and urban development within Linn County. Local governments within the watershed have come together to work with their communities to create long-term solutions which help the quality of water and minimize the costs of flood damage within the watershed.