



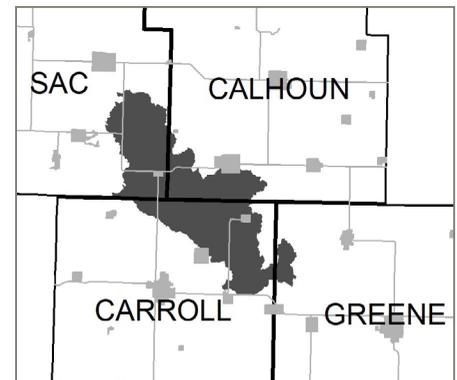
North Raccoon Farm to River Partnership Project



The North Raccoon Farm to River Partnership: an Iowa Water Quality Initiative to implement in-field and edge-of-field practices that keep nitrogen and phosphorus out of Iowa waters.

Iowans have been challenged to reduce nutrients in rivers and streams before they enter the Mississippi River. The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy (INRS) established a goal of 45 percent reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus in Iowa waters and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico. It recommends a suite of practices, including cover crops and bioreactors, to achieve the goals.

Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance leads the North Raccoon Farm to River Partnership: a project in four Iowa counties. This effort will help farmers and landowners implement suitable practices to improve water quality on their farms.



BIOREACTORS

Funding = 100% paid
Project goal = 15 installed

Bioreactors are edge-of-field structures that reduce nitrogen in tile-drained water. The tile line is redirected into an underground trench of woodchips. The microbes on the woodchips convert nitrate into nitrogen gas. On average, bioreactors reduce nitrogen leaving the tile drainage by 43 percent.

COVER CROPS

Funding = \$20/acre
Project goal = 11,500 acres

Cover crops grow between the harvest of a cash crop and planting of following year's crop. They cover exposed soil, increase soil organic matter, and reduce erosion, weeds, as well as nitrogen and phosphorus loss by 30 percent.

SATURATED BUFFERS

Funding = 100% paid
Project goal = 15 installed

A saturated buffer is a tile line running parallel to a streambank buffer. The tile diverts subsurface drainage water into the buffer instead of directly into the stream. Soil microbes convert the nitrate into nitrogen gas, reducing nitrogen amounts up to 50 percent.

TARGETED WETLANDS

Funding = Construction 100%
+ CRP payments 10-15 yrs
Project goal = 1 installed

A retention area is built at the bottom of a waterway, the end of a tile line or small stream. Nitrates in the retained water are converted to nitrogen gas by an average of 50 percent. Wetlands help in flood mitigation and create wildlife habitat.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- Tile water monitoring at no expense to farmers
- Whole farm conservation assessments, which can identify resources for other practices not covered by the grant

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

The project includes opportunities to analyze in-field nutrient management. Through soil, water and plant tissue analyses, farmers will have more data to make better nutrient management decisions. ACWA member agronomists use 4R Plus, which involves using the Right Source, Right Time, Right Rate and Right Place, to support farmers with their nutrient application management. The Plus refers to conservation practices that improve and preserve soil health and water quality.

North Raccoon Farm to River Partnership – 2018-2021

115,000 ACRES · FIVE WATERSHEDS
FOUR COUNTIES · \$2.6 MILLION TOTAL FUNDING



Financial assistance

To find out what will work best for you and your farm, contact your local ag retailer or project coordinator Diane Ercse. They can discuss options to fit your operation.

Diane Ercse, 515-334-1038
dercse@iasoybeans.com

Project Partners



ACWA is a non-profit organization of 11 ag retailers in the Des Moines and Raccoon River watersheds, that agree water quality is vital to the future of farming. By helping their farmer clients with management options, adopt conservation practices, ACWA members are making strides toward the alliance's goals of farmer profitability combined with improving water quality.

www.acwa-rrws.org Twitter: @ToPartnership

