

## Mississippi River Basin Fiscal Year 2011 Conservation Innovation Grants

On August 22, 2011, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the winning proposals for the 2011 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). Through CIG, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is investing nearly \$22.5 million in innovative conservation technologies and approaches that address a broad array of existing and emerging natural resource issues. Of the 52 grants selected, eight support development of conservation innovations in the Mississippi River Basin. These eight grants (shown below) total \$3,758,608.

### Fiscal Year 2011 Conservation Innovation Grants in the Mississippi River Basin

Entity Name	Project Title	Funds Approved	Project Location- State(s)
Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition	Demonstrate and evaluate saturated buffers at the field scale to reduce nitrates and phosphorus from surface and subsurface field drainage systems	\$ 195,623	IA, IL, IN
Environmental Defense Fund, Inc	Right Practice, Right Place: Development and deployment of a conservation planning toolkit and improved incentive strategies to reduce nutrients in HUC 12 watersheds in the Upper Mississippi River Basin	\$ 481,665	IA, MN, IL, WI
Iowa Soybean Association	Technology Transfer of Bioreactor Operations and Conservation Drainage Placement	\$ 358,864	IA, IN, IL
Purdue University	Demonstrating Nitrogen Treatment Effectiveness through Innovative Bench Wetland Systems	\$ 241,005	IN
quasar energy group, llc	Anaerobic digester facility to process livestock waste and divert nutrients from the watershed	\$ 1,000,000	OH
University of Arkansas	Integration Soil, Crop and Pest Monitoring Using Spatial Technology on Arkansas Cotton Farms to Achieve Nutrient Loss reduction--in cooperation with Little River Ditches MRBI/CCPI	\$ 205,343	AR
University of Tennessee	Precision Nitrogen Injection Using Integrated Optical Sensing and Variable Rate Technologies	\$ 650,827	TN, LA, MO, AR, MS
University of Wisconsin-Platteville	Monitoring edge-of-field surface-water runoff: a three-state pilot project to promote and evaluate a simple, inexpensive, and reliable gauge	\$ 625,281	WI

For the full CIG announcement press release, please visit [USDA Announces Recipients of Conservation Innovation Grants in 40 States.](#)

For more information on Conservation Innovation Grants, including more detailed descriptions of the selected CIG projects, please visit the [Conservation Innovation Grants - Awardees: Fiscal year 2011 webpage.](#)