MRBI

Mississippi River Basin Initiative

USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Upper Cedar

Upper Cedar Watershed Project

Farmers in four small sub-watersheds of the Upper Cedar Watershed in sections of Chickasaw and Floyd Counties have the opportunity to receive higher payment rates on conservation practices and systems that avoid, control and trap nutrient runoff; improve wildlife habitat; and maintain agricultural productivity.

The Upper Cedar Watershed includes 67,134 acres of sub-watersheds that runoff into the Cedar River, and eventually the Mississippi River. The area is heavily farmed – 88 percent of the watershed is used for crop production.

The project is part of the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI). The goal of MRBI is to reduce nutrient loading in the Mississippi River Basin, which contributes to both local water quality problems and the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

The primary concern of the project is water quality, specifically nutrient and sediment reduction and flood protection. An additional goal is to reduce nitrate and phosphorus runoff from livestock areas. Other resource concerns in the watershed are soil conditions, fish and wildlife habitat and soil erosion.

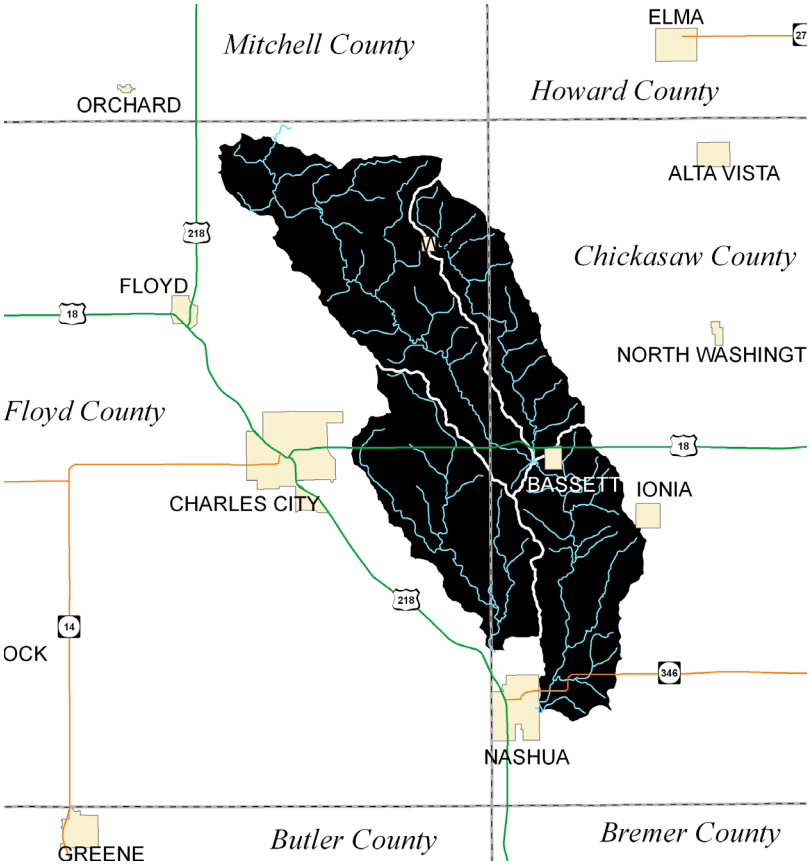
The watershed project will be offered to producers and landowners through fiscal year 2015 and will receive more than $1.4 million in funding. To enroll, applicants must meet the minimum eligibility requirements of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Eligible practices and payment rates are listed on the back page.

For more information about the Upper Cedar Watershed Project and MRBI, contact:

Floyd SWCD
623 Beck Street
Charles City, Iowa 50616
Phone: 641-228-2725

Farmers in the following Upper Cedar River Subwatersheds may be eligible for MRBI funding:

- Beaver Creek
- Colwell County Park - Little Cedar
- Gizzard Creek
- Little Cedar River



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Lead & Collaborating Project Partners:
Chickasaw Soil and Water Conservation District
Floyd Soil and Water Conservation District
Iowa Department of Natural Resources • Pheasants Forever
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship • Trees Forever
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service • Iowa Flood Center
Iowa State University Extension • Iowa Soybean Association
Cedar River Watershed Coalition • County Conservation Boards
Upper Cedar River Watershed Management Authority
Cedar Valley RC&D • Landowners and Producers

Upper Cedar MRBI Watershed Project
MRBI Core Conservation Practice and Payment List

Partial Practice List	**Payment Rate** (Additional technical and financial assistance may be available from the MRBI project partners.)
Residue & Tillage Management, No-till/Strip-till	$22 - $50/acre (up to three years)
Grade Stabilization Structure	$1.39 - $2.78/cubic yard
Water and Sediment Control Basin	$1.04 - $2.59/cubic yard
Grassed Waterways	$1.16 - $3.47/foot
Terraces	$1.39 - $3.80/foot
Nutrient Management	$10 - $38/acre
Prescribed Grazing	$21 - $68/acre
Fence	$0.62 - $7.19/foot
Filter Strips	$91 - $192/acre
Denitrifying Bioreactor	$5,999 - $7,199

Grade Stabilization Structure

No-till

Denitrifying Bioreactor

Nutrient Management

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.