



Mississippi River Basin Initiative


 United States Department of Agriculture
 Natural Resources Conservation Service

Farm Creek

Farm Creek Watershed Project

Farmers in the Farm Creek watershed, a subwatershed of the larger Maquoketa River basin, 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.

It's part of a new Initiative – the Mississippi River Basin 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 15,117-acre Farm Creek watershed is approximately two-thirds agricultural land and drains into the Maquoketa River.

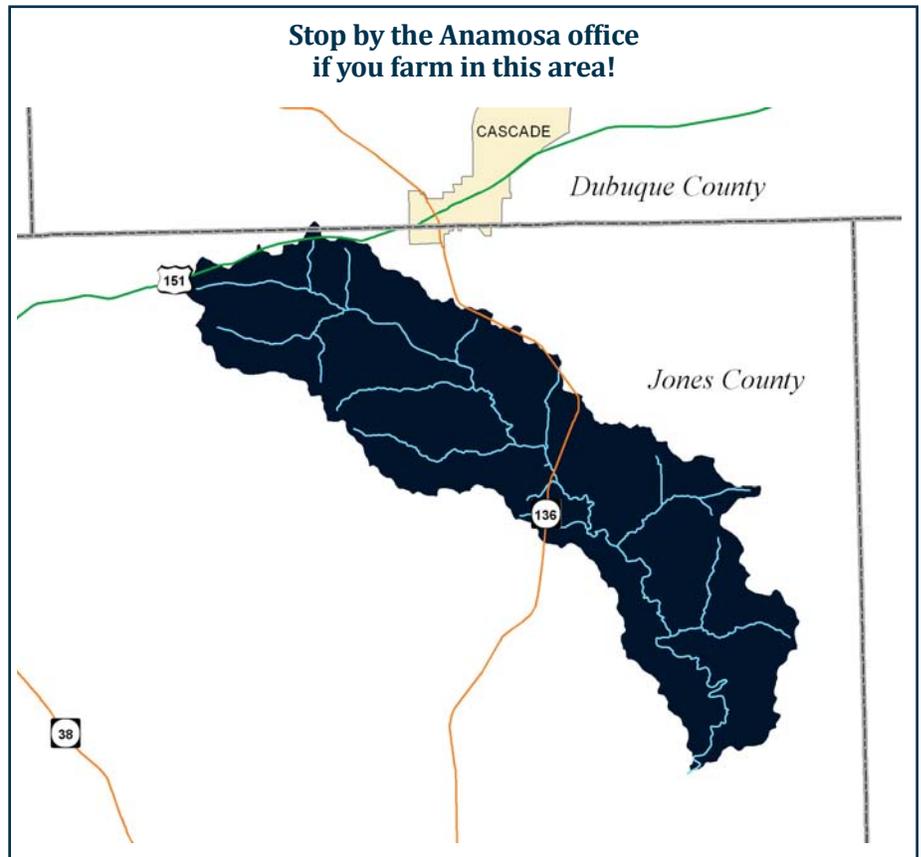
The natural resource concerns in the Farm Creek area directly relate to the objectives of the MRBI. The loss of soil from cropland contributes to poor water quality from suspended sediment, and also impairs the creek from excessive nutrients. Phosphorus and nitrogen, in particular, are carried off the field with soil particles, adding to the nutrient loading in Farm Creek, and also downstream.

MRBI will be offered now through fiscal year 2013. To enroll, applicants must meet the minimum eligibility requirements of the Environmental

Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). **Eligible practices are listed on the back page.**

For more information about the Farm Creek Watershed Project and MRBI, contact the Anamosa Field Office:

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Farm Creek Watershed MRBI Conservation Practice List

Conservation Practices

Additional technical and financial assistance may be available from the MRBI project partners.
 Higher payment rates are available on the following practices:

Cover Crops	Heavy Use Protection Area
Prescribed Grazing	Wetland Restoration
Nutrient Management	Waste Storage Facility
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	Pasture and Hay Planting
Residue & Tillage Management, No-till/Strip-till	Grade Stabilization Structure
Grassed Waterway	Water and Sediment Control Basin
Terrace	Monitoring and Evaluation
Livestock Exclusion Fencing	

