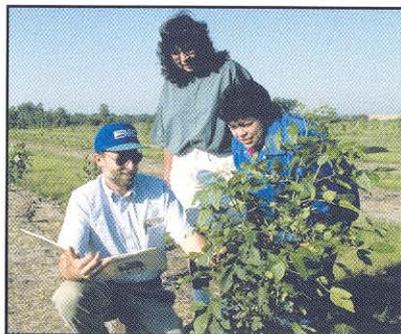


Working for NRCS

A career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the nation's premiere conservation organization, means helping agriculture and the environment. Working for the Iowa NRCS you will have the opportunity to work with landowners, natural resources, and some of the most dedicated conservationists in the world.



Demographics

Iowa has a total population of nearly 3 million people. Ninety-five percent of the population is white, 2 percent is black, and 2 percent is Hispanic.

American Indians and Asians make up the remaining 1 percent. Most of the minorities in Iowa live in the larger urban areas. However, Iowa NRCS's workforce diversity is considerably higher than the statewide statistics.

Agricultural profile

As one of the most agriculturally productive states in the nation, Iowa faces many pressures on its natural resources. Iowa has 97,000 farms from which \$12 billion of sales are realized. Iowa leads the nation in the number of hogs on farms as well as in the production of corn and soybeans. Kossuth County alone produces more corn than 25 individual states. Iowa ranks 2nd in the number of layers and eggs produced, 8th in the number of sheep and lambs on farms, 10th in the number of turkeys produced, and 12th in milk marketed. Challenges include improving water and air quality, reducing soil erosion and enhancing wildlife habitat.

Conservation achievements

Iowa is also a national leader in conservation. In 1999 Iowa NRCS and partners planned and applied Conservation Management Systems on 1 million acres of cropland; 62,290 acres of pastureland; 23,523 acres of forestland; and 427,219 acres of wildlife land.



Iowa currently has 1.5 million acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with 170,000 acres in the continuous CRP. Iowa has more contracts for restored wetlands than any other state; 91,026 acres are being restored through the Wetlands Reserve Program, Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program, Emergency Watershed Protection-Floodplain Easement Program, and CRP.



Since 1998, nearly \$10.5 million of Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funds have helped Iowa communities rebuild and recover from floods. In addition, in the past decade, \$56 million in EWP-Floodplain Easement funds have helped convert 54,374 acres of floodprone land to flood tolerant land uses, including flood storage and wildlife habitat.

Climate

Iowa has four distinct seasons, all of which are enjoyable if you know what to expect and are prepared. Summers are usually hot and humid. Temperatures range from 63° to 100°F, and can peak in the 90s with 90 percent humidity. Fall may be very warm or very cool, with daytime temperatures averaging from 42° to 62°F. Winters are cold and often bitter. Daytime temperatures range from 16° to 33°F, and occasionally drop below zero with treacherous wind chill factors. Spring can be warm and pleasant, or cool and rainy. Daytime temperatures range from 45° to 65°F.

Appropriate clothing is essential to work for the NRCS. If you'll be working outside during winter months, you should have the very best protective clothing, which may include insulated coveralls, thermal underwear, hooded sweatshirts, and insulated gloves and boots.

During spring, summer and fall, when most field activities are performed, you should be prepared for cool and rainy conditions. A rain coat, rubber boots and sweatshirt will come in handy.

Outdoor work

Some of the outdoor work you'll be doing for NRCS may include surveying, sampling soil, inventorying resources and laying out designs for other conservation practices and structures. You'll also work with farmers to develop and implement conservation plans.

Iowa NRCS staff help keep Iowa agriculture productive and environmentally sound.

Transportation

You are responsible for your own transportation to and from Iowa, and to and from your duty station. Public transportation is only available in some urban areas, so unless you bring a vehicle or a bicycle, you should plan to walk. You should try to rent an apartment close to the duty station. If you work during the winter months, be sure to have your car winterized.

Paychecks

A pay period consists of two weeks. Your paycheck will arrive about two weeks after you complete each pay period. Therefore, you will not receive your first paycheck until you have been on the job for a month.

Financial assistance for students

To help students take advantage of summer employment opportunities, Iowa NRCS offers: competitive salary in the GS-3 to GS-7 range; travel expenses to and from the work location per federal travel regulations; and assistance with lodging.

For more information

If you're interested in creating a career in Iowa with the NRCS please contact the Human Resources Staff at 210 Walnut Street, 693 Federal Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa 50309; 515-284-4587; <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov>. We look forward to talking to you.



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Creating Your Career in Iowa with the Natural Resources Conservation Service



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