



Mississippi River Basin Initiative

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Spring Creek

Spring Creek MRBI Watershed Project

Farmers in the Spring Creek Watershed, which sits on the east side of the Cedar River, 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.

This project is 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.

More than 90 percent of the Spring Creek Watershed is in Mitchell County; the remainder is in northern Floyd County. Locally, the MRBI project aims to improve the water quality of Spring Creek, a rare coldwater stream so far west in Iowa. The plan is for farmers in the watershed to adopt best management practices to help reduce levels of nitrates and phosphorus in the stream.

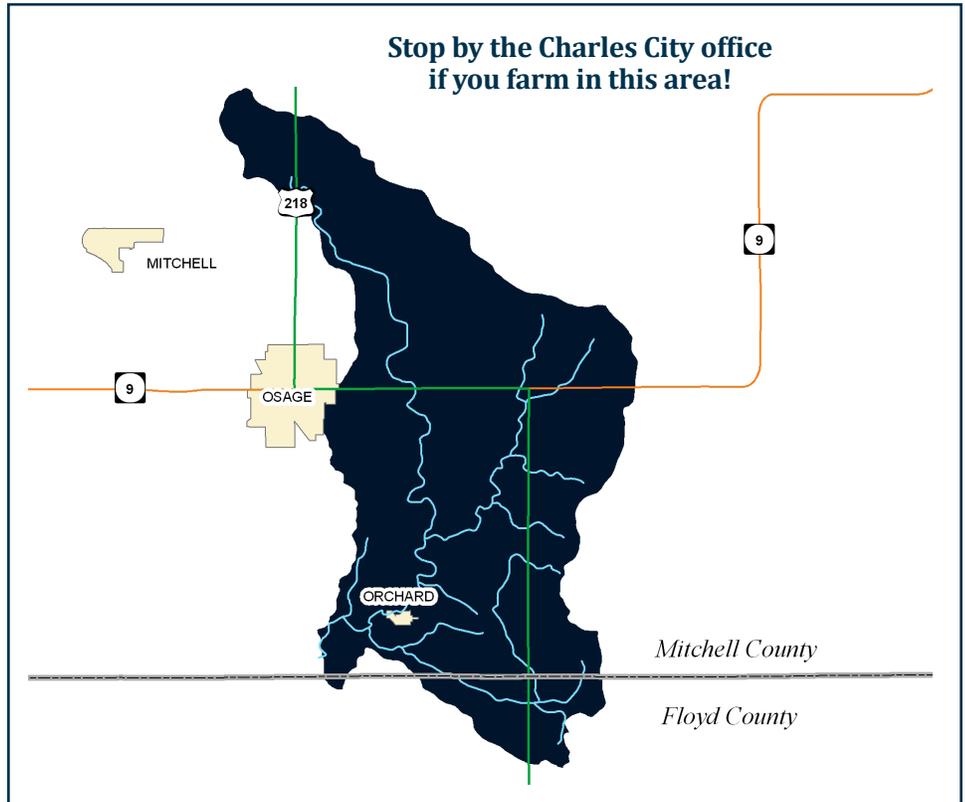
A primary practice that will help reduce nutrient loading are wetlands, which help collect and treat nutrient-laden runoff from subwatersheds averaging 800-1,200 acres. Preliminary assessments by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship indicate there are sites where such structures could be installed in the Spring Creek Watershed.

A list of core project practices is listed on the back page.

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).

For more information about the Spring Creek MRBI Project and MRBI, contact the Charles City Field Office:

**623 Beck Street
Charles City, IA 52205
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Spring Creek MRBI Watershed Project MRBI Core Conservation Practice and Payment List

Practice	Payment Rate (Additional technical and financial assistance may be available from the MRBI project partners.)
Denitrifying Bioreactor	\$5,999
Grade Stabilization Structure	Varies
Grassed Waterway	\$1.16 - \$2.90/foot
Prescribed Grazing	\$61 - \$123/acre
Nutrient Management	\$2.66 - \$30/acre (up to three years)
Riparian Forest Buffer	\$405/acre
Waste Storage Facility	\$14,173 - \$24,491 or \$24 - \$308/animal unit
Water & Sediment Control Basin	\$1.04 - \$2.16/cubic yard
Wetland Creation	\$255 - \$1,020/acre
Monitoring & Evaluations	\$4,687 - \$14,250

