



**For more information contact:**

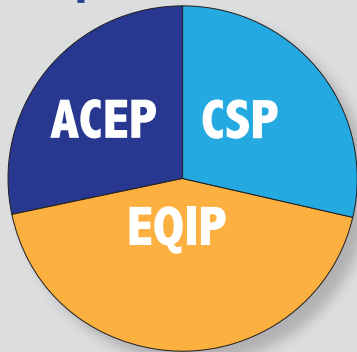
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**IOWA NRCS**

**NOVEMBER 2015**



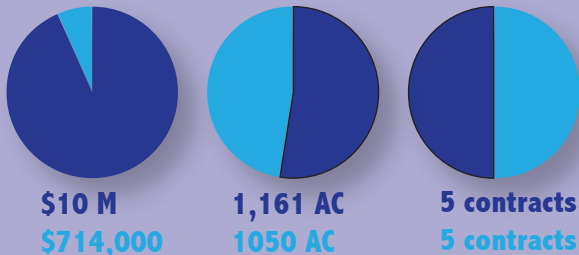
**FY 2015 Total Program Accomplishments**



<b>ACEP</b>	<b>\$10 M</b>	<b>2,161 AC</b>	<b>10 contracts</b>
<b>CSP</b>	<b>\$11.6 M</b>	<b>578,000 AC</b>	<b>1,000 contracts</b>
<b>EQIP</b>	<b>\$16.4 M</b>	<b>84,000 AC</b>	<b>899 contracts</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38 M</b>	<b>665,000 AC</b>	<b>1,910 contracts</b>

**ACEP-Agricultural Conservation Easement Program**

● ACEP-WRE (Wetland Restoration) ● ACEP-ALE (Ag Lands)

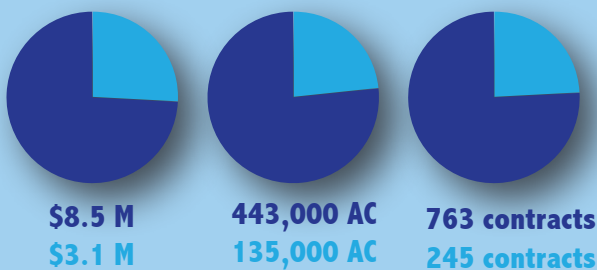


**EQIP-Environmental Quality Incentives Program**

Local Sub Accounts	\$8.1 M	60,000 AC	520 contracts
Total Organic	\$315,000	1,872 AC	18 contracts
Historically Underserved	\$4.15 M	10,400 AC	163 contracts
NWQI	\$629,000	2,100 AC	20 contracts
MRBI	\$315,000	2,150 AC	26 contracts
Wildlife	\$630,000	2,000 AC	61 contracts
On Farm Energy	\$1.5 M	4,700 AC	38 contracts
Seasonal High Tunnel	\$371,000	54 AC	47 contracts
Prairie Pothole WGRP	\$105,000	845 AC	5 contracts

**CSP-Conservation Stewardship Program**

● FY15 Renewal ● New FY15



## Ongoing CSP Implementation in FY15

- Conservation Security Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program



\$600,000  
\$25 M



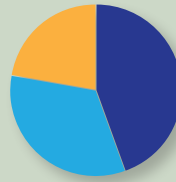
28,000 AC  
1 M AC



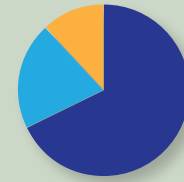
100 contracts  
2,057 contracts

## FY15 RCPP-Resource Conservation Partnership Program

- IA Targeted Demonstration Watershed Project
- Regional Grassland & Bird Grazing Initiative
- Middle Cedar Partnership Project



4 contracts  
3 contracts  
2 contracts



\$177,000  
\$53,000  
\$31,000

## FY 2015 Conservation Innovation Grants

NRCS selected one national CIG and seven state CIG projects for Iowa in FY15. These grants help improve conservation on ag land.

- **Iowa State University (National Grant):** to develop and stimulate the adoption of innovative approaches to monarch butterfly conservation while focusing on developing methods appropriate for use in the agriculturally-intensive Midwestern US corn and soybean production regions. (\$760,897)
- **Iowa State University (State Grants):** to conduct a three-year study monitoring earthworms on six sites, analyzing the relationship between cover crops, soil health and earthworm populations (\$74,481); a separate grant to install six saturated buffer demo sites, using Monarch-friendly vegetation. ISU will analyze buffer performance to reduce nutrient loading, and assess Monarch and pollinator utilization. (\$74,451)
- **Cedar Basin Crop Consulting:** to work with farmers, scientists, universities and NRCS to update the Iowa Order 2 Soil Survey. (\$73,505)
- **Soil and Water Conservation Society:** to develop a media library, including photos, videos and other web-based predicts to help tell the story of soil health and water quality practices. (\$75,000)
- **Practical Farmers of Iowa:** to evaluate carcass quality and finishing time for grass finished beef to help determine the optimal harvest window, best times of year to finish animals, and harvest quality of grass versus hay-finished beef. (\$75,000)
- **Cornell College in Mount Vernon:** to conduct a two-year study to establish a network of butterfly habitat patches across Iowa's agricultural landscape. Findings will provide recommendations for the best seed mixes and seeding techniques. (\$24,575)
- **The University of Iowa:** to develop a new tool to assess the impacts of conservation practice implementation on nutrient reduction at a watershed scale. (\$71,822).

## Successful Partnership Agreements

NRCS entered into more than 20 partnership agreements to provide more boots on the ground for conservation planning and implementation, to provide training for conservation partnership staff and for farmers and for resource and tool development. Partners included Iowa State University, Iowa Soybean Association, University of Northern Iowa, Soil and Water Conservation Society, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Drake University, Trees Forever, Conservation Districts of Iowa and the Iowa League of RC&Ds.

