

Iowa Natural Resources  
Conservation Services

# 2810 Iowa Climate Smart Switchgrass Cropping System



Conservation practices to reduce  
nutrient loss and improve water quality

## What is RCPP?

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.

## Project

The goal of the project is to improve carbon sequestration, soil health, and reduce nutrient runoff while also improving profit on farms in southern Iowa by developing a Climate Smart Switchgrass Cropping System (CSSGCS). The objectives include:

- Transition 5,000 acres of sensitive traditional row crop agriculture and degraded cool season grass pastureland to CSSGCS, using ag management

planning tools to target areas in need of soil erosion control, water quality, and profit improvements.

- Leverage a 5-year RCPP project for a minimum 12 years of conservation benefits.
- Increase farmer net income/acre by 15% on targeted pasture and marginal row crop acres in project area.
- Assist producers in understanding carbon markets and enrollment process.

## More Information

For more information about conservation planning and financial assistance, contact your local NRCS office.

Find your local service center at [nrcs.usda.gov/ia](https://nrcs.usda.gov/ia).

## Funding:

**Duration:**  
Five years (2023-2028)

**Federal Funds:**  
Financial Assistance \$4,950,000  
Technical Assistance \$2,121,429

**Partner Contributions:**  
\$14,160,000

## Portions of the following Counties:

Adair, Appanoose, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lucas, Madison, Marion, Mahaska, Monroe, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Wayne. See full map on back.

## Partnership:

FDC Enterprises, Inc.

