USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Mississippi River Basin Initiative

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

Deep Creek WQI Project

Farmers in two sub-watersheds in parts of Plymouth, O'Brien, Cherokee and Sioux Counties within the Duck Creek Watershed (58,613 acres) 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 the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds 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 primary long-term goals of the Deep Creek Water Quality Initiative Project align with Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. They include: reducing in-stream non-point source nitrogen, reducing sediment delivery and in-stream phosphorus, monitoring water quality trends in the watershed, and engaging with all landowners and operators in the project area. By the end of the project, partners would like to see a 35 percent increase in the number of acres with full treatment of conservation.

MRBI will be offered for multiple years. To enroll, applicants must meet the minimum eligibility requirements of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). **Primary conservation practices and payment rates are listed on the back page.**

For more information about this project and MRBI, contact our local USDA Service Center:

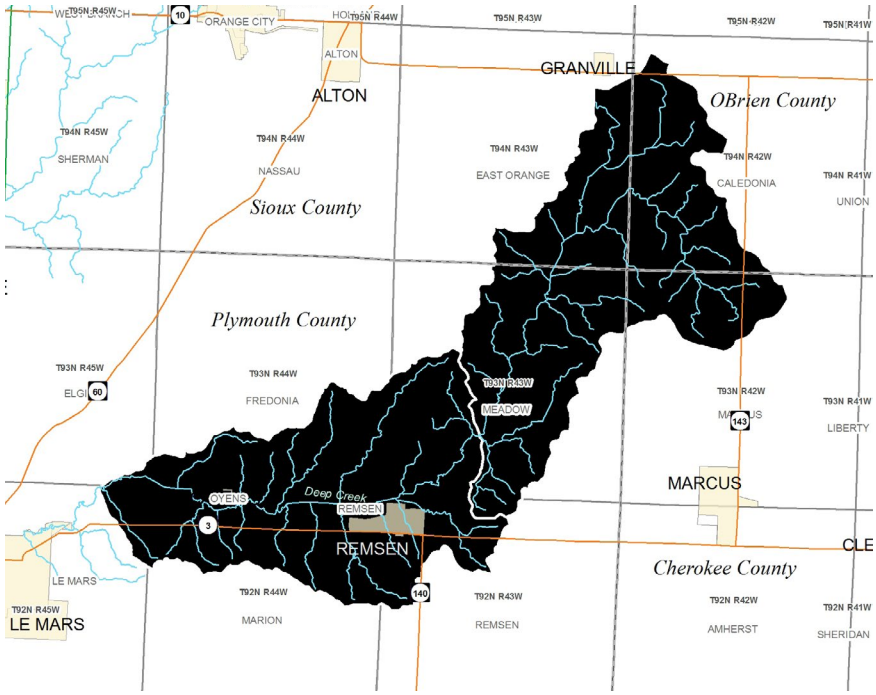
Plymouth County (Le Mars): 712-546-8858
O'Brien County (Primghar): 712-757-3835
Cherokee County (Cherokee): 712-225-3769
Sioux County (Orange City): 712-737-2253

More information is available on Iowa's MRBI webpage at http://bit.ly/IowaMRBI.

Farmers in the following Cedar Creek sub-watersheds may be eligible for MRBI funding:

- Lower Deep Creek - Floyd River (29,853 acres)
- Upper Deep Creek - Floyd River (28,760 acres)

Stop by your NRCS Field Office if you farm in this area!



MRBI

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Project Partners:
Sioux, O'Brien, Cherokee SWCD
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
Iowa Pork Producers • Iowa Farm Bureau
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Central Valley Ag • Le Mars Agri-Center

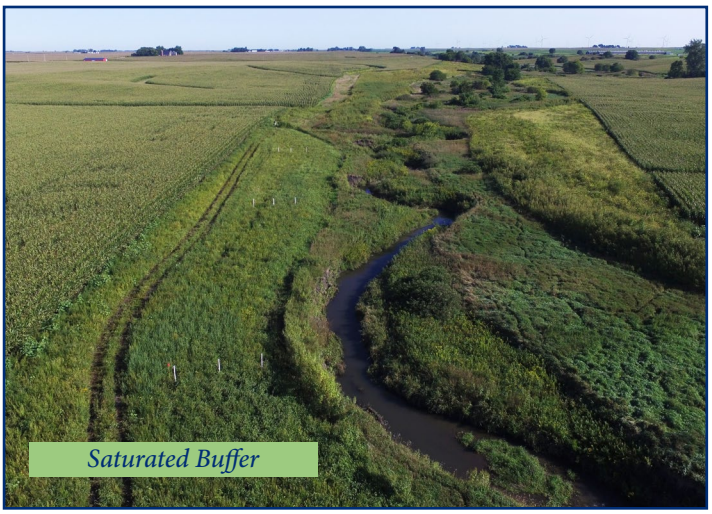
MRBI Core Conservation Practice and Payment List

Partial Practice List (Visit your local NRCS office or the Iowa NRCS website at ia.nrcs.usda.gov for a complete practice list.)	**Payment Rate** (Additional technical and financial assistance may be available from the MRBI project partners.)
Cover Crop	$28.10 - $68.18/acre
Terrace	$1.69 - $5.89/foot
Filter Strips	$536 - $578/acre
Water and Sediment Control Basin	$2.28 - 3.60/cubic yard
No-Till/Strip-Till	$16.34 - $19.61/acre
Denitrifying Bioreactor	$35.29 - $59.30/cubic yard
Saturated Buffer	$4.59 - $5.51/foot
Wetlands	Varies by size and type

Cover Crops

Bioreactor

Terraces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Project Beginning Fiscal Year 2019