USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

MRBI

Mississippi River Basin Initiative

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

West Fork Crooked Creek WQI Project

Farmers in the West Fork Crooked Creek Watershed in southeast Iowa 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. West Fork Crooked Creek is located in the larger Skunk River Basin.

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 West Fork Crooked Creek Water Quality Initiative Project align with Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. They include: reducing in-stream nonpoint 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.

These goals include helping producers increase agricultural productivity and profitability, reduce soil erosion, and reduce in-stream nonpoint source nitrogen loads by 41 percent and phosphorus loads by 29 percent.

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 are listed on the back page.**

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

Washington County (Washington): 319-653-2138
Keokuk County (Sigourney): 641-622-3380

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

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

MRBI

Mississippi River Basin Initiative

Project Partners:
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service • ISU Extension & Outreach
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship • Eichelberger Farms
Clean Water Iowa • Iowa Soybean Association • Washington State Bank
Iowa Farm Bureau • Iowa DNR • Brenneman Pork • CBI Bank & Trust
Iowa Flood Center • Conservation Districts of Iowa • Stout Seed Company
Iowa Learning Farms • Iowa Corn Growers Association • Stout Seed
JW Vittetoe Pork LTD • Wyffels Hybrids • Walker Seed Corp. • Steve Berger

MRBI Core Conservation Practices

Core Practice List (Visit your local NRCS office or the Iowa NRCS website at ia.nrcs.usda.gov for a complete practice list.)
Cover Crop
Constructed Wetland
Grade Stabilization Structure
Water and Sediment Control Basin
Grassed Waterway
Underground Outlet

Cover Crops

Grassed Waterway

Water & Sediment Control Basin

Grade Stabilization Structure

Wetland

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Project Beginning Fiscal Year 2019