Mississippi River Basin Initiative

Farmers located in six sub-watersheds within the Lower Skunk River Watershed 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 Lower Skunk River Water Quality and Soil Health 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.

The project goal is 41% reduction in nitrogen and 29% reduction in phosphorus from nonpoint sources within the watershed in 20 years.

MRBI is a multi-year project. 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:

Henry County (Mount Pleasant): 319-385-2824, x3
Jefferson County (Fairfield): 641-472-2558, x3
Van Buren County (Keosauqua): 319-293-3523, x3
Lee County (Donnellson): 319-835-5313, x3

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

Farmers in the following Lower Skunk River sub-watersheds may be eligible for MRBI funding:

- Birmingham
- Cedar Creek
- Fish Creek
- Little Cedar Creek
- Summer Creek
- Wolf Creek

Stop by your NRCS Field Office if you farm in this area!
## MRBI Core Conservation Practice and Payment List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partial Practice List</th>
<th>Payment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Visit your local NRCS office or the Iowa NRCS website at ia.nrcs.usda.gov for a complete practice list.)</td>
<td>(Additional technical and financial assistance may be available from the MRBI project partners.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover Crop</td>
<td>$28.10 - $68.18/acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrient Management</td>
<td>Varies by plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denitrifying Bioreactor</td>
<td>$35.29 - $59.30/cubic yard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No-Till/Strip-Till</td>
<td>$16.34 - $19.61/acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage Water Management</td>
<td>$4.82 - $10.17/acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturated Buffer</td>
<td>$4.59 - $5.51/foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetland Restoration</td>
<td>Varies by size and type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands</td>
<td>Varies by size and type</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Project Partners:
- Local Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
- Iowa State University Extension and Outreach • Iowa DNR
- Iowa Corn Growers • Iowa Pork Producers • Clean Water Iowa
- Practical Farmers of Iowa • Becks Hybrids • Iowa Farm Bureau
- Iowa Soybean Association • Pathfinders RC&D • ChemGro

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Project Beginning Fiscal Year 2019