

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 this 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 native, warm-season grass, using ag

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

- Develop an alternative biomass market that could bolster local economies and provide ecological benefits.
- Increase farmer net income on targeted pasture and marginal row crop acres in project area.
- Leverage a 5-year RCPP project for conservation benefits, with a possibility of annual renewal.

More Information

For more information about this project contact:

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Funding:

Duration:
Five years (2023-2028)

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

Partner Contributions:
\$14,160,000

Eligible Counties Include:

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.

Collaborators:

FDC Enterprises, Inc., Antares Group/Stark Technologies, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Prairie Lands Bio-Products, Inc., Restoration Bioproducts, LLC.

