Welcome to the Prairie Rivers of Iowa Conservation Cost-Share Program!

The Prairie Rivers of Iowa Conservation Cost-Share Program offers financial assistance for a number of conservation practices. These practices are ways in which farmers and landowners can improve Iowa’s soil and water.

Who can participate in our cost-share program?

Farmers and landowners who own or manage land within the Squaw Creek Watershed boundaries can participate in our cost-share program. Applicants must either be: (1) a first time user of the practice, (2) have not used the practice for a minimum of two years on planted acres, or (3) are installing an additional structural practice. Multiple individuals can assist in cost-sharing the conservation practice. If we are not able to assist you in your conservation goals, we will seek out entities or other financial programs that can provide you the necessary assistance.

Here is the Conservation Programming Financial Assistance that is currently available.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Practice</th>
<th>Cost-Share Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cover Crops</td>
<td>$25/acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No till/Strip till</td>
<td>$10/acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffer Strips</td>
<td>50% cost-share</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturated Buffer Strips</td>
<td>50% cost-share</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bioreactors</td>
<td>50% cost-share</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial Planting</td>
<td>50% cost-share</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Rotations with Alfalfa</td>
<td>50% cost-share</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Eligibility requirements and rates are subject to change.

How does the financial assistance work?

Prairie Rivers of Iowa staff will work with you through every step of the process from filling out the application to practice implementation. We will work alongside you to document successes as well as troubleshoot any challenges. It is our goal to make the inclusion of these practices as easy as possible so that you may focus on keeping your land resilient for future generations to come.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote awareness and build respect for the ecological integrity of our natural resources. The goal of our watershed program is to create positive water quality outcomes that bridge land management decisions with agricultural and ecological improvements. We want to see farmers and landowners remain profitable from year-to-year while achieving larger conservation goals for their land and for the watershed.

Flip over to learn about the step-by-step process of applying for our cost-share program today!

Contact: Hanna Bates, Watershed Coordinator
2402 South Duff Avenue  ❖  Ames, IA 50010  ❖  515.232.0048  ❖  www.prrcd.org  ❖  hbates@prrcd.org
### How to Apply for the Prairie Rivers of Iowa Conservation Cost-Share Program

1. **Submit a request.** Submit a request with the Conservation Financial Program either print or electronically at [https://idals.iowa.gov/FARMS/index.php/application](https://idals.iowa.gov/FARMS/index.php/application) (if electronically, select Prairie Rivers RC&D).

2. **Field Review.** Prairie Rivers of Iowa staff and a Technical Service Provider will conduct a Field Review to determine the best practice for your land as well as an estimated cost of the practice.

3. **Initial request for assistance and approval.** Following the field review, you will be asked to sign an official request for the conservation practice. This request summarizes the practice to be installed and responsibilities associated with the practice. This letter is submitted to the Prairie Rivers of Iowa Board for approval. When approved, you will receive notification from the Prairie Rivers of Iowa staff.

4. **Practice Implementation.** After approval, the design and layout of the practice is conducted. During this step, the applicant is responsible for collecting and submitting bills, construction paperwork, and other associated receipts and/or notes during the implementation of the practice. These will be reviewed to determine if they are appropriate and correct. Failure to collect bills, construction paperwork, and associated receipts will disqualify the applicant from receiving cost-share payments at the conclusion of your project.

5. **Project Verification.** Prairie Rivers of Iowa staff and a Technical Service Provider will verify the practice is completed and meets all the standards and specifications associated with the practice.

6. **Final Financial Claims Review.** Prairie Rivers of Iowa staff will verify financial eligibility amount, cost-share availability for practice, exterior funding entities for practice, and record money expended on project for each material and/or service used for the conservation practice. If appropriate, a maintenance agreement will be signed (for structural conservation practices).

7. **Final Technical Certification.** The Technical Service Provider of the practice and Prairie Rivers of Iowa staff will verify that the practice meets all standards and specifications and that the amounts of expenditures on the project are eligible and appropriate for the practice.

8. **Final Committee Certification.** The final claim of the practice will go before the Prairie Rivers of Iowa Board for final approval of the cost-share disbursement. The final summary is then reviewed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Accounting for approval. The final cost-share amount is issued directly from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. You will receive the cost-share disbursement either in the form of a check by mail or through direct deposit.

9. **Project Complete.** Applicants must keep copies of the final claim, practice certification, and maintenance agreement on file.

*Step requires action in the paperwork process on behalf of the applicant*