In-Field Conservation Practices

No-Till/Strip-Till
Keep soil intact throughout off-season | Combine with crop rotation and edge-of-field practices
Benefits: reduction of soil and water erosion, reduction of phosphorous loss, organic matter source, greater early season plant growth

Extended Rotation
Incorporation of alfalfa or other forage plant | Third-year in current corn/soybean rotation
Benefits: reduction of application and loss of phosphorous and nitrogen, improved soil quality, livestock forage material

Cover Crops
Off-season of row crop production | Planting and harvesting is unique to each operation
Benefits: reduction of soil erosion, reduction of phosphorous loss, reduction of nitrogen loss, nutrient cycling aid, organic matter source, forage source for livestock

Iowa Cover Crop Selections:

Over-Winter
- Cereal Rye Grain
- Hairy Vetch Legume
- Red Clover Legume
- Winter Wheat Grain

Winter Kill
- Oats Grain
- Spring Wheat Grain
- Tillage Radish Forage Cover
- Turnip Forage Cover