

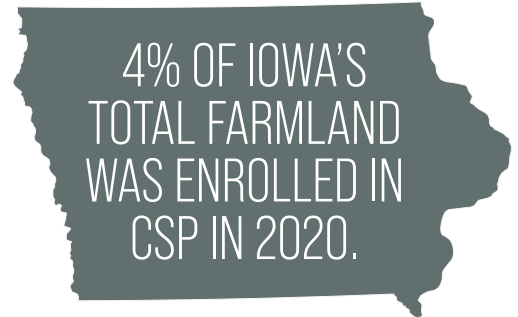
FACT SHEET:

IMPACTS OF THE CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN IOWA

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has helped Iowa farmers achieve conservation goals on their operations for two decades.

Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), CSP provides financial and technical assistance for producers to maintain agricultural production on their land, and simultaneously address resource concerns with conservation practices.

In 2021, **186,681** acres in Iowa were enrolled in CSP.



Protecting Iowa's water, soil, and natural resources

When enrolled in a CSP contract, producers develop conservation plans with their local NRCS technicians. These plans include an assortment of practices and enhancements that are then implemented on their operations.

These practices and enhancements benefit a wide array of resources, including water quality and soil health.

Helping producers achieve their conservation goals

CSP contracts are five years in length with a one-time renewal. In 2021, **389** contracts were active in Iowa.

Of the new contracts in 2021, approximately **53%** were awarded to producers new to the program, and **47%** were existing contract renewals.

In 2021, **59** active CSP contracts were held by beginning farmers and ranchers.

\$17.5 MILLION

Total assistance allocated to Iowa producers from 2021 enrollments and renewals. These funds will be spread out over the five-year contract period.

Top five CSP practices in Iowa (ranked by the number of contracts utilizing the practice)



Iowa is a national leader in CSP enrollment

In 2020, Iowa was a leading state for new CSP contracts.

These new contracts accounted for **94,327** acres of farmland.

Inconsistent funding for CSP affects Iowa producers

Due to inconsistent funding, the number of acres enrolled in CSP has decreased in the past five years.

FIGURE 1: TOP 10 STATES BY NEW CSP CONTRACT ENROLLMENT, 2020

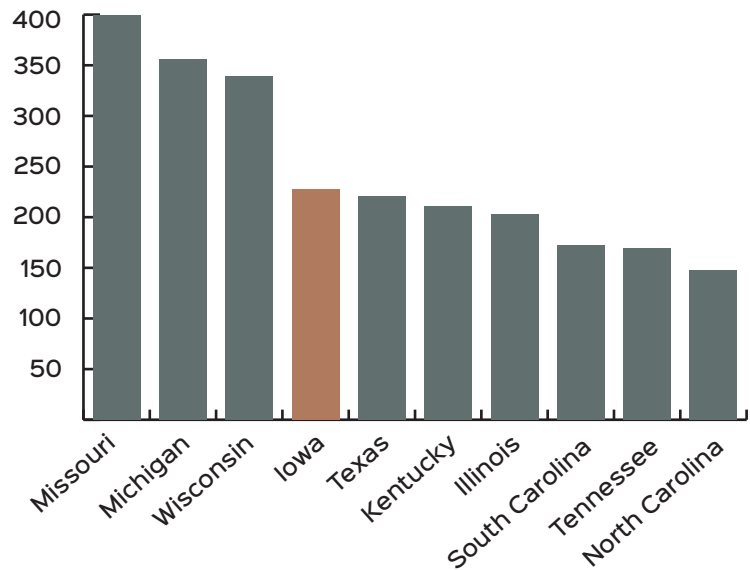


TABLE 1: CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN IOWA, 2017 TO 2021

Year	New and renewed contracts	Acres	Obligations
2017	537	321,467.1	\$27,602,580
2018	499	263,622.5	\$28,641,864
2019	412	118,738.5	\$16,311,791
2020	395	187,981.0	\$17,461,240
2021	389	186,681.0	\$19,739,780

Source: Iowa NRCS

CSP gives producers the tools they need to be successful

This year, the Center for Rural Affairs surveyed CSP users in five Midwestern states. A majority expressed overwhelming support for the program.

- **81%** of all respondents reported they intend to renew their CSP contracts.

Current CSP users had this to say about the program:

“ I really like the program. It has allowed me to put conservation practices on the land I normally would not have. Very pleased. ”

“ The CSP program folks I worked with at our local NRCS office are excellent and were incredibly helpful to me. ”

“ CSP has increased my awareness of the health of pastures and erosion control practices. It has been a kick-start to my five-year improvement plan. I will continue to grow in management, [information], and skills of monitoring and managing. ”

Notes & sources

- 1 Unless otherwise indicated, written years refer to the federal fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30.
- 2 “Natural Resources Conservation Service.” U.S. Department of Agriculture, nrcs.usda.gov. Accessed November 2022.
- 3 “RCA Data Viewer.” U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, nrcs.usda.gov/resources/data-and-reports/rca-data-viewer. Accessed November 2022.
- 4 Hubbert, Jon. “At-a-Glance, Iowa NRCS Fiscal Year 2020.” U.S. Department of Agriculture, Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2021, nrcs.usda.gov/wps/cmیس_proxy/https://ecm.nrcs.usda.gov%3A443/fncmis/resources/WEBP/ContentStream/idd_F06C5376-0000-C11E-8CB1-D6280B9D529D/0/2020At-A-Glance.pdf. Accessed November 2022.
- 5 Hubbert, Jon. “At-a-Glance, Iowa NRCS Fiscal Year 2021.” U.S. Department of Agriculture, Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2022, nrcs.usda.gov/wps/cmیس_proxy/https://ecm.nrcs.usda.gov%3A443/fncmis/resources/WEBP/ContentStream/idd_40DDDC7C-0000-C711-A669-A144A1406DD5/0/2021At-A-Glance.pdf. Accessed November 2022.

