



Bret Pierce and his family  
farms in Dallas County

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# SOIL HEALTH & WATER QUALITY

Iowa farmers are making soil health and water quality a priority. Learn how farmers across the state are implementing conservation practices at [iowacorn.org/water](http://iowacorn.org/water)

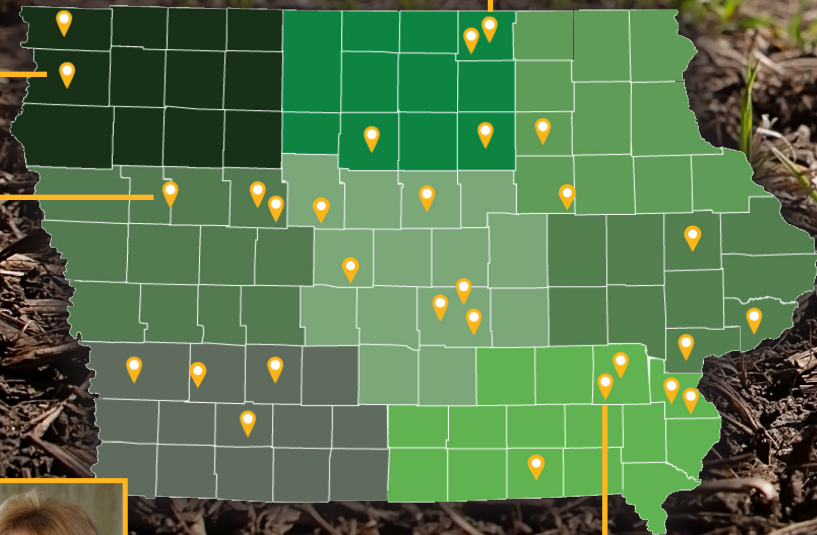
“I’m a big advocate for soil health and no-till, especially for the younger generation that has a long future ahead of them in farming.”

Theo Bartman  
Sioux County



“Mother Nature plays a huge role in water quality, but we as farmers also have a responsibility.”

Chris Edgington  
Mitchell County



“Stewardship is a farmer’s middle name. I know that if we don’t take care of the soil, the soil isn’t going to take care of us.”

Jolene Riessen  
Ida and Sac Counties



“I want to leave the soil in better shape than it was when I got it through conservation practices.”

Rob Stout  
Washington County

# Iowa’s farmers use a variety of conservation and nutrient management practices to improve soil health and water quality.



**Cover crops** improve soil quality by increasing organic matter, reducing erosion, suppressing weeds and helping the soil retain nutrients, which means they stay in the soil and don’t move into rivers and streams.



**Nutrient management** is applying the correct amount of nutrients at the right time and only when needed.



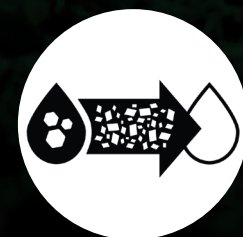
**No-Till/Strip-Till** greatly reduces soil disturbance, which reduces erosion, builds organic matter and helps reduce nutrients entering waterways.



**Grassed waterways** are in-field channels where vegetation grows to filter runoff from heavy rains.



**Wetlands** are shallow, vegetated pools that filter nitrates, control flooding and provide wildlife habitat.



**Bioreactors** direct tile water to an underground bed of woodchips and reduce nitrates by an average of 43 percent.

## Become an Iowa Corn Stewardship Advocate

- Iowa corn farmers and landowners are invited to join the Iowa Corn Stewardship Advocate Program. You’ll be the first to know about environmental issues that impact your farm. You will receive:
  - Monthly email updates on topics like soil health, conservation and water quality
  - Notifications about upcoming stewardship events where you can connect with farmers and experts to gain more knowledge about soil health and water quality
- Visit [iowacorn.org/water](http://iowacorn.org/water) to enroll



Iowa Corn partners with and supports a number of environmental initiatives and organizations focused on protecting the quality of Iowa's land and water.



## Soil Health Partnership

The SHP is a farmer-led initiative that fosters transformation in agriculture through improved soil health that in the long run benefits farmer profitability and promotes a stable food supply and the environment.

Administered by the National Corn Growers Association, SHP will identify, test and measure farm management practices that improve soil health and enhance sustainability for generations to come.



## Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance

IAWA provides funding, outreach guidance, watershed planning and conservation expertise in an effort to increase the pace and scale of farmer-led efforts to improve water quality. It recognizes there is more work to do for water quality and that progress has been made.



## Iowa Nutrient Research & Education Council

The INREC was formed by the Agribusiness Association of Iowa to support the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The INREC brings together major farm and commodity organizations, fertilizer and crop production companies, agricultural retailers and crop advisors to provide farmers with knowledge to make profitable and sustainable decisions that relate to water quality.

## 4R Plus

Making the most of your most valuable asset.

## 4R Plus

4R Plus is a nutrient management and conservation program designed to equip Iowa farmers with the knowledge they need to bolster production, build soil health and at the same time improve water quality in Iowa for generations to come.



# ABOUT IOWA CORN

Composed of the Iowa Corn Promotion Board and the Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Corn works to unlock the potential of corn in a sustainable manner to meet the global need for food and energy. The mission of these organizations is to create opportunity for long-term Iowa corn grower profitability.