

Iowa has good soil, air and water, and everyone wants it to stay that way! We've got:

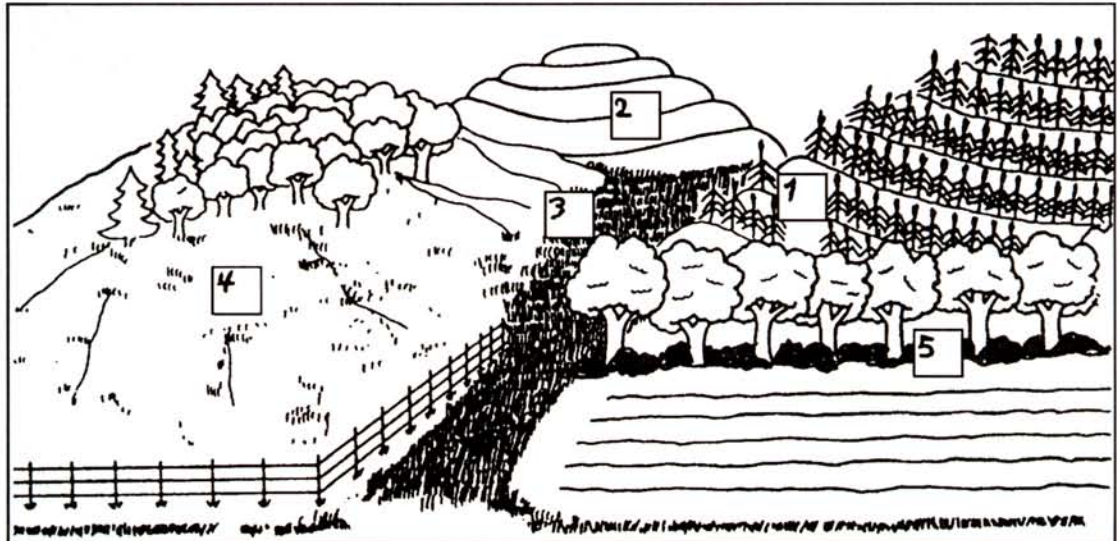
- 349 square miles of lakes, ponds and marshes
- 2 million acres of forest
- 91 percent of our land area is agriculture - the highest percentage in the country
- The Mississippi River on our eastern border, and the Missouri River on our western border



Earth-Friendly Agriculture

How farmers use their land has a big effect on natural resources. They do many things to protect natural resources now so future generations have land that grows food, water that's fresh and air that's clean.

Match the number of the practice to the correct box in the picture.



- Forest and grassy areas.** Keep steep hillside in trees or grass rather than clear for cropland. Holds soil, purifies air, provides oxygen.
- Terraces.** Make wide ridges that go around a hill to prevent water from rushing downhill. Helps keep topsoil in place and water clean.
- Grassed waterways.** Plant grass in low areas in a field where water usually runs down the hill. Helps keep soil in place and water clean.
- Contour planting.** Plant crops around the curve of a hill rather than up and down. Cross rows slow water runoff.
- Windbreak.** Plant rows of trees to slow down the wind. Prevents soil loss, provides energy savings and animal habitat.

Key to Earth-Friendly Agriculture: 4,2,3,1,5
Key to The Ripple Effect: d,c,e,a,b