Conservation Infrastructure Panel

Iowa Soybean Farmer Research Conference

February 7, 2018
Conservation Infrastructure Initiative

• Co-led by Secretary Northey and Ray Gaesser
• Strategy Co-Chairs:
  – Mike Naig
  – Brian Selinger
• Cover Crops Co-Chairs:
  – Sarah Carlson
  – Bert Strayer
• Conservation Co-Chairs:
  – Chris Hay
  – Charlie Schafer
Purpose of CI

Recommendations - Provide Conservation Infrastructure Recommendations to IDALS that increase the likelihood of successfully reaching Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Goals

Private Sector – Generate greater public/private engagement and investment to scale up conservation practices

Value - Harness economic drivers and market-based solutions to find more cost-effective ways to improve water quality
## Conservation Infrastructure

Our water quality challenge is an opportunity for economic growth and innovation.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Cover Crops</strong></th>
<th><strong>Bioreactors and Saturated Buffers</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Need: 12-17M acres</td>
<td>• Need: ~120,000 across state</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Current status: ~625K acres</td>
<td>• Current status: ~100 completed</td>
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<td>• Future Opportunities:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 300,000 acres of seed production</td>
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<td>• 300 aerial seed applicators</td>
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<td>• Special planters</td>
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<td>• Seed cleaners</td>
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<td>• 17,000 semis to transport seed</td>
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Conservation Infrastructure Initiative

• 25 meetings and workshops
• 377 meeting participants
• 40 recommendations
• 20 recommendations already advancing
Conservation Infrastructure Action Plan

1. Introduction
2. Overview of CI Implementation Process
3. Recommendations
4. Document what’s already happening with recommendations
Conservation Infrastructure Action Plan

Project Implementation Template

I. CI recommendation(s) addressed
II. Objectives, projects, products
III. Partners
IV. Strategies, funding, communications
V. Schedule
Conservation Infrastructure

**PATH FORWARD**

- **C.I. Recommendations** 11/29
- **Finalize C.I. Action Plan** Q1 2018
- **Potentially Incorporate into Iowa NRS** May 2018

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**Implement C.I. Recommendations**

**Track C.I. Implementation**

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**Follow Up C.I. Conference** Nov. 2018
CI Co-Chairs Vision and Definition of Success

**VISION:** We envision a prosperous, sustainable and resilient Iowa with HEALTHY SOIL AND WATER and ECONOMICALLY VIBRANT COMMUNITIES that is recognized as THE national leader in both agriculture and conservation.

**DEFINITION OF SUCCESS:** Conservation practices are economically compelling and easier for farmers and landowners to implement. Increased investments in conservation practices that lead to healthy soil and improved water quality for the benefits of all Iowans and downstream communities.
Conservation Infrastructure

What should farmers/landowners do?

Just start!

1 practice
1 field at a time