Miller Creek Water Quality Improvement Project

DESCRIPTION

The Miller Creek project supports the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and the Iowa Water Quality Initiative by working with producers in Black Hawk County’s Miller Creek Watershed to install demonstration practices to improve water quality in Miller Creek and for educational purposes.

This is an innovative education-based project featuring edge-of-field performance evaluations, Haney Soil Health Testing, a social media campaign, quarterly webinars, biannual hands-on workshops, and monthly informal networking events for producers.

The Miller Creek project will increase opportunities for hands-on learning, foster peer-to-peer learning through increased networking opportunities, and begin to shift social norms in favor of conservation.

GOALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demonstration Practice</th>
<th>Target Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cover crops</td>
<td>4,500 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strip- or no-tillage</td>
<td>4,000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffer strips</td>
<td>18 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage water management</td>
<td>3 systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrification inhibitors</td>
<td>2,500 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen application rate</td>
<td>1000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denitrification bioreactors</td>
<td>4 installed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding is provided by the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

CONTACT

For more information, contact the Black Hawk Soil & Water Conservation District

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Black Hawk SWCD is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
IOWA WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

PROJECT PARTNERS
Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District
USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service
Iowa Soybean Association
Iowa State Extension and Outreach

Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District
Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District
BMC Aggregates, LC
Black Hawk County Government
ECI Coop

DEMONSTRATION PRACTICES
Cover Crops
Buffer Strips
Strip- and no-tillage
Drainage Water Management

Nitrogen Application Rate Management
Denitrification Bioreactors
Nitrification Inhibitors
Saturated Buffers

Bioreactor Installation Near Waterloo
USDA-NRCS Photo

Early Cover Crop Growth Near Waterloo
USDA-NRCS Photo

Mature Cover Crop Near Waterloo
Black Hawk SWCD Photo

Soybeans Growing in a No-Till Field
USDA-NRCS Photo