

# Iowa Receives USDA Grants to Protect the Mississippi River

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced Iowa will receive funding for 18 projects that will help landowners and producers within the Mississippi River Basin voluntarily implement conservation and management practices that prevent, control, and trap nutrient runoff from agricultural land. A total of 76 projects in 12 states received funding.

During the next five years these Iowa projects will receive a total of \$36 million. This includes \$14 million for Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Program funds for 10 projects coordinated by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS).

The other eight projects are funded through the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI), which is administered through the Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. Following are the CCPI funded projects in Iowa and their funding for fiscal year 2010:

- Buena Vista County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) (\$200,000)
- Dubuque County SWCD (\$102,692)
- Greene County SWCD (\$296,457)
- Hamilton County SWCD (\$377,824)
- Jackson County SWCD (Funding begins in 2011)
- Jones County SWCD (\$161,000)
- Mitchell County SWCD (\$9,500)
- Webster County SWCD (\$462,319)

The funding will help producers implement a system of conservation practices that will control soil erosion, improve soil quality, and provide wildlife habitat.

Under the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI), USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide technical assistance and a total of \$30 million of financial assistance during federal fiscal year 2010 for projects in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

Partner organizations will contribute additional financial resources to each of the 18 projects in Iowa. These multi-year watershed projects were selected through a competitive process. A listing of the projects by state, and additional information about the MRBI, can be found at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/mrbi/mrbi\\_overview.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/mrbi/mrbi_overview.html).

During the 2010 Legislative session, the Legislature created a state Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative based on the federal program. It also authorized IDALS to use some state money to match these federal dollars.