

WHICH COVER CROP INCENTIVES STACK?

Chart shows stacking opportunities for only two programs at a time.

	Farmers for Soil Health	Soil and Water Outcomes Fund	RCPP/EQIP	PFI Cover Crop Cost Share	Water Quality Initiative (WQI)	State crop insurance rebate
Farmers for Soil Health		✉	✗	✓	✓	✓
Soil and Water Outcomes Fund	✉		✉	✗	✉	✉
RCPP/EQIP	✗	✉		✓	✗	✗
PFI Cover Crop Cost Share	✓	✗	✓		✓	✓
Water Quality Initiative (WQI)	✓	✉	✗	✓		✗
State crop insurance rebate	✓	✉	✗	✓	✗	

- ✓ YES ✗ NO
- ✉ CONTACT FOR INFO

Chart reflects stackability of incentives for the *same practice*. Most programs will stack different practices.

For example, you could receive a payment from EQIP for a wetland and a payment from SWOF for cover crops.

Chart reflects stackability of incentives for the *same acres*. Most programs will stack if they are applied on different acres.

For example, you could receive a cover crop payment from WQI for 160 acres (cap), then receive a cover crop payment from EQIP for a different field.

IOWA COST SHARE COMPARISON

Navigating incentive programs for cover crops, no-till, and reduced till.



A NON-PROFIT FOUNDED BY:



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

CostShareCompare.com

Iowa Cost Share Comparison

Navigating incentive programs for cover crops, no-till, and reduced till.



IMPORTANT: UP TO DATE AS OF JUNE 2024.

Scan the QR Code or go to www.costsharecompare.com for the most up-to-date information.

Rates and other details are subject to change frequently. Please confirm details with each program administrator.

	Farmers for Soil Health	Soil and Water Outcomes Fund	RCPP/EQIP	PFI Cover Crop Cost Share	Water Quality Initiative (WQI)	State crop insurance rebate	2024 Truterra® early adopter - a USDA-supported program
Consider this program if:	You're looking for an easy, straightforward program with little paperwork and flexibility to cancel.	You're looking for an easy, straightforward program with no long-term contract and 50% of payment prior to verification. For beginning or scaling practices.	You're looking for some of the highest incentive rates and don't mind submitting a competitive application with a waiting period.	You're looking for a straightforward program that provides incentives for new or continuing acres.	You're looking for a publicly funded program with an easy sign-up that pays well and allows for flexibility and/or stacking with private incentives.	You don't need to offset the full cost of implementing cover crops, but benefit from an easy, small payment for new or continuing acres.	You transitioned to strip/no-till before the crop year 2015. *Programs for new-acres and cover crops also available. Reach out for info.
Website and Agronomist Support	FarmersforSoilHealth.com	TheOutcomesFund.com	Nrcs.usda.gov	PracticalFarmers.org	CleanWaterIowa.org	CleanWaterIowa.org	Truterraag.com/enroll
	AGRONOMIST SUPPORT? Yes, if requested from Iowa Soybean Association	AGRONOMIST SUPPORT? Yes, if requested from SWOF	AGRONOMIST SUPPORT? Yes, if requested from local office	AGRONOMIST SUPPORT? Yes. New cover crop farmers are required to do a consultation. Farmers can also call after consult with any questions.	AGRONOMIST SUPPORT? Yes, if requested from your nearest SWCD	AGRONOMIST SUPPORT? No	AGRONOMIST SUPPORT? Yes, through a Truterra network provider
In-field Practices Covered and Eligibility	✓ Cover Crops	✓ Cover Crops ✓ No-till/Reduced-till ✓ Extended crop rotations	✓ Cover Crops ✓ No-till/Reduced till	✓ Cover Crops	✓ Cover Crops ✓ No-till/Reduced till ✓ N-inhibitor	✓ Cover Crops	✓ Strip/No-till
	✓ New acres ✓ Continuing acres	✓ New acres/additionality <i>Additionality = adding a new conservation practice to existing practices</i>	✓ New acres <i>Competitive applications based on factors like watershed location</i>	✓ New acres ✓ Continuing acres	✓ New users/acres ✓ Continuing acres (depending on practice) <i>160-acre cap on cover crops/N-Inhibitor, and no-till/reduced till</i> <i>*Until year's funding runs out</i>	✓ New acres ✓ Continuing acres	✓ Continuing acres <i>*Strip/no-till must have started before 2015 and appear 5+ times between 2018 and 2024; 2 years of reduced/conventional tillage allowed, but not if back-to-back.</i> <i>*Until overall program cap of 300k acres is reached.</i>
Rates and Time to Payment	New acres: \$50/acre over three years (\$25, \$15, \$10) Continuing acres: \$2/acre	Average payment: \$30+/acre <i>Rates vary by cover crop species and number of practices used</i>	Cover crops, popular options: Winter kill (like oats): \$42/acre Winter hardy (like rye): \$61/acre Multi-species: \$76/acre Conservation tillage: \$16-17/acre <i>*Higher rates available for historically underserved producers</i> <i>*Check here for all publicly listed rates.</i>	New and continuing acres: \$10/acre <i>Additional incentives available</i>	Cover crops: Priority watersheds: \$30/acre Other watersheds: \$30/acre new users, \$20/acre continuing Conservation tillage: \$10/acre* N Inhibitor: \$3/acre* <i>*new users only</i>	New and continuing acres: \$5/acre	Strip/no-till: \$25/acre
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign up in as little as 30 min Payment made in late spring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign up in as little as a week 50% is paid prior to verification, and 50% is paid afterward in the spring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign contract 1-12 months after application Payment after local verification (varies by office) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign up in as little as 10 minutes Payments made Jan-March 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign up in 1-7 days Payment likely before Jan 1 if farmer brings proof of planting as soon as possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign up in as little as 30 min Payment in spring/summer after cover crop was planted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment in Q1 in 2025
Contract length, renewability and deadlines	3 years <i>Option to cancel yearly</i>	1 year <i>Renewable up to 10 years</i>	Typically 3 or 5 years <i>Not renewable</i>	1 or 3 years <i>Renewable indefinitely</i>	1 year <i>Cover crops - renewable indefinitely</i>	1 year <i>Renewable indefinitely</i>	1 year <i>Renewability not guaranteed</i>
	Deadline TBD <i>Can sign up before or after implementing practice</i>	Deadline TBD <i>Must sign up before implementing practice</i>	Rolling <i>Batching dates often in October and April</i> <i>Must sign up before implementing practice</i>	May-Dec enrollment <i>Can sign up before or after implementing practice</i>	Rolling <i>Must sign up for program before implementing practice</i>	January <i>Must sign up after implementing practice</i>	Aug 1- Nov 1, 2024 <i>Data collection deadline: 12/01/2024</i>
Lead Organization	National: Our Soy Checkoff, Pork Checkoff, National Corn Growers Association Local Support: Iowa Soybean Association	AgOutcomes, a subsidiary of Iowa Soybean Association	USDA-NRCS	Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI)	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	Truterra, a Land O'Lakes Company
Funding Source	Climate Smart Ag (USDA)	Climate Smart Ag (USDA) and/or Private	USDA	Private	IDALS	IDALS	USDA