

RESOURCES

Tallgrass Prairie Center <https://www.tallgrassprairiecenter.org>

Seed and service providers lists, seed mix calculator, prairie how-to videos, post-seeding management, and more

Iowa State University STRIPS <http://www.prairiestrips.org>

A landowner's guide to prairie strips, FAQs, technical research, additional guidance, cost of prairie strips information, and more

Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/programs>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/newsroom/factsheets>

Talk with your local NRCS office about approved management practices and cost-share options for your planting



The Tallgrass Prairie Center is a regional leader that shares knowledge of prairie reconstruction and management techniques.

PRAIRIE ON FARMS PROGRAM

I. Demonstration sites designed for learning about prairie establishment, particularly prairie strips in row-cropped fields.

II. Technology transfer through field days, events, informational guides, case studies, and online resources.

III. Meetings with diverse agricultural and conservation stakeholders to identify and address areas of greatest importance.



QUESTIONS? For more information, contact:

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Past and Current Funders:

The University of Northern Iowa, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa Nutrient Research Center, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Economic Development Authority, The New York Community Trust, North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Collaborators:

Iowa State University STRIPS project, Borlaug Learning Center ISU, Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever, Monarch Joint Venture, Women Food and Agriculture Network, AmeriCorps Land and Water Stewards, ISU Extension, The Xerces Society, The Sand County Foundation, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Hertz Farm Management, Peoples Company, and Iowa Watershed Approach

PRAIRIE
BENEFITS
FOR
LANDOWNERS

FOR HEALTHY SOILS, CLEAN WATER,
AND WILDLIFE HABITAT



BENEFITS OF PRAIRIE ON FARMS

Nutrient Reduction – Studies at one Iowa site show converting just 10% of row crop acres into perennial prairie strips can remove 90% of total phosphorus and 85% of total nitrogen [ISU STRIPS Team]. Prairie plantings reduce nutrient pollution by controlling runoff and capturing nutrients.

Rainfall and Runoff Infiltration – Converting just 10% of row-crop acres into perennial prairie strips can reduce sediment movement by 95% [ISU STRIPS Team]. Roots and decaying foliage add organic matter to the soil, making it spongy and absorbent.

Erosion Control – Deep perennial root systems anchor soil year-round, while dense, sturdy, above-ground growth intercepts rainfall and slows runoff.

Pollinator Recovery Efforts – Prairie on the landscape provides habitat, nectar sources, and host plants for monarchs, bees, and other important pollinators.

Wildlife Habitat – By providing winter and escape cover, food, and nesting sites, prairies improve habitat for grassland birds and other wildlife.

Aesthetics - Native plants that flower throughout the growing season add beauty and texture to the landscape.



PRAIRIE CAN BE PLANTED TO FIT YOUR FARMING OPERATION

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Connect with us for individual consultation
- Attend a field day
- Explore our website for more detailed information
- Follow us and other local resources on Facebook

USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Prairie Strips are now eligible for cost-share options through the newly approved USDA CRP (CP-43). Contact your local USDA Service Center or NRCS Office for more information on how to incorporate prairie strips.

Targeted Resource Concerns:

- Soil erosion and water quality
- Diverse habitat for wildlife

Placement Options:

- Around the field
- Through the field
- In terrace channels
- Next to waterways
- Pivot corners

WHY PRAIRIE?

- Studies at one Iowa site show converting only 10% of in-field row crop acres into strategically placed perennial prairie strips, as contour or buffer strips, can provide significant and multiple benefits for land and water [ISU STRIPS Team].
- Deep-rooted native grasses and wildflowers are adapted to Iowa; natives can tolerate heavy rainfall or periods of drought at any time of the year.
- Prairies provide native habitat for wildlife.
- Prairie adapts to wide ranges of soil and moisture conditions, especially poorly and excessively drained soils.
- Perennial vegetation, when used strategically, can reduce erosion and intercept water flow, while also keeping the adjacent land farmable.
- Evidence shows prairie roots do not plug tile in upland plantings [ISU STRIPS Team] even though they have deep root systems that anchor soil in place and help mitigate flood erosion.
- Prairie will not invade crop fields and will suppress weeds.
- Historically, tallgrass prairie covered 85% of Iowa. Today, less than 1/10th of 1% [or 0.001%] of remnant prairies remain in small fragments across the state.

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