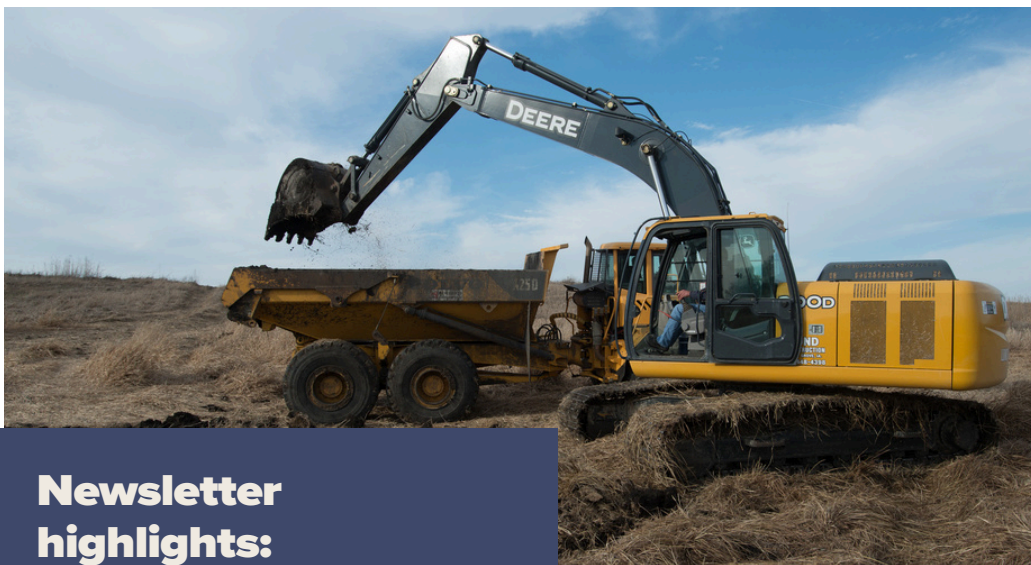


UPDATES FROM THE

FARM TO RIVER

Partnership in the North Raccoon Watershed



Newsletter highlights:

- Successful start to the Sac County batch and build thanks to strong partnerships
- 14,200 acres of cover crops enrolled in cost share
- Continued water monitoring in the North Raccoon watershed
- Other cost share opportunities to keep in mind for 2026



Insights from Conservation Agronomist and project leader, Alex Logan

With just five months on the job at Iowa Soybean Association, it's already clear to me how powerful the partnerships are in the North Raccoon Watershed.

Between the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), ACWA, and Iowa Soybean Association, we have a great team ready to help farmers and landowners in 2026.

This winter, I'm excited to share the impactful progress that's been made in 2025 including reaching double our goal for cover crop acres.

If you need assistance with cost share programs or implementing water quality practices, I'm here to help you be successful.

– Alex Logan, Conservation Agronomist



ISA Conservation Agronomist, Brock Webb measures tile flow

2025 Farm to River Results

In 2025, work continued on the Sac County Batch and Build project. The project is well on its way after a targeted effort in 2025. Alex Logan has interacted with over 20 farmers, some who will have bioreactors or saturated buffers installed in 2026. The goal is 25 new edge of field practices installed by the end of the project.

In addition, there was an increase in cover crop adoption, offering a promising outlook for the overall success of the project. The initial goal of 7,000 acres was more than doubled thanks to farmers in the North Raccoon Watershed!

A total of 178 tile and stream monitoring samples were taken across the North Raccoon Watershed by the Iowa Soybean Association in partnership with ACWA and IDALS. This monitoring is a critical tool to determining the efficiency of water quality practices and nutrient management strategies.



Partnership wins

Increases in...

- Relationships with other cooperative conservation agronomists
- Utilization of Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework as a tool to determine possible conservation sites
- Collaboration with agriculture retailers, tile contractors, and land management companies.

Looking ahead to 2026



● Conservation In Action Tour

Be on the lookout for information on the 2026 Conservation in Action tour in West Central Iowa! It's a great way to explore how conservation could look on your farm.

It's a self-guided tour where you can follow a pre-planned route featuring conservation. Each stop will have information and videos you can watch on your phone to learn at your own time and pace. There will also be a guided version of the tour on April 9th (tentative and pending weather).

The tour is made possible by the Iowa Soybean Association, with the support of Landus Coop, Iowa Cover Crop, and IDALS.

Get Involved

Conservation can be easy when you have the right support and cost share dollars. The Farm to River Partnership is a great way to add a new practice to your farm while maintaining profitability.

Farm to River Project Area



If you are wondering how a conservation practice would fit on your farm, now is the time to reach out!

Cost share is available through the Farm to River Partnership, a state-funded Water Quality Initiative Project targeting the North Raccoon Watershed.

These practices have funding available:

- Cover crops
- Bioreactors
- Saturated buffers
- Multi-purpose oxbows

Other opportunities are available at no cost:

- Tile water monitoring
- Whole farm assessments to identify ideal choices for conservation practices
- Replicated strip trials to test practices and products on your farm with your management systems.



Contact Alex Logan to learn more or sign up.

Cell: 515-729-9831

Email: alogan@iasoybeans.com

Website: iasoybeans.com

Project partners

Other important cost share updates

Cover crops:

- The Iowa Crop Insurance discount program is open until January 23, 2026. Sign up now to get a \$5 rebate on insured acres with cover crops. Both new and continuing acres are eligible.
 - Information can be found at: cleanwateriowa.org.
- State cover crop funding was very popular this year. In preparation for 2026, IDALS wants to let farmers know that it will be important next fall to sign up as early as possible before funding runs out.
 - Your local USDA service center is your go-to for this program.

Wetlands:

- IDALS has been very successful in wetland projects in the North Raccoon. 21 projects are in the design and construction phase.
 - If you have unprofitable acres you'd like to see in a wetland, reach out to Shane Wulf at shane.wulf@iowaagriculture.gov.



Andy Mackrill of ESE and Alex Buseman of ISA survey a location for an edge-of-field practice.

Edge of Field:

- Edge-of-field practices, including bioreactors and saturated buffers are very effective ways to improve water quality without changing in-field management. Batch and build projects make the process extremely easy.
 - **Pig Farmer Batch:** Contact Abbey Inman at ainman@agribiz.org for details or learn more at iowaagriculture.gov (Sac and Greene Counties)



Site of a future saturated buffer in the North Raccoon watershed, surveyed this year for the Farm to River Project

Oxbows

- Cost share for multi-purpose oxbows is also available in the North Raccoon Watershed. Tile-fed oxbows improve water quality without in-field management changes.
 - Reach out to Brandon Iddings at biddings@iasoybeans.com or visit www.iaagwater.org to learn more.