

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	Iowa Seed Corn
Farmers for Soil Health		✉	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Soil and Water Outcomes Fund	✉		✉	✗	✉	✉	✉
RCPP/EQIP	✗	✉		✓	✗	✗	✗
PFI Cover Crop Cost Share	✓	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓
Water Quality Initiative (WQI)	✓	✉	✗	✓		✗	✗
State Crop Insurance Rebate	✓	✉	✗	✓	✗		✗
Iowa Seed Corn	✓	✉	✗	✓	✗	✗	

✓ 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.



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IOWA COST SHARE COMPARISON

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

Dear farmers, JUNE 2025

We have a special note for you this year as you determine which cover crop program fits your operation best. As you know, the right fit is about more than just money, and this year that is even more true.

Changes at the federal level have impacted both public and private programs and some programs are still adjusting. **This guide was printed in June 2025, but please be aware that changes could happen.**

We expect program funding to be more competitive this year so you must reach out early. If you are worried about uncertainty, we would guide you to WQI and the state crop insurance rebate.

For the most up to date information, visit **costsharecompare.com**, which will be updated more frequently. If you are looking for other practices besides cover crops, we recommend **connector.ag**.

- The IAWA team




FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
CostShareCompare.com



Iowa Cost Share Comparison

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IMPORTANT: UP TO DATE AS OF JUNE 2025

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.

Consider this program if:	Farmers for Soil Health You're looking for an easy, straightforward program with little paperwork and flexibility to cancel.	Soil and Water Outcomes Fund You're looking for a year-to-year program with 50% payment prior to verification. <i>*Details may change due to USDA negotiations</i>	RCPP/EQIP You're looking for some of the highest incentive rates and don't mind submitting a competitive application with a waiting period.	PFI Cover Crop Cost Share You're looking for a straightforward program that provides incentives for new or continuing acres. Stacks well with WQI	Water Quality Initiative (WQI) You're looking for public dollars with an easy sign-up and allows for flexibility year-to-year. Especially beneficial for those in priority watersheds.	State crop insurance rebate You don't need to offset the full cost of implementing cover crops, but would benefit from an easy, small payment for new or continuing acres.	Iowa Seed Corn Cover Crop Initiative You grow seed corn. Cover crops have an even greater benefit after seed corn harvest since they have more time before winter.
Website and Agronomist Support	FarmersForSoilHealth.com ↗	TheOutcomesFund.com ↗	Nrcs.usda.gov ↗	PracticalFarmers.org ↗	CleanWaterIowa.org ↗	CleanWaterIowa.org ↗	SustainableSeedCorn.org ↗
	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, if requested
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	✓ Cover Crops
	✓ New acres ✓ Continuing acres	✓ New acres/additionality <i>Additionality = adding a new conservation practice to existing practices</i> <i>Limited acres available in 2025</i>	✓ New acres <i>Competitive applications based on factors like watershed location</i>	✓ New acres ✓ Continuing acres <i>Limited acres available in 2025</i>	✓ New users/acres ✓ Continuing acres <i>(depending on practice)</i> <i>*Until year's funding runs out</i>	✓ New acres ✓ Continuing acres	✓ New acres ✓ Continuing acres <i>Must be on seed corn acres with bushels sold to companies listed on website</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: \$25/acre, no cap Other watersheds: \$30/acre* or \$20/acre, 160 acre cap Conservation tillage: \$10/acre* N Inhibitor: \$3/acre* <i>*new users only</i>	New and continuing acres: \$5/acre	All acres: Winter hardy: \$20/acre Winter kill: \$10/acre First time users: Extra \$10/acre
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign up in as little as 30 min	<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">• Sign up in 30 min using online form• Payment after seeding verification (usually Oct-Dec)
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 year <i>Renewable</i>	1 year <i>Cover crops - renewable indefinitely</i>	1 year <i>Renewable indefinitely</i>	1 year <i>Renewable after every seed corn year</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>	Aug 5-Oct 1 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>	October 31 deadline <i>Can sign up before or after implementing practice</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	Iowa Seed Association
Funding Source	USDA	Private	USDA	Private	IDALS	IDALS	IDALS, seed corn companies, Iowa Corn