

Planting Season

GROWTH ON THE HORIZON

It is the time of the year where you can see buds and leaves on the trees, planters in the field, and green crops on the ground. We know everyone is busy planting their fields. However, everyone at Plymouth County Soil and Water Conservation District wanted to take a moment to inform you the new changes and upcoming events and deadlines before the start of a great summer season.



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Planting Season
- Project Focus
- New Project Coordinator
- Cost Share Opportunities
- Benefits of No-Till
- Facts about Cover Crops
- Upcoming Events

Our Project Focus

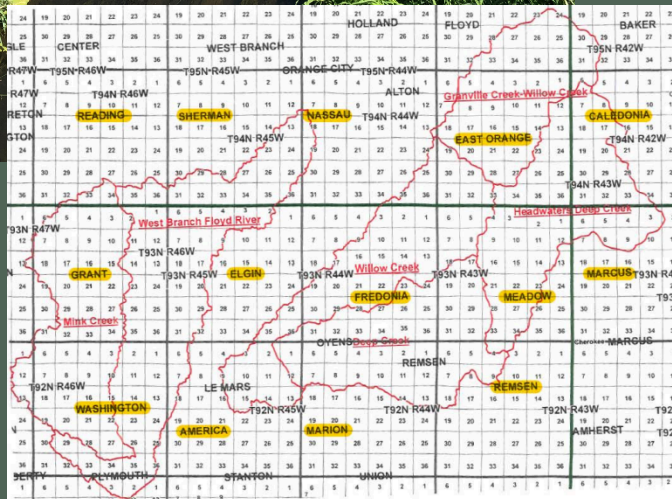


OUR MISSION

We strive to increase awareness of water quality and resource concerns in the Plymouth County Priority Watersheds. We encourage the use of conservation practices to address resource concerns to help develop a protective, sustainable and profitable agricultural landscape.

Our project engages local, public and private partners to foster voluntary adoption of conservation practices. We believe in using a cooperative approach to the improvement of water quality while protecting the health and productivity of our soils and our community.

We welcome input from producers and stakeholders. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please feel free to contact the Plymouth County Soil and Water Conservation District



FOR MORE VISIT: www.plymouthswcd.com

Meet Brynn Jones

A NEW ARRIVAL

Written by Brynn Jones

Meet the new watershed project coordinator with the Plymouth County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Brynn Jones grew up outside of Remsen, Iowa. She graduated from South Dakota State University in 2024 majoring in Ecology and Environmental Science. Along with Environmental Science, Jones also is highly passionate about Agriculture. Her passion and education will be put into good use as the new watershed project coordinator.

Before accepting her position with the Plymouth County Soil and Water Conservation District, Jones was an employee with the Native Plant Initiative at South Dakota State University. Having hands on-experience managing and aiding research on native plants.

In her free time, Jones enjoys hiking, camping, gardening, archery, and reading. One of Jones life goals is visiting all, or most of the National Parks in the United States. She enjoys learning about wildlife and native plants.

Jones is excited to meet and get to know all the produces in the watershed. She is currently checking on no-till and preparing for cover crops applications in the area. If you in the watershed and are interested in applying for cover crops, please give Brynn Jones a call to sign up!



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Cost Share Opportunities



Cost Share Rates & Requirements:

Priority Practice	Cost Share Rate	Acre Cap	Eligible Applicant	Other Requirements
Cover Crop	\$25/acre	No Cap	Producers within the project area	Must meet NRCS standards
No-till/Strip-till Soybeans Planted	\$10/acre	No Cap	Producers within the project area	Must meet NRCS standards
No till/Strip till Corn Planted	\$20/acre	No Cap	Producers within the project area	Must meet NRCS standards
P-Band Applied 1 st time	\$10/acre	200 acres	Producers who have never used this practice and within the project area	>80% undisturbed soil
P-Band Applied 2 nd time or more	\$10/acre	200 acres	Producers within the project area	Must plant cover crop on the same acres
Edge-of-Field	100% with partner funding		Producers within the project area	Must meet NRCS standards
Terraces or Water and Sediment Control Basins	50% of estimated practice installation		Producers within the project area	Must meet NRCS standards

Cost Share Start and End Dates:

Producers can apply past the end date if cost share is still available



Practice	Sign Up Start Date	Sign Up End Date
Cover Crops	July 1, 2024	August 31, 2024
P-Band	August 1, 2024	September 30, 2024
No-till/Strip-till	December 1, 2024	March 31, 2025
Terraces & WASCObS	Year-round (construction planned for following fall)	Year-round (construction planned for following fall)
Edge-of-Field	Year-round (construction planned for following fall)	Year-round (construction planned for following fall)

FOR MORE VISIT: www.plymouthswcd.com

No-Tilling Farming



BENEFITS OF NO-TILL FARMING

Written by Brynn Jones

Practicing no-till began in the United States in the 1960s. This practice was the most successful on sloping, well-drained soil, later on it became more adopted on all soil types. With research on the effects of no-till on the soil, results have shown a significant increase in microbial biomass. No-till farming has provided a range of environmental, economic, and social benefits. No-tilling has diversified soil biology, improved biocontrol of pests and diseases, increase soil organic matter, improved soil structure, reduced compaction and protect the soil against wind and water erosion. Switching from continuous conventional till to seasonal no-till saves more than 3.2 gallons of fuel per acre. Farmers who practice seasonal no-till uses 3 fewer gallons of fuel per acre than they would with conventional tillage year-round. Along with fewer gallons of fuel, no-till would save hours of work in the field. Depending on the labor cost and equipment maintenance, that is thousands of dollars saved each year!

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Facts about Cover Crops

FUN FACTS ABOUT COVER CROPS

- By 2012, the USDA reported 10.3 millions acres of U.S. cropland planted to cover crops.
- On average, cover crops reduce sediment losses on conventional-till fields by 20.8 tons per acre, and by no-till fields by 1.2 tons per acre.
- By average, cover crops have been shown to reduce nitrogen losses by 48%
- The use of cover crops is probably more than 3,000 years old based on Chinese manuscripts. They were also used in ancient Greece and Rome.



Cover Crops in May
before Planting



Cover Crops (Oats, Rye, &
Radish), just seeded

BENEFITS OF COVER CROPS

- Decrease soil erosion
- Increase soil microbial activity
- Suppress weeds
- Decrease nutrient runoff and leaching
- Provide forage for farm animals
- Increase soil carbon
- Manage soil moisture
- Limit the spread of pests and diseases
- Improve yield potential

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Upcoming Deadlines



COVER CROP COST SHARE & P-BAND INCENTIVE

Applications are: July 1- August 30th, 2024

Cover crop cost shares: \$25/acres with unlimited acres

P-Band Incentive:\$10/acres with a maximum of 200 acres

(If you are a repeat user of the P-band, you must plant cover crops on the same acres)



To apply, please contact:
Brynn Jones
Watershed Project Coordinator
Office: 712-546-4178 ext 3

FOR MORE VISIT: www.plymouthswcd.com

Plymouth County
Soil & Water Conservation District
1100 12th St. SW
Le Mars, IA 51031

Plymouth County Priority Watershed

Do you farm or own
land in the Plymouth
County Priority
Watershed?

Be sure to follow our
Facebook page!
Plymouth County Soil
and Water
Conservation District

Plymouth County
SWCD 1100 12th St SW
STE A Le Mars, IA
51031 Phone: (712) 546-
8858 ext. 3 Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:00-
4:30

These organizations are
partnering with the Plymouth
County Priority Watersheds
Water Quality Initiative to help
you decide which conservation
practices are best for you, your
operation and your land:

Iowa Department of Agriculture &
Land Stewardship, Iowa Soybean
Association, Iowa Corn Growers
Association, Iowa State University,
Iowa Farm Bureau, Plymouth
County Pheasants Forever, Le
Mars Agri-Center, Iowa Pork
Producers Association, Remsen
Farmers Coop, Farmers Coop of
Hinton, Oyens, Akron & Le Mars



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