



IOWA

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



WORKING LANDS UPDATE

In 2025, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Working Lands for Resilient Communities in Scott County, Iowa had its first sign up. This program is focused on water quality, flood resilience, and soil health. With this sign up we contracted 18 landowners for cover crops and no-till on 4,123 acres with 3 wetlands in progress.

Our private lands biologists have been busy working with other programs we partner with, such as the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) and Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP), in partnership with the National Pork Board and Eocene. In 2025, the team enrolled 2,532.4 acres of cover crops in the Water Quality Incentive and 34,912.15 acres of cover crops and 11,538.64 acres of no till in our Advancing Markets for Producers Grant.

The Iowa Conservation team, in partnership with IDALS, has 21 wetland projects in progress and completed 3 projects in 2025. While working with additional partners in Iowa, we have assisted with the completion of 1 oxbow restoration and have 7 other wetland projects in progress.

CF INDUSTRIES FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTES \$250,000 TO IOWA CONSERVATION

In 2025, Ducks Unlimited received a \$250,000 grant from the CF Industries Foundation to advance wetland and shallow lake restoration efforts across Iowa. This support helps accelerate DU's work with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) to improve water quality, strengthen wildlife habitat, and enhance watershed resilience. Progress made includes:

- Advancing seven Water Quality Wetland projects forward, representing 194 acres in restoration and improving runoff treatment for more than 6,000 watershed acres.
- Expanding producer engagement statewide, including 175 new landowner meetings and the enrollment of additional wetlands into IDALS programs.
- Delivering or constructing five Shallow Lake projects, enhancing more than 950 acres, and improving water quality across key landscapes.

This work is increasingly important as Iowa faces severe nutrient challenges in its waterways. Restoring wetlands and shallow lakes provides one of the most effective natural solutions, improving soil and water function, and creating habitat that sustains both wildlife and local communities.



PRAIRIE MEADOWS INVESTS \$900,000 TO RESTORE WETLANDS AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN CENTRAL IOWA

Prairie Meadows has emerged as a leading champion for conservation in Iowa, awarding \$900,000 since 2022 to Ducks Unlimited and its partners to advance wetlands and water quality practices through the Central Iowa Clean Water Partnership (CICWP).

Wetlands are nature's solution to some of Iowa's most pressing environmental challenges. Strategically placed and designed wetlands can remove up to 90% of nitrates from farmland drainage, making them a cornerstone of Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

The most recent \$290,000 Legacy Grant from Prairie Meadows will fund Phase III of CICWP, which includes two transformative initiatives:

- **Waukee Regional Wetland:** The creation of this wetland, which resides at the headwaters of Walnut Creek, will help treat runoff from over 900 acres to improve water quality for approximately 600,000 residents served by Des Moines Water Works.
- **Brenton Slough Acquisition:** Through the permanent protection of 1,113 acres this effort ensures ecologically diverse habitat, flood mitigation, and expanded public access to nature.

Prairie Meadows support has also been key to advancing wetland restorations at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Helland Farm, and Fisher Lake, plus the establishment of 52 saturated buffers in central Iowa and a six-acre wetland at DMACC's Dallas County Farm.

IMPROVING WATER MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES AT GOOSE LAKE

As part of DU's Living Lakes Initiative and in partnership with the Iowa DNR, Iowa DU Major Sponsors, and Grow Greene County Gaming Corporation, DU designed and installed a water control structure at the outlet of Goose Lake in Greene County to improve waterfowl habitat, water quality, and public recreation. This shallow lake wetland enhancement will help alleviate issues in the marsh, such as trapped water caused by sedimentation and an inadequate water-control structure. This project allows DNR area managers to better manage water levels in the marsh, promoting desirable vegetation species that provide high-quality food resources that migratory waterfowl rely on, while also improving water quality.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

ducks.org/iowa



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MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 15,610
Members: 15,028
 General Members: 10,957
 Greenwings: 1,374
 Legacy Greenwings: 1,054
 Sponsor Members: 1,643
Major Sponsors: 582
Feather Society Members: 107

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$2,066,515**
 Number of committees: **82**
 Number of fundraising events: **150**
 Local chapter volunteers: **1,249**

FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$1,335,229**

Location of projects:

Saskatchewan: Churchbridge Project & Rokeby Project

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **88,672**

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **22,812**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$46,553,157**

Amount spent on projects in MS Flyway (through FY2025): **\$921,117,840**

Primary waterfowl species:

Blue Winged Teal; Mallard; Redhead; Giant Canada Goose and Wood Duck.

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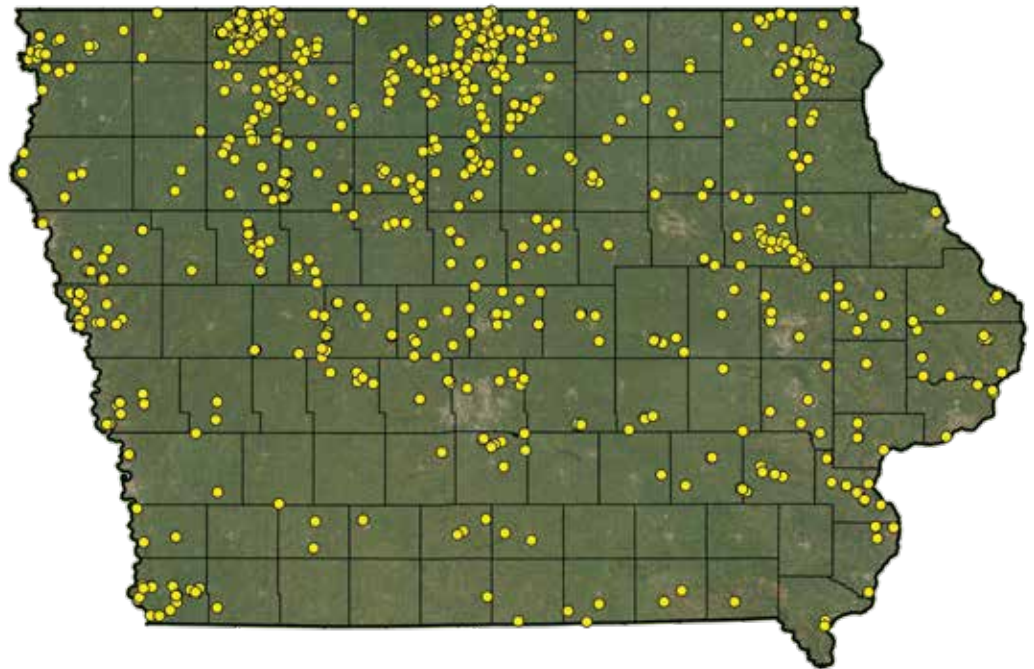
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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed Project(s)

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

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For more information about DU's work in your state visit

ducks.org/iowa