

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is a portion of land that drains into a specific waterbody. Watershed improvement projects were initiated to meet the requirements outlined in the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The INRS directs efforts in reducing nutrients from surface water. The INRS states that ag nonpoint sources reduce Nitrates by 41% and Phosphorus by 29%. These goals can be met by adopting in-field or Edge of Field practices.

Watershed Impairments:

The entire watershed of BHC is impaired for E.coli and yields an average of about 5,098,725 lbs/yr of Nitrates and 168,312 lbs /yr of Phosphorus. Land along the creek is known to have frequent flooding events. The sub watershed of Wilson Creek has a problem with soil loss, losing 64,320 tons each year.



Black Hawk Creek Watershed:

Black Hawk Creek (BHC) watershed is 303,912 acres in size and spans from Grundy County into Marshall, Tama and Black Hawk county. The watershed's land cover is 85% agricultural and is mostly comprised of row crops such as corn and soybean. Black Hawk Creek Watershed can be broken down into 10 sub watersheds. With 4 additional sub watersheds from Wolf Creek. If your farm is within the watersheds boundaries you are eligible for special cost share rates.

Cost Share Available

Cover crops	\$25/ac for both winter hardy and winterkill
Prairie Strips	50% cost share with annual payment of about \$225/ac (CRP)
Oxbow Restoration	50% cost share (Must have tile outlet)
Treatment Wetland	50-100% cost
Saturated Buffers	100% cost share
Bioreactors	100% Cost share

Black Hawk Creek Water Quality Improvement Project

Working to improve soil and water health within the watershed.

Black Hawk Creek Watershed

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