

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED



Benton Tama Nutrient
— REDUCTION PROJECT —
FARMING FOR QUALITY

Benton-Tama Nutrient Reduction Project Newsletter

Winter 2021

Cost Share Program Updates

The Benton County Soil & Water Conservation District has updated the Benton-Tama cost share rates and eligibility areas for 2021. Changes include the addition of the Spring Creek and Rogers Park watersheds and the removal of cost share incentives for mulch tillage, no tilled beans and nitrification inhibitors. See page 2 for an updated map and cost share list.

Sign Up for Spring Practices

Producers in the Benton-Tama Project area are eligible for \$10 per acre incentive on strip-till and no-till prior to a corn crop. Funding is first come, first served and applications must be processed prior to planting your crop. Stop in the office or contact Rose to sign up.

CRP Signup



The signup period for the Farm Service Agency's General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), has been extended. A closing date has not been announced. Signup for the Continuous CRP practices is also ongoing and the agency has added additional enrollment incentives including a 10% annual bonus on water quality practices including prairie strips, wetland restoration, saturated buffers and bioreactors.

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- Sign up for Spring Practices
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- Edge of Field Opportunities
- New Faces

Benton-Tama Cost Share Sign Up via EMAIL:

Forms are available online:

www.bentontamanutrientreduction.org/sign-up.html

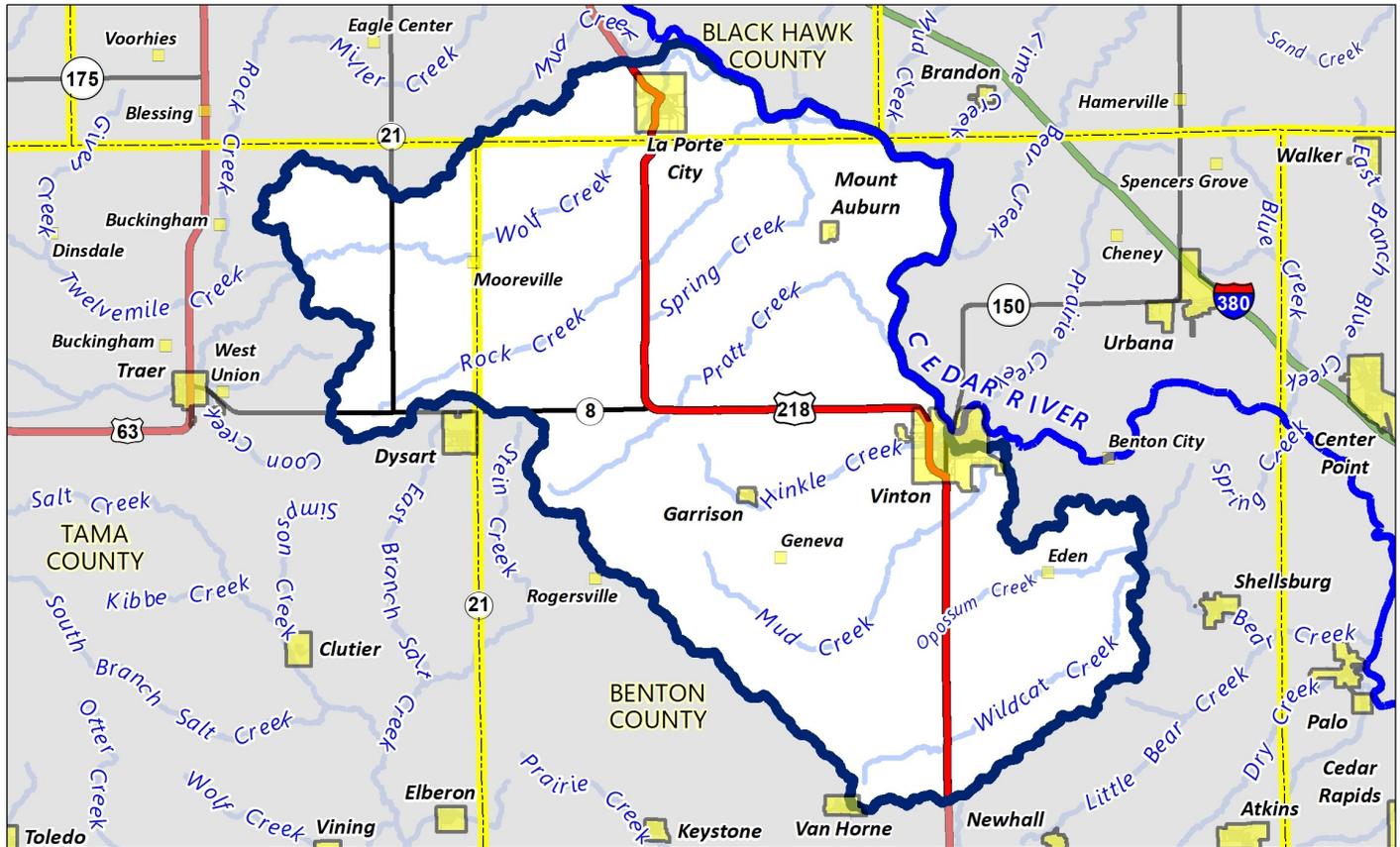
Send to: rose.danaher@iowaagriculture.gov

- Practice Request Form
- W-9
- Map with fields marked

If you have eligibility questions or need assistance with field maps, please call Rose at (515) 776-2764.

Cost Share Program Updates

New Benton-Tama Project Eligibility Area



Benton-Tama Nutrient Reduction Project has been expanded to include Spring Creek, the drainage adjacent to Rodgers Park, and areas along the Cedar River between La Porte City and Vinton.

Cost Share rates for the Benton Tama Nutrient Reduction Project Effective January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021

| Practice | Cost Share Amount | Limits |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tillage Practices | | 350 acres per participant |
| Tillage: No till prior to Corn | \$10/ac | |
| Tillage: Strip till prior to Corn | \$10/ac | |
| Prairie Strips | | 10 acres per participant |
| Prairie Strips: Plant diverse prairie strips within fields | \$150/ac | |
| Cover Crops | | 160 acres per participant |
| Cover Crops: Any winter hardy, non-winter hardy or mix | \$25/ac | |
| Edge of Field Practices | | No limit |
| Edge of Field: Bioreactor | 100% of cost | |
| Edge of Field: Saturated Buffer | 100% of cost | |

Welcome, Michelle German—District Conservationist



My name is Michelle German and I am the new District Conservationist for Benton County, Iowa. For a little bit of background on me, I grew up on a farm in Northeast Iowa where my family raises numerous types of livestock and row crop farms. My husband and I live in the Marion area currently and spend a lot of time working on our family farms. I attended Iowa State University from which I graduated with a degree in Agricultural Communications with a minor in Animal Science. So, if you're a Cyclone fan, I am looking forward to the 2021 football season. Furthermore, my areas of experience include the federal programs offered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Some of the programs include CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) and EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program). Additionally, my past experience in the agency has led me to a few different offices upholding different positions. I started in the agency as a Soil Conservationist in Delaware, Keokuk and Jones Counties. Served as the Resource Conservationist for Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, Jones and Linn Counties and most recently was the District Conservationist in Jones County before accepting a promotion to work in Benton County.

If you have any questions about our programs or details of other services we offer, please feel free to call us at 319-472-2161. I know many of you may have questions and we are happy to answer them and speak with you personally about ways the office can assist you with the conservation goals for your operation. I am excited to begin working with you all and am very thankful for the opportunity to be working in Benton County.

Free Edge of Field Projects

Edge of Field projects can remove up to 98% of nitrates from tile water.

Saturated buffers are nitrate capturing buffers along the edge of a stream or ditch. Tile outlets are modified to saturate the soils along a grass buffer with no impact to adjacent crop ground.

Bioreactors are chambers filled with woodchips along tile drainage systems. Tile water flows through the woodchip chamber and nitrates are removed before it reaches the stream.

Wetlands are shallow areas that hold water at or near the soil surface for part of the year. Re routing tile outlets into wetlands can reduce nitrates by 90%. Wetlands take up more space than bioreactors or saturated buffers, so landowners are typically compensated for the acres removed from production.

We will cover 100% of the cost of adding an EOF Project to your farm!

Benton SWCD Tree Sale

The Benton County Soil & Water Conservation District is once again offering trees and tree seedlings for sale. This might be your opportunity to replace windbreaks or shade trees impacted by last August's Derecho, or to establish new windbreaks, shade trees or wildlife habitat.

This program will offer both evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs for sale as either potted stock or bare root seedlings.

Funds raised from this sale will help the Benton SWCD provide funds for scholarship awards and educational programs about on-farm conservation practices throughout Benton County.

Return the order form to Benton SWCD, 1705 West D Street in Vinton by March 19, 2021. Call 319-472-2161 ext.3 with any questions.

2021 TREE SALE ORDER FORM
BENTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Address | |
| City, State Zip Code | |
| Phone | |
| Email | |

Evergreen Trees and Hybrid Willows are being offered only as potted plants. All species of deciduous trees and shrubs are being offered as both bare root seedlings and as potted plants. Unless noted elsewhere, potted trees (the evergreens and the deciduous trees) and the potted shrubs will be 2-3' tall in a 1-gallon pot. Bare root deciduous trees and shrubs will typically be a little smaller at 18-30" tall.

EVERGREEN TREES & HYBRID WILLOW

| Species | Description | Potted | |
|---|---|----------|----------|
| | | # Potted | Subtotal |
| Eastern Red Cedar | Native, hardy tough tree, 40' tall, lives 100+ years, Best for outside rows in sandy soils. | | \$36.00 |
| Eastern White Pine | Native, hardy, fast growing, grows 100'+ tall, lives 100+ years | | \$36.00 |
| Norway Spruce | Very hardy, fast growth, grows 100'+ tall, lives 100+ years | | \$36.00 |
| Serbian Spruce | Medium growth, silvery & green color, hardy on well-drained soil. Grows well in high PH soils | | \$36.00 |
| Canaan Fir | 40' tall. From West Virginia. Needles: blue above, silver below, doing well in lowa. Fast growing | | \$36.00 |
| Techny Arborvitae | Hardy. Dark green foliage. Pyramidal shape. 25' tall. Good choice for outside row of windbreaks | | \$36.00 |
| Austree Hybrid Willow | Deciduous. Very fast growing (6-10' per year) and tops out at 50-60' in around 7 years. Does not spread by suckers like other willows. For optimal growth, control competing vegetation and have adequate moisture. Comes 4-8' tall in a 1-gallon pot | | \$36.00 |
| Evergreen Trees & Hybrid Willow Totals | | | \$36.00 |

DECIDUOUS TREES

| Species | Description | Bare Root | | Potted | |
|------------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| | | # Bare Root | Subtotal | # Potted | Subtotal |
| Bur Oak | Valuable brown wood, rot resistant, Likes good to poor soils, medium growth, best for tough conditions, sweet acorns. White oak subfamily. | | \$7.00 | | \$49.00 |
| Red Oak | Valuable red colored wood, upland species, fast growth, red leaves in fall | | \$7.00 | | \$49.00 |
| Swamp White Oak | Large rounded tree, does well in bottomlands, but not swampy ground. Large sweet acorns, White oak subfamily. | | \$7.00 | | \$49.00 |
| Black Walnut | Valuable dark, rot-resistant wood. Fast growth on well drained loam soils. | Not Available | Not Available | | \$49.00 |
| Hackberry | Valuable white wood. Likes good to fair soils, fast growth | | \$7.00 | | \$49.00 |
| Deciduous Tree Totals | | | \$7.00 | | \$49.00 |

SHRUBS – Excellent for outside windbreak rows and wildlife

| Species | Description | Bare Root | | | Potted | | |
|------------------------|---|-------------|----------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| | | # Bare Root | Bare Root Cost | Subtotal | # Potted | Potted Cost | Subtotal |
| Arrowwood Viburnum | Large rounded shrub, 6-10' tall. White flowers in spring & blue berries in fall for birds | | \$7.00 | | | \$20.00 | |
| Redosier Dogwood | 10' tall and 10' wide. Grows well in wet or dry soil | | \$7.00 | | | \$20.00 | |
| Highbush Cranberry | Rounded topped shrub, 12' tall x 10' wide. Reddish leaves, red berries in fall which hold on into winter. | | \$7.00 | | | \$20.00 | |
| Hazelnut | 10' tall and 10' wide. Grows in all soils. Small tasty nuts. | | \$7.00 | | | \$20.00 | |
| Nannyberry Viburnum | Large shrub or small tree, 12-18' tall, white flowers in spring & purple berries in fall | | \$7.00 | | | \$20.00 | |
| Shrub Totals | | | \$7.00 | | | \$20.00 | |

| TOTALS | Number of plants | Cost |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Evergreen Trees & Hybrid Willow Total | | |
| Deciduous Tree Total | | |
| Shrub Total | | |
| Totals | | |
| | | Sales Tax (7%) |
| | | Total Cost |

Orders are due by 4:30 p.m. Friday 19 March 2021.

Payment in the form of cash, check or money order is due at the time of the order.

Tree pick up is anticipated in the middle of April. Benton SWCD will communicate specific dates and locations for pick up by April 1st. At this time, we expect to have pick up locations in both the Southern and Northern parts of the County.

For assistance in filling out this form or planning what is needed contact the Benton SWCD Office at 319-472-5274 extension 3.

Benton-Tama Project

1705 W D Street
Vinton, IA 52349

COVID-19 Update

USDA office statuses are changing frequently in response to COVID19 trends. Staff presence is limited. Please call before you visit so that we are able help

Despite the challenges with COVID19, we are eager to continue serving our customers during this time. We have many programs and staff who can offer financial assistance or guidance as you work to meet your production and conservation goals. Our cost-share program signups are ongoing and we can take applications via email or snail mail. Give us a call today!

Vinton Office: (319)472-2161

Toledo Office: (641)484-3317

Waterloo Office: (319)296-3262

Contact Us

Rose Danaher

Benton-Tama Project Coordinator

Cell Phone: (515) 776-2764

Email: rose.danaher@iowaagriculture.gov

Benton SWCD

1705 W D Street
Vinton, IA 52349

Visit us online:

<http://www.bentontamanutrientreduction.org/>

Like us on Facebook: @BentonTamaWQI

Follow us on Twitter: @BentonTamaWQI

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Benton SWCD — Black Hawk SWCD — Tama SWCD



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