

Engaging Iowa's Soil and Water Conservation Districts with State Funded Cost Share Programs

***Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship –
Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality***

Will Myers – Field Services Bureau Chief

National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) - Idea Sharing Session

October 4th 2021



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

A True Partnership Effort – Implementing Conservation Programs in Iowa

- ◆ *IDALS administers several cost share programs – erosion, habitat, and water quality focused - to meet resource concerns on agricultural and urban lands*
- ◆ *Iowa has 100 SWCDs that are responsible for assisting with the administration and approval of many state funded conservation projects within each District*
- ◆ **SWCD Responsibilities**
 1. *Select which conservation practices are eligible from a IDALS-maintained list of practices*
 2. *Prioritize conservation practices based on local conservation priorities and resource concerns*
 3. *Set local policies associated with practice prioritization and funding allocation*
 4. *Review, rank and approve conservation project applications and completed practices*



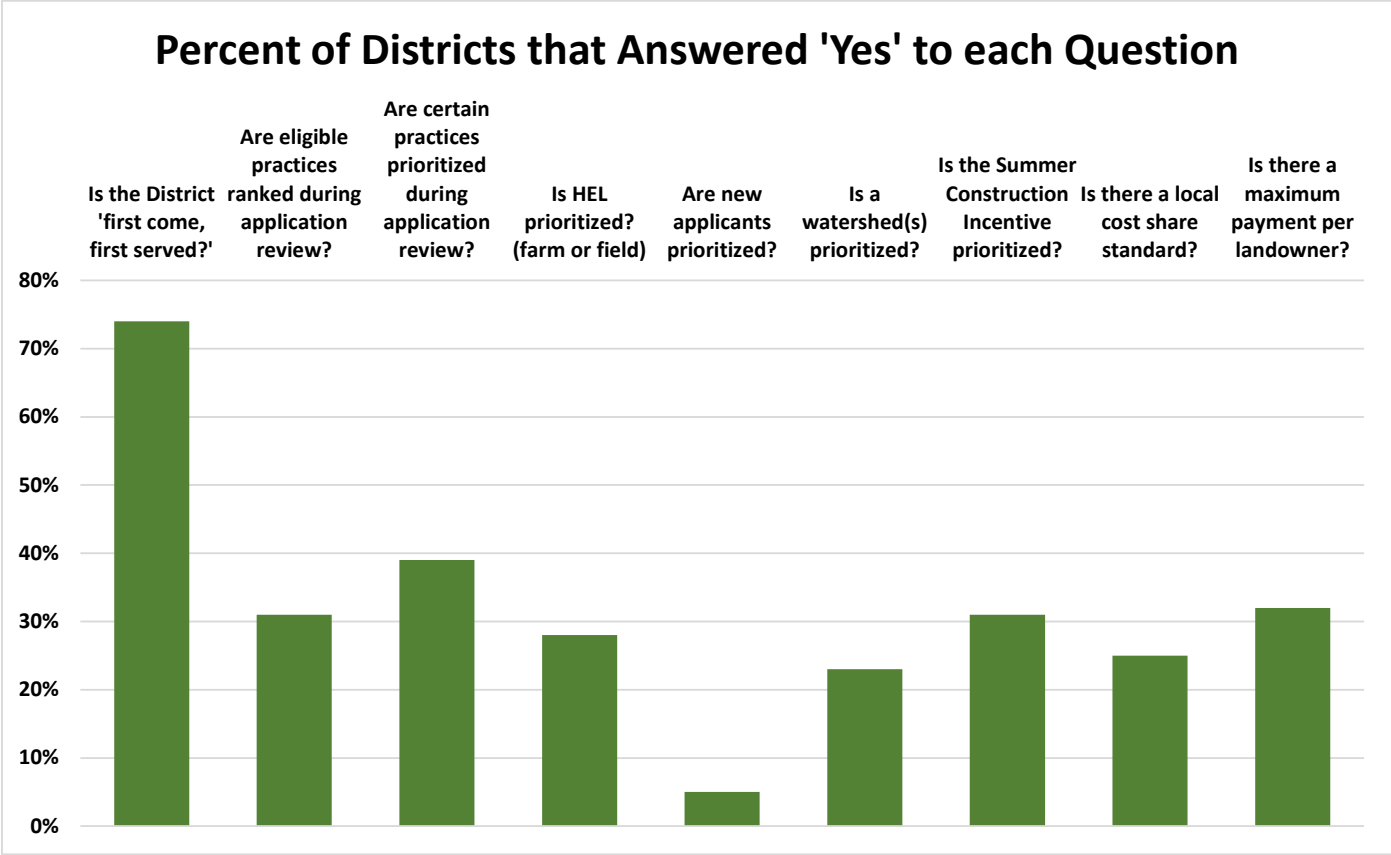
SWCD Priority Policies – How Districts Prioritize Conservation Funds

- ◆ *SWCDs review policies annually and make the policy available to the public*
- ◆ *Primary ranking and prioritization scenarios included:*



SWCD Prioritization and Ranking by the Numbers

District use of the 9 most common scenarios used in SWCD policies



IDALS Review and District Resource Guide

- ◆ *IDALS staff review District policies and share aggregate district data to SWCDs*
- ◆ *Summary data is shared so that SWCDs are aware of what others are doing, including:*
 - ◆ *Priority System*
 - ◆ *First come, first served*
 - ◆ *Prioritization of conservation practices*
 - ◆ *Ranking of applications based on practices, field, and applicant information*
 - ◆ *District material and practice estimates*
 - ◆ *Summary of District policies*
- ◆ *Encourage policy conversations to facilitate better representation and implementation of local conservation priorities*

Summary of IFIP and REAP District Program Policies



Prepared by the Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality, Field Services Bureau

July 2021



Please direct questions to

Rob Davis, Program Planner

Email: Rob.Davis@IowaAgriculture.gov

Phone: (515) 281-6148

Will Myers, Field Services Bureau Chief

Email: Will.Myers@IowaAgriculture.gov

Phone: (515) 725-1037



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
**AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP**