



IOWA LEAGUE of Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

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## Iowa League of RC&D's- Accomplishments -2010

**Mission:** The Iowa League of RC&Ds links individual RC&D Councils, informs the public about RC&D activities, advocates for public policy positions related to resource conservation development issues, and provides services to member councils.

**The following are 2010 Accomplishments of the Iowa League of RC&Ds based on the goals of the organization.**

### **Goal 1: Serve as the unified voice for the Iowa RC&Ds in addressing statewide or national issues.**

The Iowa League of RC&Ds:

- Packaged information about the Iowa RC&D Program and provided it to the Iowa Senators and Congressional Offices in Washington DC in Feb. of 2010.
- Organized and held a successful 2010 Legislative Breakfast in Feb. of 2010.
- Encouraged the Iowa Legislature to Appropriate \$150,000 for the 2011 Natural Resource Based Opportunity Grant Program. Sent out Requests for Proposals and organized scoring committee for review and recommendations.

### **Goal 2: Develop and Implement statewide projects involving multiple RC&D's utilizing the unique capacity of RC&D's to address natural resource and community concerns.**

The Iowa League of RC&Ds is:

- Enhancing the Iowa Byways Sustainability Project through a Rural Community Development Initiative Grant to provide funding to 7 RC&Ds for Byway Coordinators and project activities. Actions include stakeholder lists, byway council establishment, marketing, and statewide training events.
- Implementing a Local Food System project through a Rural Community Development Initiative Grant to provide funding to 5 RC&Ds working on local food system development. Activities include local stakeholder inventory, producer directories, establishing food councils, and developing fundraising plans.
- Utilizing a Conservation Innovation Grant from NRCS and to work with 5 RC&Ds in North Central Iowa to establish and operate a wetland mitigation bank for farmed wetlands. The project created a new non-profit to own and operate the wetland bank and has identified an initial site in Hancock County. Currently the project is completing the easement to acquire the property and is working on the wetland bank prospectus, instrument, restoration plan and other wetland mitigation bank documents. The Iowa Department of Agriculture- Division of Soil Conservation has signed a 28E agreement to provide up to \$500,000 towards the acquisition and establishment of the wetland bank. The goal is to sell credits and re-invest those moneys into additional bank sites in Iowa.
- Implementing a Farmers Market Promotion Program project that will work through 11 RC&Ds to provide financial assistance to 91 Farmers Markets across Iowa for the 2011 market season. Grant funds will be used for signage or advertising for the individual farmers markets.

### **Goal 3: Help member councils be more effective and efficient by providing services and resources.**

The Iowa League of RC&Ds:

- Organized and held a "Building a Stronger RC&D Council" workshop held in August of 2010 in Des Moines. The workshop was attended by Coordinators and council members from 6 states.
- Planned and held Iowa League Business meetings in Feb. and Sept that included RC&D Board training.
- Presented information to the South Dakota RC&D Association on building sustainable RC&Ds in May.
- Represented the Iowa RC&Ds at the 2010 Leadership Forum in Feb., the 2010 North Central RC&D Meeting in April, and 2010 National Partnership Leadership Conference in Dec.
- Represented the Iowa League of RC&Ds on the North Central RC&D Association Board and provided information for the NC RC&D newsletter.