



Want to learn more about prairie strips? Visit [goldenhillsrcd.org/prairie-strips](http://goldenhillsrcd.org/prairie-strips)



Golden Hills is partnering with the Prairie Strips Team at Iowa State University. Learn more at <https://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPS/>

A project of Golden Hills RC&D, in partnership with Iowa State University and other partners.



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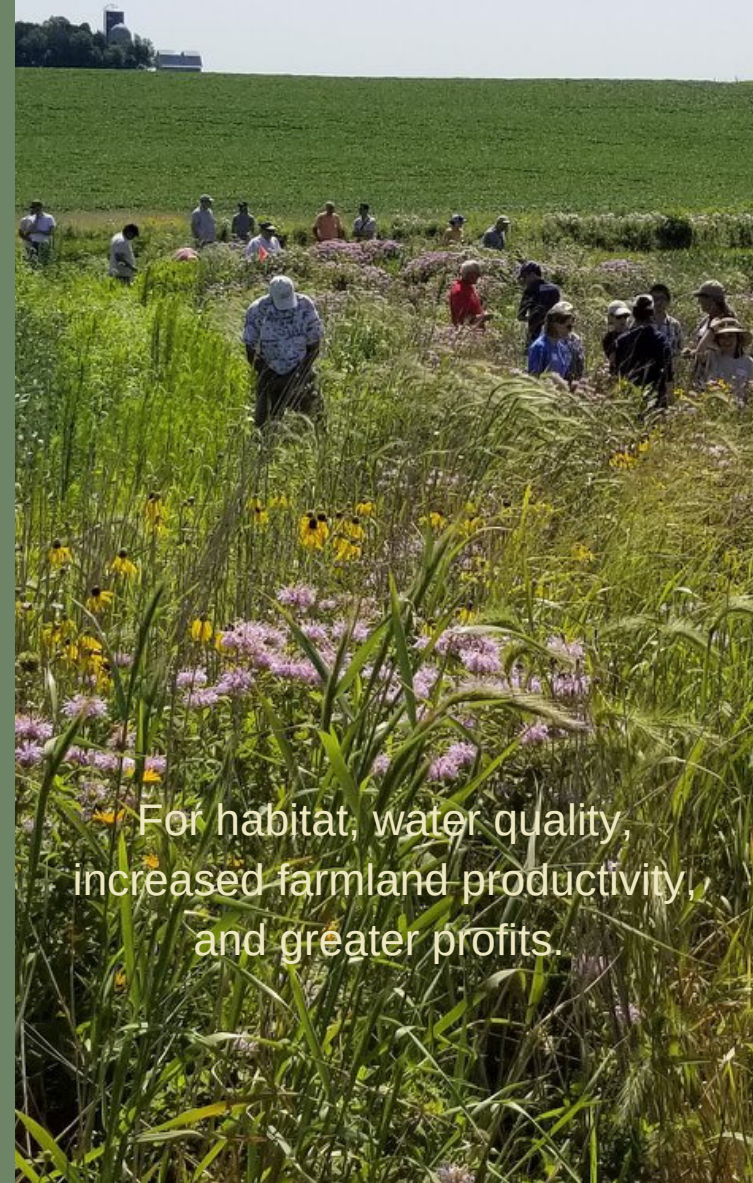


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# Prairie Strips

Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips



For habitat, water quality, increased farmland productivity, and greater profits.

# Costs and Assistance

- Based on ISU research, "converting a tenth of every acre from annual crop to prairie costs between \$28 to \$39 per year."
- Cost-share may be available through several Farm Bill programs
- Additional funding may be available in targeted watersheds



# What are Strips?

Prairie strips are strategic plantings of native grasses and forbs in agricultural fields. Typically about 10% of less-productive land is converted to strips, increasing productivity and profitability.

# Why Prairies?

Iowa owes its rich agricultural heritage to the deep, fertile topsoils created by the tallgrass prairie that once covered the region, yet the state has lost 99.9% of its native prairie. Diverse native plants have wide-ranging benefits for farmers, the public, wildlife, and more.

Prairie strips include a diverse population of deep-rooted native grasses and forbs. These plants evolved in Iowa's prairies and are well adapted to the climate and soils. Unlike cool-season grasses such as brome, the native plants are much better at withstanding heavy rain events and keeping topsoil in place.

Recent research indicates that such deluges are becoming increasingly common across the state. In addition to improving water quality, strips have the added benefits of slowing and reducing water quantity flowing into streams, which can decrease flood risks.

Prairie strips increase habitat acres for many species of birds, beneficial insects such as pollinators, and other wildlife. Hunting, fishing, birding, and wildlife-watching are all popular activities in rural Iowa and more habitat can improve these outdoor recreation opportunities. Beneficial insects and birds can also reduce pests that hurt crop production.