Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
2015 New Competitive Grant Projects – All Program Areas

ECOLOGY INITIATIVE

- Blurring the lines between working and conservation lands: Enhancing bird and pollinator habitat using prairie strips, $107,211, 3 yr; L. Schulte and M. Harris, ISU Natural Resource Ecology and Management [E2015-10] LOCATIONS TBD

- Crop diversity effects on soil organic matter and nitrate retention in surface and subsoils, $18,707, 2 yr; M. Castellano, H. Poffenbarger and M. Liebman, ISU Agronomy [E2015-17] BOONE COUNTY

- Impacts of landscape and on-farm diversity on the abundance and health of bee pollinators, $103,626, 3 yr; A. Toth, ISU Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology and Entomology [E2015-06] GRUNDY, HARDIN, MARSHALL and STORY counties

- Improving soil health and water quality through better soil phosphorus assessment and management practices, $65,500, 2 yr; A. Mallarino, ISU Agronomy [E2015-13] STATEWIDE

- Prairie contour strips: Demonstrating the importance of custom seed mix for biological integrity, $76,081, 2 yr; L. Jackson, Tallgrass Prairie Center, University of Northern Iowa [E2015-16] BLACK HAWK COUNTY AND OTHER LOCATIONS TBA

MARKETING AND FOOD SYSTEMS INITIATIVE


- Building producer capacity for institutional food distribution, $44,731, 2 yr; M. Temeyer, ISU Extension and Outreach Black Hawk County, Waterloo; Northern Iowa Food & Farm Partnership and University of Northern Iowa [M2015-09] BENTON, BLACK HAWK, BUCHANAN, BUTLER, GRUNDY and TAMA counties

- Increasing local food consumption in rural communities by partnering with non-traditional food retailers, $25,000, 1 yr; N. Mabe, Iowa Food Hub, West Union [M2015-06] ALLAMAKEE, CLAYTON, CHICKASAW, FAYETTE, HOWARD and WINNESHEIK counties

- Small-farm business development incubators for refugee farmers, $56,000, 2 yr; N. Wuertz, Lutheran Services in Iowa, Des Moines [M2015-13] POLK COUNTY

- Supply chain management for Iowa regional food systems, $50,785, 2 yr; C. Krejci, ISU Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, and A. Shaw, ISU Food Science and Human Nutrition [M2015-11] POLK, SHELBY and WINNESHEIK counties

POLICY INITIATIVE

- Protecting Iowa’s land legacy: Soil and water conservation policy – past, present and future, $62,500, 1 yr; N. Hamilton and M. Russell, Drake University Agricultural Law Center, Des Moines [P2015-01] STATEWIDE
Reducing local regulatory barriers to local foods Phase 2: Local foods and county zoning project, $22,000, 1 yr; G. Taylor, ISU Community and Regional Planning [P2015-05] STATEWIDE

**CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVE**

Budgeting for organic dairying, $7,974, 1 yr; L. Tranel, ISU Extension, Dubuque [XP2015-05] STATEWIDE

Impacts of contrasting rotation systems and weed management regimes on weed dynamics and agroecosystem health, $75,650, 3 yr; M. Liebman, ISU Agronomy [XP2015-02] BOONE county

Linking soil and water quality with crop performance across a continuum of tillage and management strategies, Years 2 and 3, $99,876, 2 yr; K. Delate, ISU Agronomy and Horticulture, C. Cambardella and M. Bakker, USDA National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, Ames [XP2015-03] ADAIR and BOONE counties

Long-term assessment of miscanthus productivity and sustainability (LAMPS), $79,555, 2 yr; E. Heaton, N. Boersma and C. Bonin, ISU Agronomy, and I. Anderson, University of Iowa [XP2015-12] BUENA VISTA, BOONE, JOHNSON and WASHINGTON counties

Sustainably growing Iowa’s beef herds: Evaluating systems that provide economic opportunities while protecting soil and water resources, $87,124, 3 yr; H. Sellers, ISU Extension, Chariton, P. Gunn, ISU Economics, and L. Schulz, ISU Animal Science [XP2015-15] STATEWIDE

For more information about competitive grant projects, contact the initiative leader: Jeri Neal, Ecology Initiative, (515) 294-5610, wink@iastate.edu; Craig Chase, Marketing and Food Systems Initiative, (515) 294-1854, cchase@iastate.edu; Mary Adams, Policy Initiative, (515) 294-5832, madams@iastate.edu; Malcolm Robertson, Cross-Cutting Initiative, (515) 294-1166, malcolmr@iastate.edu. Descriptions of these grants are available on the Leopold Center website at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/grants/current ALL CAPS indicates counties where work will be done.

The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture is a research center created by the 1987 Iowa Groundwater Protection Act and is located on the campus of Iowa State University. The Leopold Center’s mandated mission is to identify and reduce negative environmental and social impacts of farming and develop new ways to farm profitably while conserving natural resources.

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