

From the Iowa Groundwater Protection Act (Iowa Code 1989)

266.39 Leopold center for sustainable agriculture.

1. For the purposes of this section, "*sustainable agriculture*" means the appropriate use of crop and livestock systems and agricultural inputs supporting those activities which maintain economic and social viability while preserving the high productivity and quality of Iowa's land
2. The Leopold center for Sustainable agriculture is established in the Iowa agricultural and home economics experiment station at Iowa State University of science and technology. The center shall conduct and sponsor research to identify and reduce negative environmental and socio-economic impacts of agricultural practices.

The center also shall research and assist in developing emerging alternative practices that are consistent with a sustainable agriculture. The center shall develop in association with the Iowa cooperative extension service in agriculture and home economics an educational framework to inform the agricultural community and the general public of its findings.

3. An advisory board is established consisting of the following members:
 - a. Three persons from Iowa State University of science and technology, appointed by its president
 - b. Two persons from the State University of Iowa, appointed by its president
 - c. Two persons from the University of Northern Iowa, appointed by its president
 - d. Two representatives of private colleges and universities within the state, to be nominated by the Iowa association of independent colleges and universities, and appointed by the Iowa coordinating council for post-high school education.
 - e. One representative of the department of agriculture and land stewardship, appointed by the secretary of agriculture.
 - f. One representative of the department of natural resources, appointed by the director.
 - g. One man and one woman, actively engaged in agricultural production, appointed by the state soil conservation committee.

The terms of the members shall begin and end as provided in section 69.19 and any vacancy shall be filled by the original appointing authority. The terms shall be for four years and shall be staggered as determined by the president of Iowa State University of science and technology.

4. The Iowa agricultural and home economics experiment station shall employ a director for the center, who shall be appointed by the president of Iowa State University of science and technology.

The director of the center shall employ the necessary research and support staff. The director and staff shall be employees of Iowa State University of science and technology. No more than five hundred thousand dollars of the funds received from the agriculture management account annually shall be expended by the center for the salaries and benefits of employees of the center, including the salary and benefits of the director. The remainder of the funds received from the agriculture management account shall be used to sponsor research grants and projects on a competitive basis from Iowa colleges and universities and private nonprofit agencies and foundations. The center may also solicit additional grants and funding from public and private non-profit agencies and foundations. The director shall prepare an annual report.

5. The board shall provide the president of Iowa State University of science and technology with a list of three candidates from which the director shall be selected. The board shall provide an additional list of three candidates if requested by the president the board shall advise the director in the development of a budget, on the policies and procedures of the center, in the funding of research grant proposals, and regarding program planning and review.

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266.39B Research grants.

1. A comprehensive agricultural research program is established at the Leopold center for sustainable agriculture at Iowa state university of science and technology to provide financial assistance for agricultural research within Iowa. The Leopold center shall establish a grant program for projects designated by the general assembly and other projects deemed necessary for the betterment of agriculture within the state. All funds from the program shall be available to public and private entities in Iowa on a competitive grant basis. Approved research proposals shall meet all of the following criteria:
 - a. The research shall assist Iowa in maintaining productive soil, viable communities, and farms with incomes sufficient to support a family.
 - b. The research shall enhance the profitability of farmers.
 - c. The research shall lead to farming which enhances and preserves Iowa's environment.
2. The research grants shall include:
 - a. Long-term and basic research with preference given to projects which have no traditional funding sources or require a long period of time to produce positive or negative results.
 - b. Emergency response research with preference given to projects which relate to issues expected to address problems occurring within the next five years, which relate to problems that could have substantial social and economic costs, or which offer research opportunities that may be lost if a delay occurs.
 - c. Grants available for matching federal or private funds for projects which are a necessary component of other grants or will produce the highest ratio of outside funds to state funds.
 - d. Crop and livestock research relating to the growth, processing, or marketing of agricultural output, the enhancement of the quality of crops, the lowering of the costs of production, or the avoidance of contamination to food, water, or soil.
 - e. Alternative crop research to enhance the opportunity for self-employment, to promote site-appropriate crops, to assist the state in becoming more self-sufficient in food and energy resources, to grow, process, and market new crops, or to develop the infrastructure to support new crops.
 - f. Research dissemination which will expand the knowledge of potential producers, or will collect, create, or disseminate agricultural knowledge, which will encourage the exchange of agriculturally related information among researchers, or which will provide access to farmers to information resources related to agriculture.
 - g. Agriculture health and safety research to identify, investigate, and increase awareness of agriculture safety problems, develop practical solutions to agriculture safety problems, develop ways to increase awareness and use of safety practices and devices, to improve medical professionals' ability to diagnose farm-related problems, or to reduce the accident and mortality rate in the agricultural industry.