

There Has Never Been a Better Time to Protect Your Farm and Rathbun Lake!

Soil Erosion Threatens Farmland and Rathbun Lake

Farming in southern Iowa comes with plenty of challenges. One of these challenges is the potential for soil erosion on land used to produce row crops. If left unchecked, soil erosion can severely damage affected areas of fields causing a long-term loss of farm productivity. Fortunately, landowners and their farm operators can install conservation practices that will help control soil erosion on many row crop fields. In some cases, the threat of soil erosion is so great that landowners and operators must consider changing the land use on fields from row crops to pasture or hay production. These decisions to apply conservation practices or change land use not only protect farmland, but they also reduce the amount of sediment carried in runoff to water bodies like Rathbun Lake. Rathbun Lake is the only source of water for Rathbun Regional Water Association's (RRWA) two water treatment plants. RRWA supplies drinking water to the rural areas of more than 18 counties and 63 communities in southern Iowa and northern Missouri.

Assistance is Available to Install Conservation Practices

Landowners in the Rathbun Lake watershed can apply for assistance to install conservation practices on their farms from the Protect Rathbun Lake Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project. RCPP is a program of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The program combines local, state, and federal funds and staff to assist landowners install conservation practices that will help control soil erosion on their farms and protect water quality in Rathbun Lake. The practices most often installed by landowners in the Rathbun Lake watershed include terraces, grade stabilization structures (ponds), water and sediment control basins, cover crops, grassed waterways, and pasture and hay planting. Professional staff assist landowners to plan, design, and install these practices. For most practices, landowners can receive financial assistance that will cover 75% of the installation cost.



Apply Now to the Protect Rathbun Lake RCPP Project

Landowners who would like assistance to control soil erosion on their farms in the Rathbun Lake watershed can apply to the Protect Rathbun Lake RCPP Project. Interested landowners should visit or call their local soil and water conservation district (SWCD) office. The addresses and phone numbers for SWCD offices in the watershed can be found on the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship website at <https://costshare.iowaagriculture.gov/districts>.