

Engaging Iowa's Soil and Water Conservation Districts with State Funded Cost Share Programs

***Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship –
Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality***

Will Myers – Field Services Bureau Chief

National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) - Idea Sharing Session

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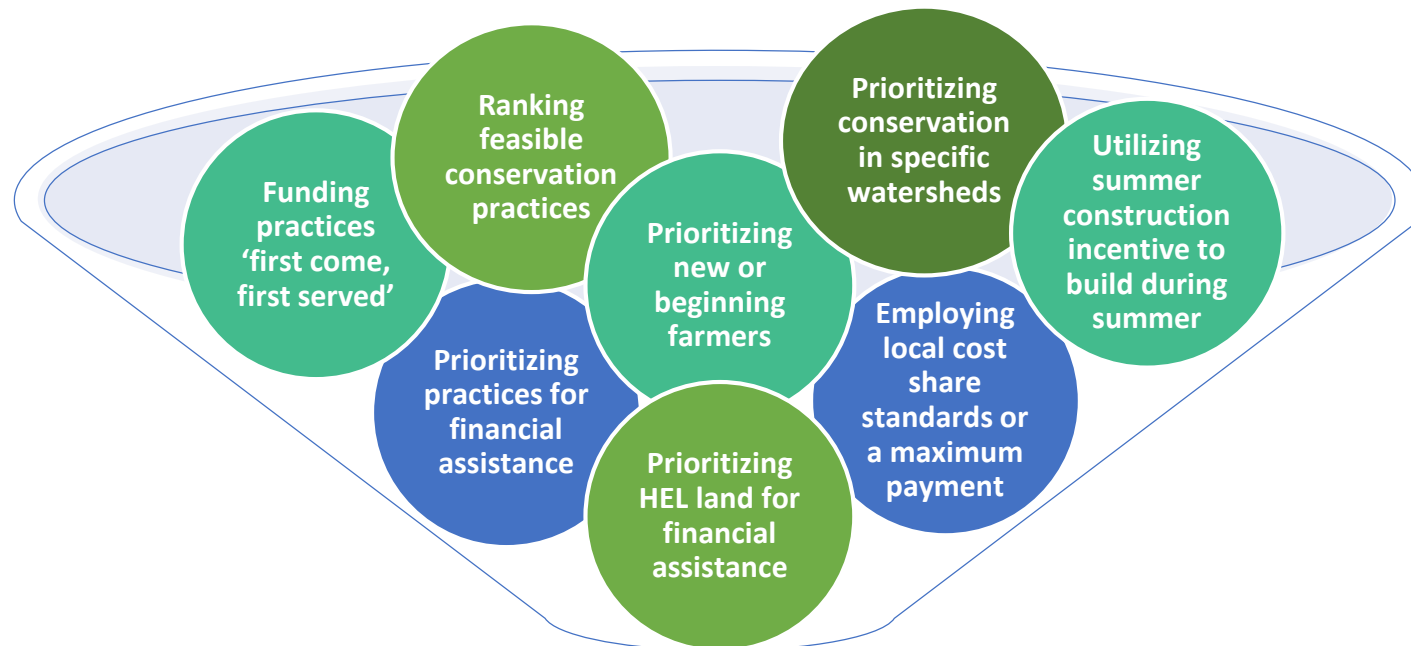
A True Partnership Effort – Implementing Conservation Programs in Iowa

- ◆ *IDALS administers several cost share programs – erosion, habitat, and water quality focused - to meet resource concerns on agricultural and urban lands*
- ◆ *Iowa has 100 SWCDs that are responsible for assisting with the administration and approval of many state funded conservation projects within each District*
- ◆ *SWCD Responsibilities*
 1. *Select which conservation practices are eligible from a IDALS-maintained list of practices*
 2. *Prioritize conservation practices based on local conservation priorities and resource concerns*
 3. *Set local policies associated with practice prioritization and funding allocation*
 4. *Review, rank and approve conservation project applications and completed practices*



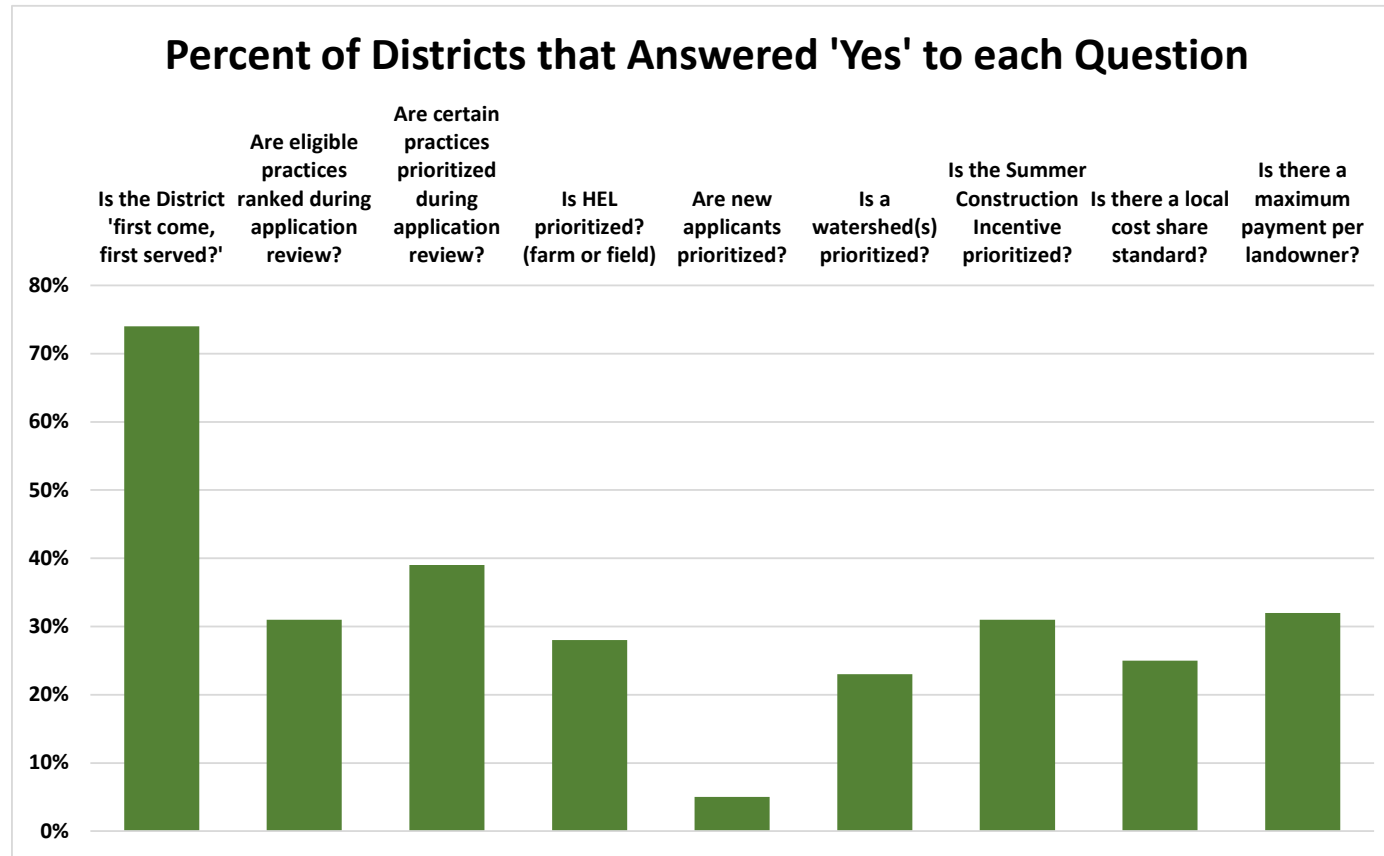
SWCD Priority Policies – How Districts Prioritize Conservation Funds

- ◆ *SWCDs review policies annually and make the policy available to the public*
- ◆ *Primary ranking and prioritization scenarios included:*



SWCD Prioritization and Ranking by the Numbers

District use of the 9 most common scenarios used in SWCD policies



IDALS Review and District Resource Guide

- ◆ *IDALS staff review District policies and share aggregate district data to SWCDs*
- ◆ *Summary data is shared so that SWCDs are aware of what others are doing, including:*
 - ◆ *Priority System*
 - ◆ *First come, first served*
 - ◆ *Prioritization of conservation practices*
 - ◆ *Ranking of applications based on practices, field, and applicant information*
 - ◆ *District material and practice estimates*
 - ◆ *Summary of District policies*
- ◆ *Encourage policy conversations to facilitate better representation and implementation of local conservation priorities*

Summary of IFIP and REAP District Program Policies



Prepared by the Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality, Field Services Bureau

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