

Who can help me with....

Who can I call for general questions about prescribed fire?

- Matt Graeve, The Nature Conservancy
- Your local NRCS office
- Your County Conservation Board

Who can help me write a burn plan?

- Matt Graeve, The Nature Conservancy
- Your local NRCS office

Who can help me conduct a burn?

- Matt Graeve, The Nature Conservancy
- NRCS may have other recommendations

Who can help me find information on cost-share programs for prescribed fire?

- Your local NRCS office

Who can answer questions about burn bans, local fire departments, and disaster-related situations?

- Emergency Management Coordinators

See following pages for contact information specific to your county.....

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| Loess Hills | <p>Matt Graeve Land Stewardship Specialist The Nature Conservancy 403 North 2nd Street Council Bluffs, IA 51503 Phone: (402)490-7036 E-mail: mgraeve@tnc.org</p> |
| Fremont County | <p>USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Sidney Service Center 503 West Street Sidney, IA 51652 Phone: (712)374-2691 District Conservationist: Brian Gross Phone: (712)374-2014 E-mail: brian.gross@ia.usda.gov</p> <p>Fremont County Conservation Board RR 1 Box 117 Sidney, IA 51640 Phone: (712)374-2347</p> <p>Emergency Management Coordinator Don Bartholomew Phone: (712)374-2801</p> |
| Harrison County | <p>USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Logan Service Center 715 N 2nd Ave. Logan, IA 51546 Phone: (712)644-2040 District Conservationist: Russell Kurth Phone: (712)644-2210 E-mail: russell.kurth@ia.usda.gov</p> <p>Harrison County Conservation Board 2725 Easton Trail Woodbine, IA 51579 Phone: (712)647-2785 Website: www.HarrisonCountyParks.org</p> <p>Emergency Management Coordinator Jim Umruh Phone: (712)644-2353</p> |

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| Mills County | USDA Natural Resource Conservation Center Malvern Service Center 204 W 5th St PO Box 190 Malvern, IA 51551 Main Office: (712)624-8668 District Conservationist: Marvin Freed Phone: (712)624-8606 E-mail: marvin.freed@ia.usda.gov |
| | Mills County Conservation Board 56235 Deacon Rd Pacific Junction, IA 51561 Phone: (712)527-9685 Website: www.millscoia.us/consboard/consmap.html |
| | Emergency Management Coordinator Vern Knudtson Phone: (712)527-3643 |
| Monona County | USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Onawa Service Center/SSPO PO Box 118 Onawa, IA 51040 Main Office: (712)423-1311 District Conservationist: Kathy Schneider Phone: (712)423-2624 E-mail: kathy.schneider@ia.usda.gov |
| | Monona County Conservation Board 318 East Iowa St Onawa, IA 51040 Phone: (712)433-2400 Website: www.geocities.com/monona_county/board.htm |
| | Emergency Management Coordinator Donna Shaw Phone: (712)423-1294 |
| Plymouth County | USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Le Mars Service Center 1100A 12th ST SW Le Mars, IA 51031 Phone: (712)546-4178 District Conservationist: James Lahn Phone: (712)546-8858 E-mail: james.lahn@ia.usda.gov |
| | Plymouth County Conservation Board 25601 C60 Box 1033 Hinton, IA 51024 Phone: (712)947-4270 Website: www.plymouthcountyparks.com |
| | Emergency Management Coordinator Steven Musson Phone: (712)546-8154 |

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| Pottawattamie County | USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Council Bluffs Service Center 305 McKenzie Avenue Council Bluffs, IA 51503 Phone: (712)328-2489 District Conservationists: Dale DuVal Phone: (712)328-2489 E-mail: dale.duval@ia.usda.gov |
| | Pottawattamie County Conservation Board 223 South 6th St, Courthouse Council Bluffs, IA 51501 Phone: (712)328-5638 Website: www.pottcoconservation.com |
| | Emergency Management Coordinator Terry Hummel (712)328-5777 |
| Woodbury County | USDA Natural Resources Conservation Center Sergeant Bluff Service Center PO Box 725 Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054 Phone: (712)943-2727 District Conservationist: Jerry Sindt Phone: (712)943-6727 E-mail: jerry.sindt@ia.usda.gov |
| | Woodbury County Conservation Board 4500 Sioux River Rd. Sioux City, IA 51109 Phone: (712)258-0838 Website: www.woodburyparks.com |
| | Emergency Management Coordinator Gary Brown Phone: (712)876-2212 |

Let's Split the Bill....

There are a number of opportunities for landowners to receive cost-share assistance when conducting a prescribed burn on their land. The Stewardship Initiative of the Loess Hills is just one program designed to assist private landowners in prairie restoration and grazing land management in Iowa's Loess Hills. Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development, located in Oakland, Iowa and the Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee are working together to protect the Loess Hills natural resources through the Stewardship Initiative by offering cost share and technical assistance on grassland management tools such as prescribed fire.

- Program:** Stewardship Initiative in the Loess Hills
- Eligible Participants:** Landowners with land ownership anywhere in the Loess Hills landform
Criteria for prairie quality must be met
- Available cost-share:** Based on a 60:40 ratio (landowner pays directly for practice and is reimbursed 60 % of the total bill)

Example: If a shearing bill from a contractor totals \$250/acre, the landowner pays the contractor \$250/acre and the Stewardship Initiative Program reimburses the landowner \$150/acre.

Practices and cost-share rates:

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| Prescribed Fire..... | price quoted from qualified burn crew |
| Firebreaks..... | \$.046/ft if landowner is installing (based on 60:40 if hired done) |
| Shearing..... | \$250-\$300/acre |
| Hand Clearing..... | \$160-300/acre |
| Oak Savanna Restoration..... | \$150/acre (thinning and spot treatments) |
| Mechanical Brush Removal by Mowing.... | \$60/acre for alleyway development |

Contact for more information: Golden Hills RC&D
712 South Highway 6
P.O. Box 189
Oakland, IA 51560-0189
Phone: (712)482-3029

NRCS Programs

NRCS offers free technical assistance on a voluntary basis to landowners to help them conserve and protect the soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources on their land. Several programs are available that include cost-share on practices to control invasive vegetation and restore native grasslands. Program priorities, participant eligibility, and cost share rates vary according to districts. Contact your local field office for information specific to your county. (See following page for program descriptions.)

| Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs and Cost Share Practices | | | |
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| County | Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) | Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) | Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) |
| Fremont | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush Management • Grazing systems that include Brush Management and/or Prescribed Fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Fire • Brush Management | |
| Harrison | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Fire • Brush Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Fire • Brush Management | |
| Mills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Fire • Brush Management • Grazing systems that include Brush Management and/or Prescribed Fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Fire • Brush Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush Management |
| Monona | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Fire • Brush Management • Grazing systems that include Brush Management and/or Prescribed Fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Fire • Brush Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Fire • Brush Management |
| Plymouth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush Management • Grazing systems that include Brush Management and/or Prescribed Fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush Management |
| Pottawattamie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush Management • Grazing systems that include Brush Management and/or Prescribed Fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Fire • Brush Management | |
| Woodbury | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Fire • Brush Management • Grazing systems that include Brush Management and/or Prescribed Fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Fire • Brush Management | |

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Purpose: To provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to develop and implement conservation plans that address specific natural resource concerns.

Practices: Livestock manure management, grazing land management, soil erosion control, and water quality improvement practices are eligible for cost-share statewide. Assistance for other practices is available in selected priority areas.

Eligibility: Agricultural producers on agricultural land are eligible. Projects are selected based on environmental benefits per United States dollar expended.

Contract: Up to 10 year contracts. Agricultural producers may be eligible for up to 75% cost-share, and up to \$450,000 for all contracts for the length of the 2002 Farm Bill.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Purpose: To develop or improve fish and wildlife habitat on privately owned land through the application of a conservation plan.

Practices: Seeding, tree and shrub plantings, fencing, instream structures, and prairie restoration.

Eligibility: Almost any type of land is eligible, including agricultural and non-agricultural land, woodlots, pastures, and streambanks.

Contract: Usually 5-10 years to install and maintain the habitat. Up to 75% of restoration costs, to a maximum of \$25,000. Other organizations may provide the remaining 25% cost-share.

Iowa Water Protection Fund (REAP)

Purpose: To provide funding for water quality improvement practices in watersheds above priority lakes and streams, and to protect ground water.

Practices: Farmstead windbreak, field windbreak, timber stand improvement, tree planting, site preparation for natural regeneration, rescue treatment, riparian forest buffer, prescribed grazing systems, and conservation cover.

Eligibility: SWCDs, landowners, and operators in approved Water Quality Projects.

Contract: Permanent practices require 20-year maintenance agreements. Management practices require performance agreements.

Burn Crews and Landowner Training

Private-Lands Mobile Prescribed Burn Crews

With fear over liability and inexperience conducting prescribed burns, landowners have been reluctant to burn on their own. So, the Loess Hills team in Iowa recently created a mobile prescribed fire crew capable of planning and implementing prescribed burns on private lands. Thanks to support from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Loess Hills Alliance, and DNR Landowner Incentive Program, cost-share funds are available for landowners to hire the fire crew. Landowners provide 50% of the total cost, which is averaging approximately \$25 per acre.

For more information contact Matt Graeve (Loess Hills Burn Crew Leader) at The Nature Conservancy (402)490-7036.

Prescribed Fire Training for Landowners

To counteract misconceptions and inexperience related to the use of fire as a management tool, the Loess Hills team has offered educational workshops and formal prescribed fire training to landowners. Since 2000, they have had more than 125 attendees at nine workshops. In the spring of 2004, a landowner who attended a workshop worked with his neighbors to burn approximately 1,000 acres.

These workshops are held in the spring and fall seasons at various locations throughout the Loess Hills. For a list of future workshops, contact Susanne Hickey at The Nature Conservancy's Loess Hills Program office at (402)558-8099.

Loess Hills Prescribed Fire Caches

The Loess Hills Alliance in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established a cache of fire equipment in each of the 7 counties in the Loess Hills. This cache is available for private citizens to utilize in the management of natural areas in the Loess Hills region. It is highly recommended that anyone utilizing the fire equipment have participated in a prescribed burn workshop. These workshops are held in the spring and fall seasons at various locations throughout the Loess Hills. For a list of future workshops, contact Susanne Hickey at The Nature Conservancy's Loess Hills Program office at (402)558-8099.

| Organization | Location | Equipment |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Plymouth County Conservation Board (712) 947-4270 | Hinton, IA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-wheel Polaris ATV • 50 gallon pumper unit and trailer • Fire cache equipment* • 5 personal fire equipment bags** |
| Woodbury County Conservation Board (712) 258-0838 | Sioux City, IA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 125 gallon slip-on pumper unit • Fire cache equipment • 5 personal fire equipment bags |
| Monona County Conservation Board (712) 433-2400 | Onawa, IA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire cache equipment • 5 personal fire equipment bags |
| Loess Hills State Forest (712) 456-2924 | Pisgah, IA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-wheel Polaris ATV • 50 gallon pumper unit and trailer |
| Harrison County Conservation Board (712) 647-2785 | Woodbine, IA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slip-on pumper unit (125 gallon) • Fire cache equipment • 5 personal fire equipment bags |
| Pottawattamie County Conservation Board (712) 545-3283 | Hitchcock Nature Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire cache equipment • 5 personal fire equipment bags |
| Mills County Conservation Board (712) 527-9685 | Pacific Junction, IA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 125 gallon slip-on pumper unit • Fire cache equipment • 5 personal fire equipment bags |
| Loess Hills Alliance The Nature Conservancy Matt Graeve (402) 490-7036 | Pisgah, IA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dodge truck • Cascade slip-on pumper unit • 2 slip-on pumper units • 2 Polaris ATVs • Trailer • 1 mobile radio • 12 handheld radios • 1 camera • 2 chainsaws • 2 leafblowers |

*Fire cache equipment includes: Fire hose set (hose, nozzle, reducer and shut-off valve), fire rake, 2 drip torches, 4 fire flappers, hand pump, belt weather kit, 3 radios, and two canteens.

**Personal Fire Equipment Bag: Nomex pants and Nomex shirt, leather gloves, canteen and canteen case, field pack, field pack belt, field pack harness, backpack pump, first aid kit, safety goggles, and firefighter helmet

Each fire cache location determines rental rates, if any. To request use of the fire cache, contact the office where equipment is located.