

Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Points on the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, April 11, 2017

- For 30 years, Iowa State University's Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture has maintained a highly relevant program of support for research and extension education of importance to Iowans.
- The center sponsors research and extension education on key issues in agriculture for Iowa and the nation. Often the center has served as the catalyst to research that eventually makes its way into everyday practice — by farmers, business people and communities. In this way, the center's work demonstrates the critically important integration of the research and extension missions of the university.
- The center has earned a national reputation for exploring innovative, profitable approaches to farming that conserve natural resources and stimulate local economies.
- Selected examples include streamside buffer strips (a nationally recognized water quality model); alternative pork and beef production systems; many water quality practices highlighted in the statewide Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy (including cover crops and bioreactors) can be traced back to support from the center; and development and support of local foods production and marketing systems that reward entrepreneurship and boost rural economic development.
- Also, the Leopold Center is a partner on Iowa State's research team for a nationally recognized water quality improvement project called the Science-based Trials of Row-crops Integrated with Prairie Strips, or STRIPS. In the past year the project has received national media and policy attention, including a highlight in a report to Congress on university research successes. The team's work has been made possible through the support of competitive grants awarded by the Leopold Center, and the leverage of those funds with partnering organizations.
- The center also has helped advance the education of Iowa State graduate students through research experiences and related activities.
- The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture is strongly committed to maximizing and sustaining its investment in mission-oriented programs. The director, Dr. Mark Rasmussen, ensures the center is an efficiently run operation that continues its 30-year record of investment in innovative research and the sharing of research findings with the agriculture community and the public.