



Legislative Proposals for 2009

- 1) **Crep/Wetlands Funding** – The IDDA supports an increased state appropriation from the “Environment First” fund for the Crep/Wetlands program. Every dollar appropriated by the state is able to leverage four federal dollars. The current state appropriation level is \$1.5 million. IDALS has requested that the appropriation increase to \$2 million. The program currently has a waiting list of interested landowners. An increased state appropriation would allow increased construction of nitrate removal wetlands providing increased protection for Iowa’s water.
- 2) **Regulation of Wetlands** - The IDDA opposes any legislative proposal to empower the state of Iowa to regulate the dredging or filling of isolated wetlands. The dredging or filling of the majority of these isolated wetlands is already subject to review and regulation under provisions of the farm bill or local subdivision approval and building permit authorities. The state of Iowa cannot afford and ought not to divert precious resources toward creation of a needless regulatory bureaucracy.
- 3) **Wetland Structures** – Under the CREP program, landowners install wetlands to assist in the removal of nitrate from tile drained water. The CREP program requires that the landowner assume maintenance of these structures, once built. This responsibility has been an impediment to landowner participation in the CREP program. IDDA supports legislation that would allow drainage districts, on a voluntary basis, to enter into agreements with landowners that would provide for the maintenance of these or similar facilities. Such agreements would also provide for the allocation of converted wetland credits and the disposition of the facilities once the agreement was terminated. These facilities would be an “improvement” under drainage law and would have to meet all the applicable statutory requirements.
- 4) **Ag Drainage Well Closure** – There are currently about 140 Ag drainage wells in active use – acting as direct chemical pipelines into drinking water supplies.

IDDA supports an increased state appropriation for the Ag drainage well closure program. The state is requesting \$1.48 million for this program.

- 5) Drainage/Flood Prevention** – The state is looking at a number of initiatives that involve drainage and flood control issues. These initiatives include; a) Research farm to understand the flow of water on certain practices - \$300,000 b) Cost share monies in targeted watersheds to build up and increase capacity in water retention basins and terraces - \$1.5 million c) Hydrology experts to assist with understanding and planning of water flow - \$150,000 d) Use of LIDAR technology for watershed and water management planning - \$300,000 The total cost of this initiative is \$2.25 million. IDDA supports this initiative.