



ACWA
Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance

MISSION:

**IDENTIFY AND ADVANCE SOLUTIONS THAT
REDUCE NUTRIENT LOSS, BUILD HEALTHIER
SOILS, AND IMPROVE IOWA'S WATERS.**

VISION:

**ACWA IS RECOGNIZED FOR ITS ABILITY TO BUILD
UPON ITS MEMBERS' EXTENSIVE RELATIONSHIPS
WITH FARMERS TO IMPROVE IOWA'S WATERS.**



Why Join Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance (ACWA)

Our rich history, rooted in data collection and supported by successful execution of projects, drives our commitment to creating measurable, sustainable improvements.

We help farmers identify and adopt conservation practices that are profitable, consistent with proactive stewardship and are sustainable.

We advocate on behalf of our collaborative group of agricultural retailers and manufacturers that share the vision of a more sustainable practices for Iowa.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST VALUE ACWA BRINGS TO YOU/YOUR ORGANIZATION?



ACWA and the ACWA conservation agronomist have the unique ability to provide hands-on training to thousands of farmers annually to have a positive impact on soil health, nutrient and water stewardship. At Corteva, one of our key sustainability goals is to provide training to 25 million farmers by 2030. On an annual basis, when you couple the impactful training ACWA conducts and the thousands of farmers we train globally, we are going to be able to reach this key sustainability goal we set forth.



Dr. Eric Scherder

U.S. Crop Protection-Commercial
Launch Leader,
Corteva Agriscience™



Three Core Pillars of ACWA

Science to Solutions

FOR WATER MONITORING & EVALUATION

Leader & Advocate

IN WATER QUALITY & SOIL HEALTH

Innovate & Sustain

SOIL HEALTH & WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

Read on to learn more.





Science to Solutions

FOR WATER MONITORING & EVALUATION

BASILINE WATER QUALITY MONITORING

ACWA evaluates and analyzes water quality samples throughout watersheds, tributaries, and rivers where many Iowans collect their drinking water. This has allowed the ACWA to monitor improvements in soil health and how this impacts water quality. This is one of the most extensive in the state.

SOIL HEALTH & WATER QUALITY EVALUATION & TRACKING

Given our water quality monitoring capabilities, we can fully evaluate the impacts of various sustainable practices such as: Edge of Field Tile Line Drainage, Field Improvement Practices on Tile Line Discharge, Watershed Improvements, and Impacts on Water Quality. These are just a few examples of the types of practices we monitor annually that can and have scientifically shown to have a positive impact on soil health and water quality.

COMMUNICATION & SCIENTIFIC OUTREACH

ACWA's unique partnerships enables us to disseminate and reach a greater audience than any one member could or would have the ability to do.

Utilizing science to develop sustainable solutions to soil health and water quality is the long-term approach ACWA and its members have taken for the future of conservation in Iowa agriculture.



Leader & Advocate

IN WATER QUALITY & SOIL HEALTH

LEADERSHIP VOICE


When ACWA speaks, we represent more than just its members — we speak to interested farmers, citizens in the communities, to state and national leaders; we represent our membership and their customers — Iowa farmers. We represent their concerns, values and beliefs on ways to positively impact soil health and water quality. Individually, it would be nearly impossible for a single farmer or one of our members alone to have the same positive impact that ACWA's voice continues to have in the conservation arena.

COOPERATIVE SUSTAINABILITY

Since ACWA is a valued and trusted science-driven resource, ACWA experts are asked to speak at members' local meetings and functions with customers to further advance and promote nutrient reduction efforts and their impacts on long-term soil health and water quality.

LEADER IN ADVANCING AGRICULTURE SOLUTIONS

Our historical experiences in obtaining 3rd party funding have allowed us to be successful in procuring funding from local WQI projects from IDALS, RCPP and MRBI projects from USDA . We also have active involvement in the Mississippi River Basin Nutrient Reduction dialogues, US Water Alliance initiatives and active participants in Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy development. It is this kind of track record that demonstrates ACWA is a unifying leader in water quality and conservation across the state of Iowa



Innovate & Sustain

SOIL HEALTH & WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

CONTROLLED DRAINAGE Key for Iowa agronomic performance. Controlled drainage has been evaluated as an easy and sustainable solution to minimize nitrate loss and increase overall water holding capacity during later stages of crop growth.

SATURATED BUFFERS An edge-of-field practice that allows drainage water to be distributed through a non-crop buffer to allow the natural ecosystem to remove nitrates and other dissolved nutrients that would normally enter our drainage systems and rivers. These practices are 100% paid through the Farm to River Partnership.

BIOREACTORS Starting in 2008, ACWA was one of the first to evaluate and monitor this system for its ability to improve water quality coming from IA fields.

COVER CROPS Cover crop adoption has been on the rise in the state for its positive impacts on soil health and water quality improvements. ACWA has been increasing the awareness of this simple solution with over 6000+ new acres each year enrolled in our water quality improvement programs 2019-2020.

TWO-STAGE DITCHES Two stage ditches are a sustainable approach to handle low and high-flow grassed floodplain in the second stage to reduce sediment erosion and increase nitrate uptake with these established grasses.

WETLAND RECONSTRUCTION It is hard to duplicate as effectively as what mother-nature can do. In many instance, reconstruction of wetlands is one way to have a huge positive impact on the environment with a long-term sustainable solution. At the same time these areas tend to be less productive areas of a field because of their location and current drainage constraints. ACWA is committed to working with our members and their customers to identify these areas where this solution can work and have positive conservation impacts.

CONSERVATION AGRONOMISTS

The term conservation agronomist is not common in the agriculture industry, but ACWA members are advocating for it to become a standard position in Iowa Ag Retail business. With the Farm to River Partnership Water Quality Initiative (WQI) managed by ACWA, these agronomists carry the same knowledge as field agronomists, but focus their time on conservation agriculture issues like nutrient runoff and erosion control.

ACWA is no stranger to innovative concepts and the conservation agronomist is the next step of working with our Ag Retailer members. These ACWA members were crucial in the molding and the development of these newly created and funded positions. After just one short year, the positive impacts within the state are easily viewed with further expansion planned in the upcoming years. These agronomists are a critical part of water conservation and quality as they help farmers recognize and adopt practical conservation practices that are not only profitable, but have meaningful impact on sustainable changes throughout Iowa.

DEDICATED SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

ACWA continues to evaluate new and innovative projects — the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to the Elk Run, Farm to River Partnership WQI, along with the targeted watershed programs by the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI).

ACWA continues to push boundaries by bringing a diverse group of partners together for the greater good of Iowa farmers. ACWA's collaborative approach increases the overall impact, more than any single member could do on their own, and is why ACWA member involvement is strategically high with these programs.

WHAT IS THE MOST COMPELLING REASON TO JOIN ACWA?



It creates the conduit to immediately become engaged in the environmental issues impacting our businesses and connects you with not only peers but also the key stakeholders around the state working on the behalf of ourselves and our customers.



Dan Dix

General Manager,
NEW Cooperative, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

ACWA has and will always be a science-driven solution-based organization. With new innovations, emerging market opportunities may exist for your organization and your customers. Having connectivity to ACWA allows your organization to have greater engagement and influence.

Direct Membership Value Benefits

1. Alignment with other agricultural industry leaders.
2. Proof of a proactive stance with ACWA partnership.
3. Metric driven sustainability values for the sustainability goals that your organization has set forth in meeting societal demands.

Collaboration and Partnership

1. Peer-to-peer collaboration to have a greater unified voice for customers.
2. Greater connectivity to other industry leaders and innovators to have a proactive stance on soil health and improvements in water quality.
3. Society impacts and views on agriculture.
4. Using science-based innovations to mitigate business risk for Iowa Farmers.

Regular Members Value-Added Benefits

- A voting position within ACWA's Board of Directors.
- Opportunity for leadership role (Executive Committee) on ACWA's Board of Directors.
- Service /volunteer member role within ACWA's working groups, task force or committees.
- Access to all ACWA data and authorization to use as directed by ACWA's Exec Director.
- Firm's name listed on ACWA's website as an ACWA Member.
- Firm's logo and link on ACWA's website.
- Ability to leverage ACWA's knowledge of sustainability with your customers.

Associate Members Value-Added Benefits

- Provides a seat at the table and opportunity to share ideas and support.
- Invitation for a representative of the firm to participate (non-voting) in ACWA board meetings and activities.
- Service /volunteer member role within ACWA's working groups, task force or committees.
- Access to all ACWA data and authorization to use as directed by ACWA's Exec Director.
- Firm's name listed on ACWA's website as an ACWA Member.
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WHY ARE YOU & YOUR ORGANIZATION A MEMBER OF ACWA?



Ag Retailers have an obligation to future generations to help farmers manage their resources responsibly and yet maintain a return on their investment. We take our role as a trusted advisor seriously, if not us, then who will fill this role?



Brent Low

Vice President,
Agronomy & Corporate Marketing,
Ag Partners, LLC/FCA



Trusted Leader
Greater Unified Voice
Impact and Connectivity to Peers
Leveraging Financial Investments



1255 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy, Ankeny, Iowa 50023
515-727-0648 | acwaiowa.com

