

Water Quality Careers



DID YOU KNOW?



Conservation: The prevention of wasteful use of a resource.



Erosion: The loss or movement of soil.



Cover Crops: A crop grown for the protection or enrichment of the soil.



Crop Rotation: The action of rotating a new crop to improve soil health.



Soil Samples: Testing the nutrient profile in the soil.



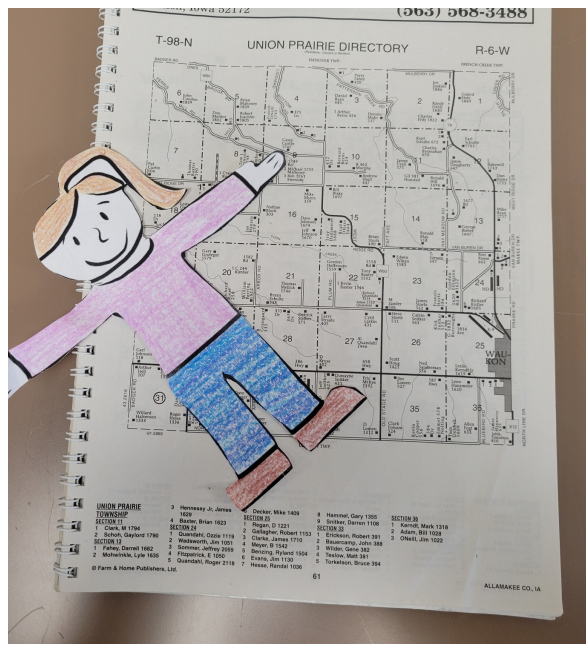
Manure Management Plan: A plan required by Iowa law to safely dispose of livestock manure.

WHAT DOES A CONSERVATIONIST DO?

A conservationist manages natural habitats including parks, forest and rangelands. This job may also be called a conservation scientist or soil and water conservationist. Many conservationist work with farmers or ranchers to help them improve their land and control erosion. Soil erosion is an obstacle that farmers face in their fields. The soil runs off into nearby creeks or rivers. Taking away the top soil can affect the crops growing in the field. To prevent erosion, conservationist suggest planting cover crops.

Educational requirements to work as a conservationist is a bachelor's degree in forestry, agronomy, agricultural science or environmental science.





CONSERVATIONIST VS. OFFICER

Expect your days to be physically demanding if you choose these two careers. You will often have to walk long distances and work mostly outdoors. The difference between a DNR (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) officer and a conservationist is that a DNR officer enforces the guidelines and the conservationist guides farmers and ranchers into making an informed decision.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

An administrative assistant works for the Environmental Services division with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. They are responsible for reviewing manure management plans and making sure all forms are included along with reports like soil samples, field maps, and crop rotation. The manure management plan was a law passed to help protect our environment and improve crop production.

An administrative assistant primarily works in the office to help manage the documentation.

It requires a bachelor's degree or an associate degree in a similar field and 5-7 years of experience to become an administrative assistant in the Department of Natural Resources.



JOKE OF THE DAY

Why does erosion like to dance?
Because it enjoys breaking it down!

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