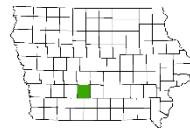




2026 IDALS & SWCD Conservation Technician Internship



Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District
815 East Highway 92, Winterset, IA 50273
515-462-4884 Ext. 3
www.madison-swcd.org

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) is offering a 480 hour Conservation Technician Internship position based at the Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Employment Term: 480 hours (~12 weeks). Start date is flexible with the end of the spring semester (earliest start date is May 1); hours must be completed by December 31, 2026.

Wage: \$14.00/hour

Work Schedule: Up to 40 hours per week. This position is not eligible for overtime. Paid time off (e.g., holidays, vacation, sick leave) is not offered.

Eligibility: The internship is open to current college students or graduating high school students enrolled in college for fall 2026 (recent college graduates are not eligible) who are pursuing studies related to agriculture, conservation, engineering, environmental science, GIS, natural resources, or similar fields.

Description of Duties:

Required duties:

- Attend orientation and training meeting(s) sponsored by IDALS and NRCS;
- Submit reports detailing work activities;
- Complete a special project for the SWCD (such as planning or coordinating an outreach event, developing educational material, etc.);
- Provide a “wrap up” presentation about experiences and accomplishments as an intern.

Other work activities:

- Conduct status reviews (field checks, plant ID, etc.) for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP);
- Assist with layout and checkout of conservation practices (terraces, waterways, ponds, etc.);
- Assist with conservation planning, mapping, and landowner contacts;
- Assist with information, education, and outreach activities;
- Other duties as determined by the SWCD Commissioners and District Conservationist.

Work Environment and Expectations:

This position includes both field and office work. Successful candidates will be able to: work as part of a team, as well as be self-motivated to work independently; create and maintain positive relationships with staff, project partners, and the public; work outdoors during various summer weather conditions; traverse rough and steep terrain on foot; work safely near large equipment; use basic computer skills; and communicate effectively. A valid driver’s license is required.

To Apply:

Submit the following: 1) a one-page **cover letter** explaining why you are interested in this position and what you hope to gain from this experience, 2) a detailed **resume** including education, experience, and skills, and 3) a list of **three references** including their name, title, phone number, and their relationship to you. Application materials can be sent to: Madison County SWCD, Attn: Anna Golightly, 815 E. Hwy 92, Winterset, IA 50273 or anna.golightly@ia.nacdnet.net.

Application Deadline: Monday, February 23, 2026

Madison County SWCD and the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship are equal opportunity providers and employers.