

Iowa Bulletin: IA360-26-01

Date: 12/03/2025

Subject: PER-Iowa NRCS Mentoring Program, FY26 Enrollment

Action Required By: December 31, 2025

Action Requested By: Iowa Mentoring Committee

Purpose: The mentoring committee is happy to announce the Iowa NRCS Mentoring Program is now accepting mentor and protégé applications for the 2026-2027 enrollment year. The application deadline is **December 31, 2025**.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2026

Background: The mentoring program's mission is to further career development for both the mentor (experienced employee) and protégé (an employee in any stage within their career) through a voluntary formalized partnership between a mentor and protégé. This program will assist those who are interested in career guidance, professional development and confidence building in their current and potential future roles. The program is designed to provide opportunities for career development in the following ways:

- Promote a confidential and safe mentoring relationship.
- Provide opportunities for personal and professional growth.
- Increase staff morale and job satisfaction.
- Improve skills and abilities within a current role, while preparing the protégé for potential next steps in their career.
- Aid in retention and recruitment of employees.

Explanation: About the Mentoring Program

The Iowa NRCS Mentoring Program is a one-year formal mentoring approach for professional development. The mentoring relationship can be beneficial for both parties. The protégé can build on their mentor's advice and guidance to expand technical knowledge, expertise, interpersonal skills, and organizational awareness. The mentors will have the opportunity to give back to the organization, gain fresh perspectives, and build an NRCS legacy.

Protégés and mentors are matched by the mentoring committee based on the DiSC assessment, developmental goals, areas of expertise, and objectives for the relationship. Once matched, the new protégés and mentors will participate in training and orientation; spending time and building rapport with each other.

Mentoring pairs will maintain their formal relationship for one year, although informal mentoring may continue for years to come. All information shared between a protégé and mentor pair is always confidential.

Application Process

Protégé and mentor applications can be completed and submitted on the USDA Mentoring Portal website: <https://www.eservices.usda.gov/apps/mentoring/Home.aspx>.

Contact: Co-Coordinators Corey Brink and Megan Trout or your local committee member.

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Mentoring Committee

Co-Coordinator Corey Brink Decorah Field Office

Co-Coordinator Megan Trout State Office

NW Area Chair Keith Feliciano-Cortes Sioux City Area Office

NE Area Chair Aaron Anderson West Union Area Office

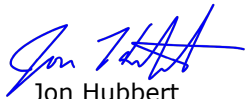
SW Area Chair Kelsey Blodgett Oakland Resource Team

SE Area Chair Kate Timmerman Williamsburg Field Office

State Office Julie McMichael State Office

Advisor Jaia Fischer State Office

NRCS employs people with amazing skills, expertise, experience, and professionalism. Passing on those skills and maintaining access to such extraordinary intellectual capital and institutional knowledge benefits the protégé, mentor, and agency. We encourage you to apply and participate as a mentor or protégé. Please submit your application no later than **December 31, 2025**.



Jon Hubbert
State Conservationist