The Iowa Learning Farm's focus is on helping strong conservationist farmers teach other farmers about systems that will improve the quality of the soil and water on their farms while remaining profitable and sustainable.

As we enter the third year of the Iowa Learning Farm project, we come with renewed energy, excitement and a commitment to increased visibility and impacts across Iowa.

—Jerry DeWitt, ILF project coordinator
ILF farmer cooperator Robert Pridie introduces Governor Culver to the Iowa Learning Farm project at the Conservation Districts of Iowa event in January in the Capitol Rotunda. ILF team members and farmer cooperators presented at numerous events such as this throughout the year.

The rainfall simulator was introduced last year at the Farm Progress Show. The machine simulates the impact of raindrops to various land surfaces when it rains. It is now a fully funded water quality component to aid in research. The simulator is portable so it can travel to field days or events. Those interested in having the simulator at their event should complete the request form available at www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/.

The ILF newsletter was recognized by the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) for outstanding agronomic educational material. The newsletter earned a Certificate of Excellence at the annual ASA meeting in Indianapolis last fall.

“Iowa Learning Farm project was fully staffed by May 2007. Left to right: ILF Field Coordinator John Lundvall, Research Associate Jamie Benning, Communications Specialist Carol Brown, Postdoctoral Research Associate Ranvir Singh, and Research Associate David Correll.

“We’re trying to conserve the soil and raise awareness of water quality within our own area... keeping nutrients and pesticides out of the water.”
—Rick Juchems, ILF farmer cooperator
Butler County

Signs like this one are posted on ILF farmer cooperator demonstration plots or homesteads throughout Iowa.