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BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO REDUCE SOIL EROSION

1. Reduce or eliminate tillage to leave more crop residue on the soil surface.
2. Provide a continuous living crop, like cover crops, between row crop seasons to protect the soil and utilize unused nutrients.
3. Install stream buffers to trap soil and nutrients before they enter streams.
4. Use grassed waterways to channel water from the field through perennial vegetation to retain sediment and nutrients in the field.
5. Install prairie strips to slow water movement, reduce runoff and soil loss and improve wildlife habitat.
6. Add terraces to slow water movement and increase water infiltration on sloping fields.
7. Trap water and soil within crop rows with contour farming practices.
8. Convert highly erodible land to perennial vegetation or enroll it in the Conservation Reserve Program.
9. Add another crop to a row crop rotation to break up pest cycles and improve soil biodiversity.
10. Incorporate rotational grazing of livestock to give previously grazed sections time to regrow.

Sources: *Iowa State University Extension, Iowa Learning Farms, Natural Resources Conservation Service*