

Iowa Field Office Technical Guide – Section II Special Environmental Concerns

1. Clean Air Act

Authority: The Clean Air Act of 1990

The Clean Air Act is the law that defines EPA's responsibilities for protecting and improving the nation's air quality and the stratospheric ozone layer. The last major change in the law, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, was enacted by Congress in 1990. Legislation passed since then has made several minor changes.

The Clean Air Act, like other laws enacted by Congress, was incorporated into the United States Code as Title 42, Chapter 85. The House of Representatives maintains a current version of the U.S. Code, which includes Clean Air Act changes enacted since 1990. To view the "Clean Air Act" visit <http://www.epa.gov/air/caa/>

The Clean Air Act, which was last amended in 1990, requires EPA to set [National Ambient Air Quality Standards](#) (40 CFR part 50) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. There are standards set for six principal pollutants, which are called "criteria" pollutants.

Nonattainment areas are areas that have failed to meet federal standards for ambient air quality. In Iowa, there are two; Muscatine County is at nonattainment level for Sulfur Dioxide and Pottawattamie County is at nonattainment level for lead. Iowa NRCS conservation practices will have No Effect on this standard.
<http://www.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/ancl.html>

To view the State of Iowa Ambient Air Monitoring and Network Plan go to <http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryAir/MonitoringAmbientAir.aspx>

To access "[Agricultural Air Quality Conservation Measures Reference Guide for Cropping Systems and General Land Management](#)" cited on FS1, go to the [EPA Agriculture and Air Quality page](#).