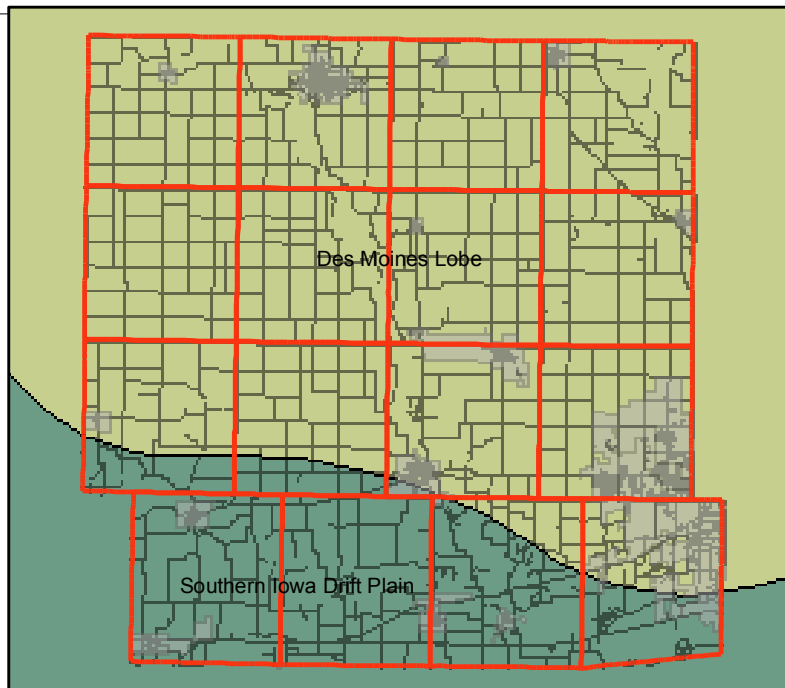
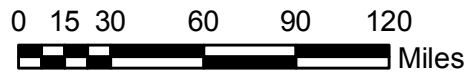
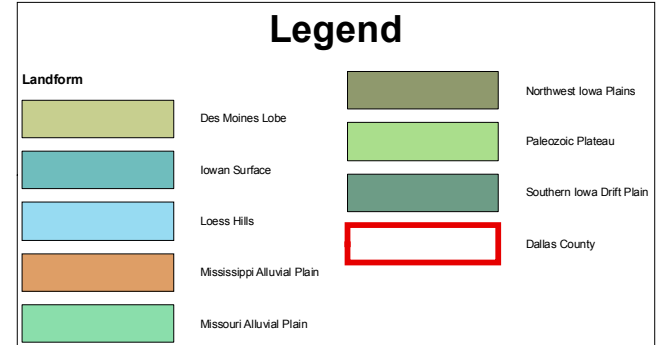
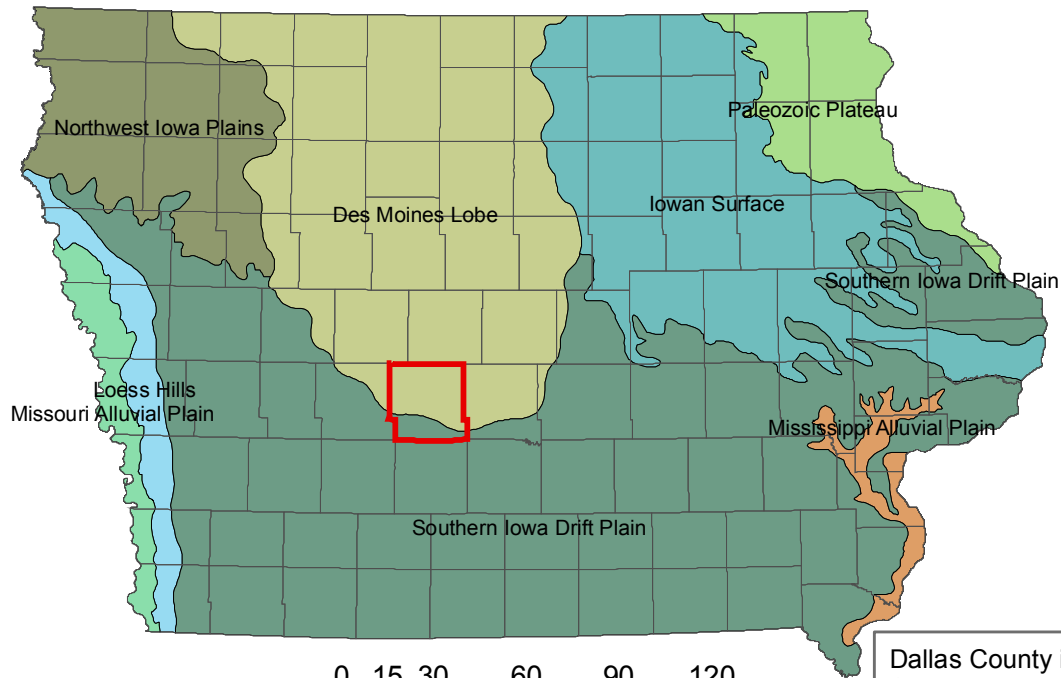


Iowa Landforms

In Dallas County



Dallas County is split into two landform regions, the Des Moines Lobe and the Southern Iowa Drift Plain.

The Des Moines Lobe represents the last glacial event to occur in Iowa 12,000 to 14,000 years ago and covers the upper 2/3 of Dallas County. When the glacial movement terminated it established the course of the Raccoon River, a prominent feature in Dallas County. Melting of the glacial ice created the present day rivers, kettle holes and lakes found on the Lobe and deposits of glacial debris are visible as conical hills on the prairie. Since the last glacial surge that produced the Lobe, weathering and erosion have minorly changed the Des Moines Lobe's landscape.

The Southern Iowa Drift Plain is the largest landform in Iowa and cuts through the lower 1/3 of Dallas County. The glaciers that created the Drift Plain are hundreds of thousands of years older than those that created the Des Moines Lobe. This terrain is has had much more time to be reshaped into a variety of landscapes by erosion causing the terrain to vary from rolling hills to sharp slopes. The age of this landform is evident in the geologic history that can be observed in the sharp hillsides.

For additional information about Iowa's landforms see:
Landforms of Iowa by Jean C. Prior, University of Iowa Press, 1991.