For More Information

Contact your Local District or the
Soil and Water Conservation Program

www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/
1-800-361-4827

Missouri Department
of Natural Resources
Soil and Water Conservation Program

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Conserving Missouri's Soil for Tomorrow

Cost-Share
program

Soil erosion threatens one of our richest and most abundant natural resources–our land.

PUB000624

Pond

Cost-Share Program

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Districts Commission has developed the cost-share program to provide financial incentives to help farmers and landowners install erosion-control practices. The program has helped conserve and assure the continued productivity of Missouri's soil and water resources, saving an estimated 137 million tons of soil.

Funds for the program come from the one-tenth-of-one-percent parks, soils and water sales tax approved by voters and are administered by local soil and water conservation districts.

What rates are available for eligible practices?

The cost-share program provides in excess of $20 million annually to Missouri landowners. Approximately 6,000 practices are completed each year on agricultural land to reduce or abate soil erosion. A variety of practices are eligible to treat highly erodible cropland or to convert it to pasture or hayland.

Cost-share is provided for up to 75 percent of all necessary costs incurred by the landowner. Such costs may include machinery hire, needed materials delivered to and used at the site and labor required to install the practice (including any fair and reasonable costs incurred by the landowner in furnishing his own labor and equipment).

How can soil and water conservation districts help landowners?

Districts are organized and operated by local citizens who promote protection, maintenance, improvement and wise use of the soil and water resources in their counties. Districts also inform landowners about soil conservation programs.

A five-member board of supervisors governs each district. Four members, who must own farms in the district, are elected to office; the fifth is an ex-officio member appointed by the University Extension Service. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical personnel to assist the district in its programs. Those projects most effective in reducing erosion or those areas of the county with the greatest need for erosion control receive priority.

Who qualifies for cost-share?

Owners of private farmland within the established soil and water conservation district are eligible for cost-share funds.

The landowner must have an active conservation plan approved by the district. A conservation plan outlines a landowner's decision on how to most effectively use his land, and how to maintain or improve the soil, water and related resources.

The list of eligible projects and practices consists of various proven soil and water conservation techniques identified by the Soil and Water Districts Commission. Landowners can obtain the list at their local district offices. Practices listed may vary from year to year.

Common Cost-Share Practices:

Terraces
Rotational Grazing Systems
Sediment Retention Structures
Permanent Vegetative Covers
Water Impoundment Structures

Cost-Share Procedures:

Step 1: Qualified landowners may apply through their local soil and water conservation district office.

Step 2: A technician will evaluate the proposed site and recommend components to cost-share on.

Step 3: District supervisors review landowner applications and conservation plans and will consider the needs of each landowner, the district's priorities and the practicality of the project.

Step 4: Supervisors review applications for cost-share funds and determine how much assistance will be given to selected projects.

Step 5: A technician will certify practice completion.

Step 6: A claim for payment, accompanied by proof of expenditures, will be filed by the landowner after the project or practice has been installed.

Step 7: The claim will be reviewed by the board of supervisors.

Step 8: The claim will then be forwarded to the Soil and Water Districts Commission, which assists the districts at the state level, for processing.

Step 9: Reimbursement will come directly from the state.

Grazing System