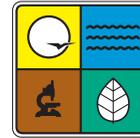


Financial and Technical Assistance is available from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Are you worried about losing valuable topsoil on your farm? Do you want to make the most of the fertilizer you apply? The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Program provides financial incentives to agricultural landowners to control erosion or improve water quality by voluntarily installing best management practices on their land. The Soil and Water Conservation Program is funded by the one-tenth-of-one-percent parks, soils and water sales tax and administers those funds through local soil and water conservation districts.



Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Soil and Water Conservation Program



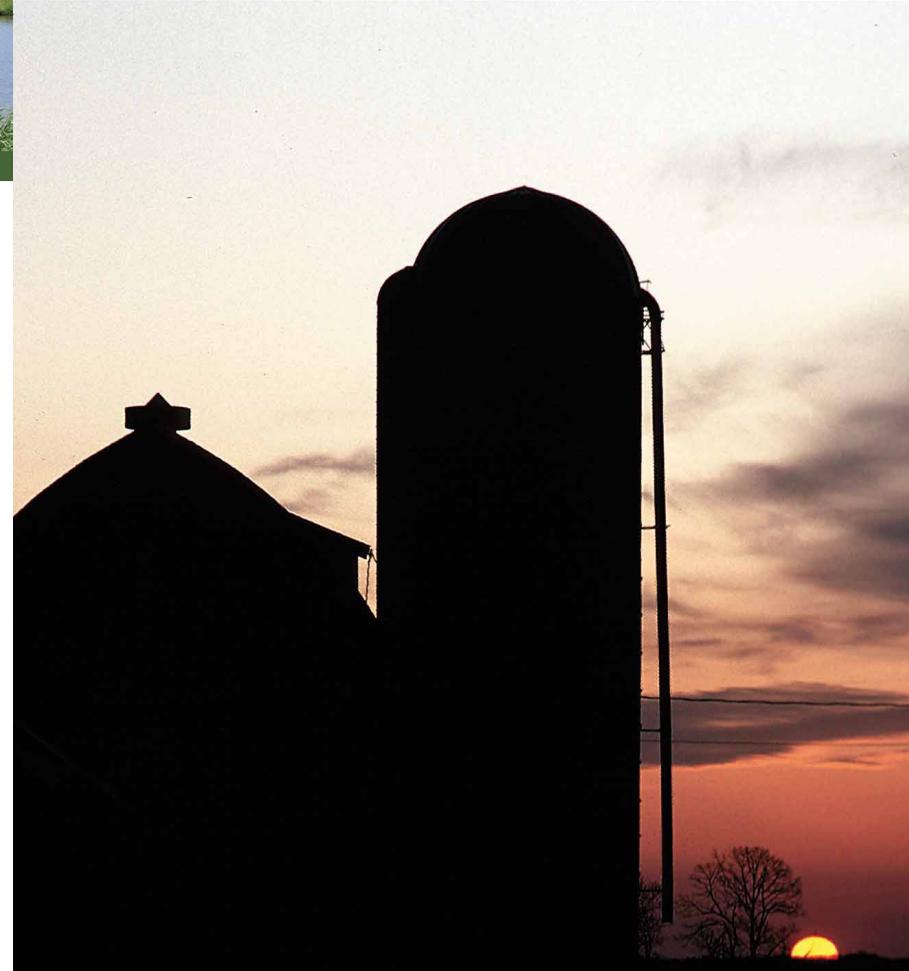
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Soil and Water Conservation Program

www.dnr.mo.gov
800-361-4827

If you are interested in addressing any of these concerns on your agricultural land, please contact your local soil and water conservation district. For a listing of soil and water conservation districts visit www.swcd.mo.gov.

More information is also available at the Soil and Water Conservation Program Web site at www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/ or by phone at 573-751-4932.

Cover photo courtesy of USDA NRCS.



Conservation Practices

Improve Your Farm



Soil and water conservation districts focus on 11 resource concerns to control soil erosion and protect water quality on agricultural land.

Sheet and Rill Erosion

Sheet erosion occurs when a very thin layer of soil erodes and often goes unnoticed. Rill erosion happens when a concentrated flow of water causes small channels to develop. Left untreated, the most productive part of the soil will be lost. Funding is available to establish vegetative cover or construct terraces, diversions or windbreaks.

Gully Erosion

Gully erosion is severe erosion in which trenches are cut into the soil by running water. Water is channeled across unprotected land and the soil is washed away along drainage lines. By diverting the water flow and stabilizing the gully, this problem can be overcome with terrace systems, diversions, establishing permanent vegetative cover, constructing sod waterways or water impoundment reservoirs.

Irrigation Management

Irrigation is the artificial application of water to land to assist in the production of crops. The correct application and timing of irrigation is critical to reduce nutrient, pesticide and sediment loss. With funding from the parks, soils and water sales tax, eligible landowners can install low pressure sprinkler nozzles, tail water recovery to reuse water and nutrients, or water conveyance to reduce water losses.

Woodland Erosion

Soil, waterways and timber production suffer when woodlands are grazed. The removal of soil or vegetation through animal feeding and trampling or improper tree harvesting allows soil to become susceptible to erosion. Landowners are encouraged to exclude livestock from the woodland area, restore skid trails and logging roads during timber harvesting, and install water bars as diversions to prevent erosion on long, narrow slopes.

Animal Waste Management

It is important to manage the nutrients in waste created by livestock production. Systems are available to protect surface and groundwater from pollutants and to recycle waste through correct soil application.

Sensitive Areas

Agricultural land along streams, springs or fields that has the potential to preserve water quality by filtering and absorbing pollutants is known as a sensitive area. Buffers, one example of a sensitive area, collect and filter out sediment and other nutrients that run off of agricultural fields. Funding is available to install buffers, field borders, filter strips, riparian forest buffers and exclude livestock from streams while providing alternative water.

Nutrient Management

Nutrients already in the soil and those that are applied need to be managed appropriately to create less runoff and leeching through the soil after a rainfall. A nutrient management plan protects water quality and can reduce the amount of fertilizer needed by a landowner.

Pest Management

Pest management involves reducing the amount of pesticides landowners apply to lessen the number of contaminants in ground and surface water. Pest management plans also work to improve the plant community on crops and grasslands which increases ground cover and reduces erosion.

Groundwater Protection

Groundwater is water beneath the Earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil or gravel. Funding is available to help eligible landowners voluntarily install a composting facility, spring development or close an abandoned well, which can all have an impact on water quality.

Streambank Erosion

Landowners are losing land to streambank erosion every year. Streambanks can be protected by providing adequate vegetation, stabilizing the bank. Water quality will also be improved.

Grazing Management

Missouri ranks third in the nation for cow/calf production, which utilizes the many acres of pastureland in the state. Installing a grazing system will reduce feed costs, improve profitability, reduce or prevent erosion and protect water quality.

