Who is NRCS?

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) was created in the wake of the Dust Bowl, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture began to see both wind and water erosion as a national menace. The Interior Department handles public lands, but because about 70 percent of the land in the United States is held by private land owners – mostly farmers and ranchers – the USDA created an agency dedicated to controlling erosion by promoting responsible stewardship of the land.

That agency’s name has since changed to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and it has become the Department of Agriculture’s lead conservation agency. NRCS is here to help farmers balance their economic goals with the needs of the environment to ensure productive lands. In addition to improving soil quality and reducing erosion, the NRCS also restores wetlands, designs grazing systems, creates forestry/tree planting plans, and engineers manure storage facilities among other structural practices. Our agency prides itself in the fact that it can work with producers in a one-on-one setting, allowing for a first-hand understanding of the challenges, limitations, and special features of each operation. This allows NRCS to create conservation plans that are specifically tailored to each producer and to provide financial assistance to those who qualify for NRCS programs.

Today, the Natural Resources Conservation Service has evolved into a vast network of local offices, virtually one for every county in the Nation. The NRCS field office for the Todd County area is located in Long Prairie at the Ag Service Center (607 9th Street NE). The office is open from 7:00 AM-4:30 PM Monday through Friday, and all those who are interested in conserving their land’s natural resources are encouraged to stop in or call (320-732-6618) to see how NRCS can help you. All of our services are cost free!

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