



CONSERVE TODD COUNTY: Controlling Soil Erosion

Submitted by Todd County NRCS

Recent heavy rainfall has taken its toll on the soil in Todd County with evidence of soil erosion on many fields. Soil Erosion is something the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service wants to assist landowners with solving.

Soil erosion as Hugh Hammond Bennett cited is a “National Menace”, and can have many negative consequences including environmental, aesthetic, social, political, legal, and economic. Past civilizations have collapsed due to soil erosion. A fairly famous report entitled “Conquest of the Land through Seven Thousand Years” details these consequences of erosion. It can be found at the following website address:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1043789.pdf

This report was first published in 1942 and has since been reprinted multiple times due to its inherent importance to society and landowners. In fact a Bing search will yield over 7 million results!

The good news is soil erosion can be prevented, and our office is willing to assist with free technical and financial assistance for landowners.

Below are a few key concepts you can do or our office can assist with in resolving soil erosion issues:

- 1) Land Management Practices: A diverse crop rotation along with reduced tillage and adequate amounts of crop residue or actively growing crops with extensive root systems are important.
- 2) Field Layout: Farming across the slope, breaking up larger fields into smaller fields, eliminating end rows, including vegetated buffers, field borders, grass strips, or breaks in the landscape help reduce erosion.
- 3) Engineered Structural Practices: Where good land management practices and field layout considerations have been adopted, and erosion is still occurring practices such as grassed waterways, terraces, sediment basins, and other engineered practices may be needed.

If you want more information on solving soil erosion stop by your local USDA NRCS field office, located at 607 9th St NE in Long Prairie or call us at 320-732-6618.