



Healthy soil and plentiful nutrients are key ingredients to productive farms.

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.

The good news is soil erosion can be prevented.

88 percent of surface water falls on private land. Landowners play an important role taking proactive steps to keep nutrients and soil in their proper places – on the land and out of waterways. Such practices may include field borders and filterstrips.

A field border is a sod based area at the edge of the field that eliminates end rows and provides an area to turn around during field operations. These areas slow water down as it runs off fields reducing erosion, and trapping sediment and nutrients that can have negative effects downstream. Properly managed field borders increase plant diversity and the availability of food sources for many wildlife species.

Filterstrips stationed near ditches and other waterways. slow the speed of water flowing over fields following a rainstorm, allowing for the plants to capture sediment and nutrients. Because these strips slow the water, it increases infiltration into the ground, recharging aquifers. They also store carbon, which is important to improving air quality

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps producers incorporate conservation practices on their farms and ranches.

For more information stop by our local NRCS office, located at 607 9TH ST NE LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347 or call 320-732-6618.

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