



How Much Water is Your Soil Catching?

The rain this growing season has been sporadic throughout Todd County. At times we are getting too much rain too quickly and then not enough rain at other times. Both of these make planting, growing, and harvesting crops more difficult and less productive.

However, have you thought of how much rain your fields are actually retaining in the soil? Are you seeing low lying areas drown out, the tops of hills drying up, and erosion showing up in between?

These are just symptoms of a much larger problem; poor water infiltration. Water infiltration and the rate are important since this is how our soils retain moisture for use by crops. Water infiltration is simply the process and speed at which water moves into the soil instead of running off.

Land management practices such as a diverse crop rotation, cover crops, reduced or no tillage, leaving crop residue, and nutrient and pest management all have an impact on water infiltration.

Our office can assist landowners and farmers on determining current water infiltration rates through a simple and quick infiltration test in the field. If you are interested in getting an infiltration test done on your farm or learning on how to improve water infiltration you can contact our office at 320-732-6618 ext. 3 or stop in to the local USDA Todd County Farm Services Center NRCS office located at 607 9th ST NE in Long Prairie.

#

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer