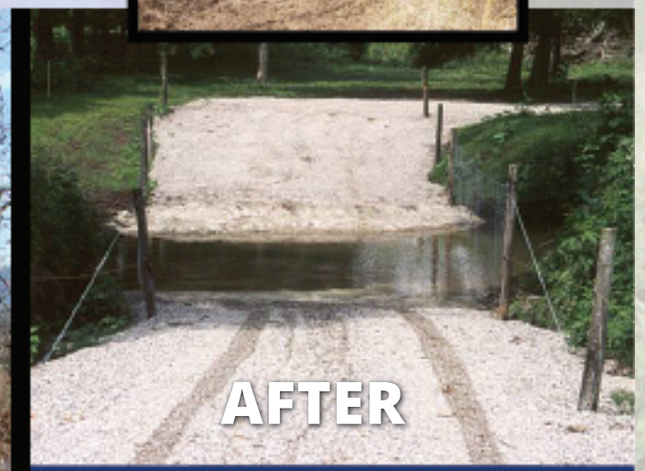
SHARE THE BENEFITS

of soil and water conservation with your family and community now and for generations to come. It's only natural for landowners to want their lands to be as productive, beautiful and valuable as possible—not only for today, but for tomorrow as well. The ARCF can help make that goal possible. Helping Tennesseans employ effective conservation techniques through cost sharing is an investment in the future. All Tennesseans will share the benefits of clean water and stable, productive soils.

Without proper erosion and sedimentation control, soils can be lost from croplands, livestock pens, and farm roads. Soils carried from these areas in runoff can degrade streams and other downstream waters.

TN Department of Agriculture

To find out more about BMPs or how you can share in the ARCF, contact the SCD office in your county or call the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Land and Water Stewardship Section at: (615) 837-5225 or online at www.tennessee.gov/agriculture



Voluntary, incentive-based programs are working—and we can demonstrate measurable water quality improvements.

Top Agricultural Best Management Practices for Improving Water Quality on the Farm

1. Maintain a permanent buffer of grasses, shrubs and trees along stream banks to lessen erosion, filter sediment, slow runoff and increase infiltration of water into the soil.
2. Consider planting cover crops each year to control erosion and improve soil health by keeping something living in the soil year-round.
3. Use no-till or other conservation tillage practices whenever possible to minimize soil erosion and runoff.
4. Use regular soil testing recommendations and manure analyses to ensure the application of fertilizers conform to the "4R philosophy"; the right fertilizer source, applied at the right rate, at the right time, and with the right placement.
5. Consider prescribed grazing systems to increase pasture quality, forage stockpiling and grazing efficiency, while keeping manure and livestock on the fields and out of streams.
6. Control the formation and growth of gullies and rills with terraces, grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, diversions or other practices.
7. For confined livestock farms, use gutters, curbing, berms, and other practices to divert clean rainfall runoff from areas where manure is found. Always store manure under cover; tarp manure/litter if temporarily stockpiled in a field prior to spreading.
8. For specialty crops that require tillage, plant the crop so the rows follow the natural contours of the field to minimize runoff, and install vegetated buffers or field borders to trap sediment.
9. Construct Heavy Use Areas (HUAs) in places that receive heavy traffic from livestock or equipment. Maintain travel lanes and on-farm roads to minimize erosion.
10. Follow the instructions of the manufacturer for the handling, storage, application,recycling and disposal of all agricultural chemicals and used containers.

TN Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund

SHARE THE COST of installing agricultural best management practices (BMPs) on your land with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA).

The Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF) has been established so that landowners can get financial assistance as they work to:

- Control erosion
- Better manage livestock with grazing systems and animal waste handling practices
- Prevent or reduce pollution risk associated with agricultural inputs
- Maintain and improve water quality

The Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund provides financial assistance for conservation work on farms.

Your county Soil Conservation District (SCD) office will apply annually to TDA for the grant funds. The application will include the SCD's proposed projects for you and others in that district.

Once a grant has been awarded, your SCD office will allot the funds. You will have the opportunity to sign up and have your individual application approved. The normal cost share rate is 75 percent (state) and 25 percent (landowner).

Information and education projects may also be funded through this program.

TN Department of Agriculture

Grant assistance is available at:
http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/article/ag-farms-arcf

A partnership of agricultural and conservation interests are working together to lessen agricultural impacts, improve water quality, and maximize on-farm productivity and profit.

SHARE THE SUCCESS of your local SCD office by getting involved and planning to install qualifying BMPs.

To control soil erosion from cropland, consider:

- Cover crops
- Grassed waterways
- Stream buffers
- Terrace systems
- Water and sediment control basins
- Grade stabilization structures

Cotton behind winter cover wheat

To better manage animal waste:

- Exclusion fencing
- Prescribed grazing systems
- Heavy use areas
- Filter strips

Exclusion fencing

Examples of qualifying informational, educational or promotional projects funded through SCDs include:

- Field days
- Local water quality meetings
- Equipment for rent
- Workshops

Other practices for erosion control and water quality improvement listed in local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide may also qualify for installation.

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