

Agriculture and conservation partners work together to lessen the impact of agriculture on the environment, improve water quality, and maximize productivity and profit on the farm.



Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund

Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts help farmers plan and install Best Management Practices (BMPs).

BMPs to Control Cropland Soil Erosion

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

BMPs to Manage Animal Waste

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

Other practices for erosion control and water quality improvement may also qualify for installation. See your Natural Resources Conservation Service office for information.

The ARCF program provides funding for educational programs, field days, local water quality meetings, workshops, and rental equipment.

What is the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund?

The Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF) provides financial assistance to farmers to employ conservation practices on their land to promote healthy soil and water. These practices benefit our farms and our communities.

Who is Eligible?

Tennessee's agricultural producers are eligible to apply.

How to Apply

Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for more details on applications and incentive payment rates.

SWCD Online Directory

www.tn.gov/agriculture/farms/conservation.html

Best Management Practices to Improve 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 to control erosion and improve soil health by keeping a living crop in the soil year round.
3. Use no-till or other conservation tillage practices to minimize soil erosion and runoff.
4. Analyze soil and manure regularly and follow recommendations to ensure fertilizer application conforms to the 4 R 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 and grazing efficiency and to keep manure 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 a tarp or other cover, even when temporarily stockpiled in a field prior to spreading.
8. For crops that require tillage, plant rows along the natural contours of the land to minimize runoff and install vegetated buffers or field borders to trap sediment.
9. Construct heavy-use areas in places that receive heavy traffic from livestock or equipment. Maintain travel lanes and on-farm roads to minimize erosion.
10. Follow label instructions to handle, store, apply, recycle, and dispose of all agricultural chemicals and their containers.

Successful Practices Exclusion Fencing



Before



After

Water Crossing



Before



After

Erosion Control



Before



After



Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Authorization No. 325545, 0 copies, May 2023. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$ 0.00 per copy.



Department of
Agriculture

For More Information
land.waterstewardship@tn.gov
615-837-5225