

Fact Sheet

Erosion-Control and Cost-Share Programs

Erosion control is a primary objective of the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Erosion damages property through soil loss at the site and sediment damaged to off-site property. The need to repair dramatic gully needs little explanation. However, hillside or “sheet” erosion produces even greater extensive volumes and sediment. This sediment, when washed off-site, clogs streams, ditches, waterways and carries with it chemicals, damaging water quality.

Recent studies support common-sense observations that erosion and sediment control is the single, most effective way to improve local water quality. Studies of the Minnesota River have shown reductions in sediment delivery would significantly improve the water quality of this river.

Erosion control practices

The Scott SWCD provides a variety of ways to solve erosion-control problems. The staff designs these solutions, and cost-sharing funds and/or low-interest loans are available to assist in construction costs.

Erosion-control measures are grouped by the nature of the problem they are intended to solve. “Sheet” erosion and gully erosion are the two most basic categories of erosion:

- Typical solutions for **sheet erosion** include conservation tillage, contour strips, terraces, filter strips and buffer strips
- Typical solutions for **gully erosion** include grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins and grade-stabilization structures to stop gullies at the head of ravines or as side inlets to streams and ditches.

Landowners interested in either the general CRP signup or the continuous signup may contact Katundra Shears, Natural Resources Conservation Service – (952) 492-5433 or katundra.shears@mn.usda.gov.



Funding opportunities

State Cost-Share Funds. These are State of Minnesota funds granted annually to the SWCD by the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR). Payment is made on the basis of practices being completed according to plans and specifications and paid receipts from the contractor. The maximum cost share rate is 75 percent.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). These are federal funds available on an application basis. Applications receive an environmental score with better scoring applications funded first until the annual allocation is gone. Each application, if approved, becomes a five-year contract, which requires control of all erosion problems on the tract of land covered by the application. The time from application to approval can be as long as one year. The maximum cost share rate is 75 percent.

State Revolving Fund (SRF). This program makes loans available at an interest rate as low as 3.5 percent for conservation-related expenditures such as no-till planters, agricultural waste-control structures, terraces etc. Loan applications are made to the Scott SWCD for certification that the proposed loan will meet legitimate conservation goals and to FmHA for financial approval of the loan.



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