NRCS: Helping People, Help the Land
Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Previously SCS)
- Created in 1935 in response to the Dust Bowl crisis
- Non-regulatory--NRCS works with landowners on a voluntary basis
NRCS is not a regulatory agency

- Provide technical assistance in...
  - natural resource planning
  - design & engineering
  - implementation of techniques used to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and protect natural resources
NRCS Clients ...

- Farmers & Ranchers
- Local units of government
- Community groups
- Watershed Planning groups
- ALL Private landowners who need natural resource help!
NRCS Programs Address ...

- Conservation needs on the farm
- Community stormwater management issues
- Erosion and sediment control
- Water quality problems--rural & urban
- Flood prevention and damage repair
- Soil health & soil quality
- Wildlife habitat restoration & management
- Wetland creation & restoration
Local SWCDs

- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Composed of locally elected volunteers
- NRCS works hand-in-hand with SWCDs to address local conservation issues
NRCS Technical Specialists...

- Soil Scientists
- Biologists--Wetlands and Wildlife
- Engineers--Civil/Agricultural/Hydraulic
- Soil Conservationists
- Agronomy & Water Quality Specialists
- Resource Planning Specialists
Our 9-Step Conservation Planning

1. Identify the problem
2. Determine the objectives
3. Inventory the resources
4. Analyze the data
5. Formulate alternatives
6. Evaluate alternatives
7. Make decisions
8. Implement the plan
9. Evaluate
Conservation Practices

Grassed Waterway
Conservation Practices

Cover Crop
Conservation Practices

Mulching
Conservation Practices

Wildlife Habitat
Conservation Practices

Rangeland Management
For More Information...

- Contact your local NRCS office
- Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District office
- Visit NRCS’ homepage at www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov
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