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## Helping You Help the Land

Sauk County Absentee landowner Webinar Series  
February 23, 2021



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## Agricultural Disaster

The land and water were suffering.

- Up and down hill farming was a standard procedure
- Yields were falling because of poor fertility and drought
- Loss of water holding capacity



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## An Agency Established in 1933

In 1933, the Soil Erosion Service (which was later named the Natural Resources Conservation Service), was established to fight soil and wind erosion, dust storms, and loss of cropland.




Wind and water-caused erosion.

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## Coon Creek Watershed




Coon Creek Watershed Erosion Control Demonstration - 1934

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## NRCS and USDA



In 1935, the Soil Conservation Service became an agency of USDA to work with farmers on new ways to farm that would save the soil.

Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Coon Valley, Wisconsin

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## What is the Natural Resources Conservation Service?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the primary federal agency authorized to work on private lands to help landowners protect their soil, water and other natural resources.

- Technical agency of USDA
- Field staff based in 53 USDA Service Centers serving Wisconsin landowners
- Voluntary technical and financial assistance for farmers and landowners



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**What Does NRCS Do?**

We assist land-users, communities, units of state and local government, and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems.

**These conservation systems help:**

- reduce erosion
- improve soil and water quality
- improve and conserve wetlands
- enhance fish and wildlife habitat
- improve air quality
- improve pasture and range condition
- reduce upstream flooding
- improve woodlands

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**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

Provides voluntary conservation programs that promote agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality to help install or implement structural, agronomic, or management conservation practices to protect soil and water quality.



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**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address resource concerns. CSP provides assistance to landowners who practice good stewardship on their land and are willing to take additional steps over the next five years.



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**Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

Uses partnerships to multiply conservation investments and reach goals on a regional or watershed scale, promoting coordination between partners to deliver assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance through partnership agreements and program contracts or easement agreements.



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**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program**

Provides financial and technical assistance directly to help conserve agricultural lands, wetlands, and their related benefits.

- Wetland Reserve Easements
- Agricultural Land Easements



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**Conservation Compliance**



- Links financial assistance in USDA programs to conservation
- Highly Erodible Cropland
- Sodbuster
- Wetland (Swampbuster)

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## Technical Assistance



- Identify Resource Needs
- Conservation planning, design and installation of conservation systems
- Program eligibility and signup

**NRCS staff work with landowners.**

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## Wisconsin Service Centers



Find your nearest service center by visiting the NRCS Wisconsin website.  
NRCS Wisconsin is separated into four managing areas. See map.

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## Questions?

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