

## Time Line

April 2005

## Conservation Milestones

*September 19, 1933* - Soil Erosion Service is created as temporary agency in the Department of the Interior to demonstrate practical conservation methods to farmers.



*March 11, 1934* - A fierce windstorm from the Great Plains swept fine soil particles across areas as far away as Washington D.C. Congress decides action must be taken immediately.

*April 27, 1935* - The Soil Conservation Service is established in the Department of Agriculture to help landowners carry out soil conservation practices.

*February 27, 1937* - President Franklin D. Roosevelt urges governors to enact conservation district law that will allow landowners to organize conservation districts.

*August 4, 1937* - North Carolina forms the first conservation district in the nation: Brown Creek Soil Conservation District.



*December 22, 1944* - Flood Control Act of 1944 authorizes 11 flood prevention projects and the Emergency Watershed Protection Program to help protect lives and property following natural disasters.

*July 25, 1946* - National Association of Conservation Districts founded in Chicago, Illinois by district officials from 17 states.

*August 1954* - The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act is enacted to help communities protect, improve, and develop watersheds.

*July 2, 1957* - Arizona forms its first American Indian conservation district: Parker Valley Soil Conservation District.



*September 27, 1962* - The Resource Conservation and Development Program is created to advance community development and environmental protection in multi-county areas.

*September 1966* - SCS provides soil surveys and interpretations to assist states and other private agencies in community and resource planning.

*February 7, 1967* - National Association of State Conservation Agencies officially organized.

*November 18, 1977* - Congress passes the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act to conserve, protect, and enhance the nation's natural resources for future uses.

*June 22, 1982* - Washington, D.C. establishes first urban conservation district: District of Columbia Conservation District.

*December 23, 1985* - The 1985 Farm Bill requires landowners to carry out their conservation plans to receive USDA conservation program benefits.

*October 20, 1994* - SCS' name changes to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to reflect its efforts to conserve natural resources.



*April 1996* - The 1996 Farm Bill creates programs to enhance wildlife, improve wetlands, and address specific resource concerns on farms.

*2002* - The Grassland Reserve Program is authorized to offer protection, restoration, and enhancement of grasslands to private landowners.



*2002* - The Conservation Security Program is created to reward farmers for practicing excellent conservation on their lands.