

United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

A Legacy of Conservation
75 Years of Helping People Help the Land



2010 marks the 75th anniversary of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the beginning of the federal commitment to conserving natural resources on private lands. Established by Congress in 1935, NRCS has expanded to become a conservation leader for all natural resources, ensuring private lands are conserved, restored and are more resilient to environmental challenges.

Things You Should Know About NRCS...

- Seventy percent of the land in the United States is privately owned, making stewardship by private landowners critical to the health of our nation's environment.
- NRCS works with landowners to plan, design and implement conservation systems that benefit the soil, water, air, plants and animals. NRCS provides financial assistance and free technical assistance to private and public land users in every county in Missouri through more than 100 offices.
- Missouri's 400-person, NRCS staff has a combined 7,538 years of experience. That equals 15,679,040 hours of helping people help the land.
- Conservation systems installed in Missouri, with the assistance of NRCS and its partners, have reduced the annual soil erosion rate by 100 million tons compared to 30 years ago. This reduction minimizes the negative effects on ponds, lakes, streams, culverts and water systems and maintains the productivity of cropland.
- NRCS has helped Missouri landowners restore 130,681 acres of wetlands. Wetlands improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife, reduce soil erosion and flooding and provide outdoor recreation and aesthetic beauty.

"If we take care of the land, it will take care of us."

-Hugh Hammond Bennett, NRCS Founder



missouri