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USDA - NRCS
Promoting Healthy Ecosystems Across Texas

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Helping People Help the Land

NRCS works with farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the country to help them boost agricultural productivity and protect our natural resources through conservation.

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Texas NRCS Administrative Map

5 - Zones:
1 - Lubbock
2 - San Angelo
3 - Corpus Christi
4 - Bryan
5 - Weatherford

53 Resource Teams
228 Field Offices
Texas NRCS

Technical Disciplines:

Agronomists
Biologists
Engineers
Range Specialists
Soil Conservationists
Soil Scientists
The NRCS Approach to Conservation is a collaborative, grass-roots approach that is guided from leadership in the states and the field.

• Section IV: Practice Standards and Specifications provide detailed requirements for designing and installing conservation practices.
• Conservation planning
  ➢ Cornerstone of NRCS
• Opens other NRCS doors
  ➢ Financial assistance programs
• NRCS plans conservation practices to address resource concerns of the land and management objectives of landowner.
Farm Bill Conservation Programs

ACEP ALE

ACEP WRE

CSTP

CTA

EQIP

RCPP
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program

The Flood Control Act of 1944 (Public Law 78-534) and the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (Public Law 83-566 as amended) authorized USDA to provide technical and financial assistance for planning and installing watershed projects.

Project Sponsors include local governments, river authorities, watershed authorities, water control and improvement districts, soil and water conservation districts, etc.

Conservation practices and flood control dams can provide reduction in flooding, erosion control, water quality protection and improvement, recreation, ground water recharge, municipal and rural water supplies, and wildlife habitat.
NRCS - Assisted Watershed Projects

- 145 Watershed Projects
- Nearly 2,000 Dams
- Land Treatment Practices
- Channel Improvements
- Dikes
NRCS - Assisted Project Dams

Martinez Creek Watershed Site 5 in Bexar County
(Live Oak City Park Dam)
NRCS - Assisted Project Dams

Elm Fork Watershed Site 9 in Cooke County
NRCS - Assisted Project Dams

Elm Fork Watershed Site 19 in Cooke County
(Muenster Lake)
DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

The EWP Program offers vital recovery options for local communities to help reduce hazards to life and property caused by floodwaters, droughts, wildfires, earthquakes, windstorms, and other natural disasters.

EWP technical and financial assistance may be made available, dependent upon funding, when a declaration of the following:

- A federal emergency is declared by the President
- A local or State emergency is declared by the NRCS State Conservationist
- In drought situations, when the Secretary of Agriculture has declared a drought emergency
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

Project funds address erosion related watershed impairments by supporting activities such as removing debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges; reshaping and protecting eroded banks; correcting damaged drainage facilities; repairing levees and structures; and reseeding damaged areas.
EWP – Stabilize Streambank and Road

Shaping and Rock Armor

Before

After
EWP – Stabilize Streambank and Road

Shaping and Rock Armor
EWP – Road Ditch Stabilization

Before

Steel Pilings with Rock Armor

After
EWP – Road Ditch Stabilization

Before

Concrete Headwalls

After

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EWP – Road Ditch Stabilization

Concrete Headwall with Rock Armor
EWP – Road Crossing Stabilization

Concrete Low Water Crossing

Culverts, Cement Bag Headwall and Rock Armor
EWP – Road Crossing Stabilization

Culverts, Steel Pilings and Timber Headwall
EWP – Reseeding Damaged Areas

Before

After
Storm Water Runoff Solutions
Healthy Soils

- Keep the soil covered as much as possible
- Disturb the soil as little as possible
- Keep plants growing throughout the year to feed the soil
- Grow a diverse mixture of plants
- Integrate livestock
Land treatments such as Conservation Tillage, Residue Management, Cover Crops, Strip Cropping, and Terraces improve infiltration, reduce storm water runoff, and control erosion. Specific practices such as No Till, Strip Till, Mulch Till, and Ridge Till are foundation practices to recommend.

Practices such as Contour Buffers, Filter Strips, Riparian Buffers and practices that create, enhance, and/or restore wetlands all serve to trap sediments before storm water runoff leaves the field.
Terraces

- Reduce soil erosion caused by water
- Retain runoff for moisture conservation
- Trap sediment
Level, Parallel Terraces

- Reduce soil erosion and trap sediment
- Retain runoff for moisture conservation
- Must have a Suitable Outlet
Underground Outlets

Carry water from terraces, water and sediment control basins, diversions, waterways, and other similar practices to a suitable outlet without causing damage by erosion or flooding.
Underground Outlets

6" PVC-riser, Hog-Panel Guard around Inlet

6" PVC-Pipe Outlet
How do County Officials Work with Local Landowners?
Many times the “problems” we are challenged to fix, are only the symptoms of an issue that is occurring somewhere else.

Are we treating the Resource Concerns or the Symptoms of a Problem?
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