



The Growing Green Series

A Healthier Environment, One Meal at a Time

SOIL CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Keeping Our Soil Where it Belongs, On the Farm and Out of the Streams

Who We Are

There are many types of farms that use soil conservation practices in their fields. Some grow vegetables and others grow crops like corn, wheat or soybeans that go into the food products found on grocery store shelves or for livestock feed.



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

What Have We Done

Farmers use soil conservation practices to keep soil on the land and out of local waterways. In the spring, these farms prepare the fields for planting crops, but also keep the unharvested remains of last year's crop on the field. This plant residue improves soil health and holds it in place, preventing it from washing into nearby streams during heavy rainfall.

Why We Do It

Farmers begin using soil conservation practices for a variety of reasons. For example, after noticing that neighbors who use soil conservation practices don't experience the same flooding and field damage that they do during heavy rains. Special equipment to plant crops without disturbing the soil is needed but it can pay for itself with better soil and reduced problems from heavy rain.



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

Special planting equipment limits soil disturbance



Corn growing in mulch created by last season's crop

Why You Should Care

These farmers believe that the care of land and water contributes to the care and safety of your family. When you buy from farmers using soil conservation practices, you are helping them to do their part to make clean, healthy food available to you without harm to the environment.



Fresh and locally produced food from tastes better, and it's better for our local economy and environment.



Fresh food is healthier for kids of all ages than processed food.



As a result of the improvements described here, the waterways that run through these farms are cleaner, benefitting everyone downstream.



Wildlife neighbors appreciate the cleaner waterways even more than you do!

Capital RC&D's Growing Green Series promotes local farms that produce fresh, high quality, healthy foods using farm practices that keep our water clean and our families safe.

