

Current Issue:

Ag Soil & Water Conservation Stewardship

Current Issue Station Learning Goals

1. Identify and characterize the twelve soil orders.
2. Understand the basic water cycle.
3. Become aware of 2014 Farm Bill programs that are available to help farmers with conservation efforts.
4. Identify and explain common conservation practices that farmers utilize.
5. Recognize various types of erosion and learn how soil loss is calculated.
6. Understand the growing importance of cover crops and soil health.
7. Learn of job opportunities in soil & water conservation and natural resources.

Suggested Resources

Soil Taxonomy/Soil Orders:

- <https://www.soils.org/discover-soils/soil-basics/soil-types>

Water Cycle:

- <https://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercyclesummary.html>

2014 Farm Bill Programs:

- <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill>

Conservation Practices:

- <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ia/newsroom/factsheets/?cid=nrcseprd412634> – 32 common conservation practices – click on the links for more information about each.
- <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Iowa-Agricultural-Practices-and-the-Environment-Iowa-Environmental-Issues-Series> - Click “download” to view the 27-page .pdf document....it’s free.
- <http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/soils/tillage/>

Erosion and Soil Loss:

- http://www.5counties.org/docs/roadedu/2012_5c_roads/rusle.pdf

Cover Crops & Soil Health:

- <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/conservation/practices/covercrops.aspx>
- <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Topic-Rooms/Cover-Crops>
- <http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/soils/cover-crops/>
- https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mn/technical/?cid=nrcs142p2_023671
– Browse some of the fact sheets and .pdf files at the bottom of the page

Careers in Soil & Water Conservation and Natural Resources:

- <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/careers/> - Resources for federal careers with NRCS.
- <http://www.macde.us/employment-opportunities> - Check out the “Other Employment Resources” link for Minnesota soil & water careers.