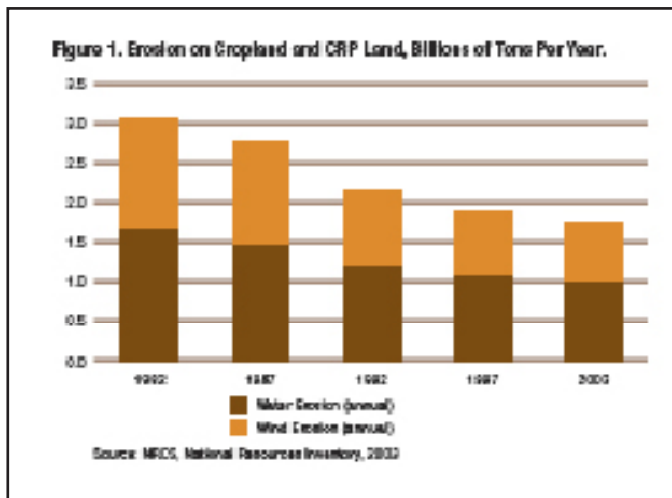


Soil and Water on Private Lands

Indicators

- Total Soil Loss
- Highly Erodible Cropland Adequately Protected



Key Tasks

Continue to provide technical assistance and cost-share through the State's 91 SWCD's, through BWSR's Cost-Share, Non-point Engineering Assistance Grants and General Services to Implement farming practices that reduce soil erosion, reduce soil compaction, and sequester carbon in the soil.

Continue to partner with DNR and Pheasants Forever to fund Farmbill marketing Technicians in participating SWCD's.

Issue

Key indicators of the quality of cropland and pastureland soils are erosion rates and acres of land adequately treated. Many practices that reduce erosion also maintain or increase soil organic matter. Soil organic matter improves soil structure and overall capacity to hold water and nutrients. Increasing soil organic matter content also can reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.

There are approximately 21.4 million acres of cropland in Minnesota (NRCS 1992). Pastureland accounts for an additional 3.3 million acres. Combined, these agricultural land uses reflect a majority (53 percent) of Minnesota's landscape. Consequently, it is appropriate to focus on this land use as a potential source of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution.

Sediment is the single most significant water pollutant resulting most frequently from agricultural and uses, particularly cropland (MN 2001-2005 NPS Plan).

Targets (FY08-09)

- 3,200 projects
- 272,000 ton reduction in soil erosion
- 202,000 ton reduction in sediment reaching lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands
- 398,000 pounds of phosphorous prevented from reaching surface waters



March 2007