

RC&D

RESOURCE

CONSERVATION

& DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships Serving America's Communities



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES

MAY 2010



Located in Osage County, Kansas, Melvern Lake is a multipurpose reservoir used for public water supply, recreation, and flood control. In 1999, this RC&D developed the Melvern Lake Water Quality project

RC&D councils partner with government agencies and non-profit organizations to help U.S. landowners find solutions to natural resource issues that will position land managers as global leaders addressing conservation and climate change and enhancing water resources for the future.

Improving Water Quality

*Flint Hills RC&D
Kansas*

to improve water quality and reduce nonpoint source pollutants in the lake. This EPA 319 Grant-funded project is a cooperative effort between local, State, and Federal agencies for landowners in the 225,000-acre watershed. As a result, conservation practices such as buffers, terraces, and grassed waterways, as well as

managed grazing and alternative watering systems, were installed on cropland and rangeland in the watershed. According to Kansas State University Research and Extension, the current high quality of water in Melvern Lake has been possible because of the sound management practices put in place in the watershed.

Helping People Help the Land

*Chihuahuan Desert RC&D
Texas*

In 2004, as part of their education and outreach efforts, this RC&D approached the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tigua Indian Tribe, offering technical assistance on their almost 74,000 acres of ranchland. The RC&D developed demonstration sites to show the effects of brush management and erosion control. These demonstrations sold the Tribe on the benefits of conservation. With direct assistance from the RC&D, the Tiguas received a \$200,000 grant through U.S.

Fish & Wildlife Service to fence the Tribe's property for better pasture management and apply herbicide for improved brush management. In 2009, with assistance from the RC&D, the Tribe applied for and received EQIP contracts for the installation of wildlife waterers, livestock pipelines, and water storage tanks. As a result, the Tribe has greatly improved the health of the land and wildlife habitat on the ranch, increasing its overall productivity and sustainability.



Other RC&D project snapshots from across the nation...

The RC&D, in consultation with NRCS, is under contract with Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Shore Erosion Control Program to administer a zero-interest loan program on the Eastern Shore in Charles and Calvert Counties. The objective of the program is to control shore erosion on private properties using vegetative means, with a minimum amount of rock. Project assistance for public properties includes construction of 500 feet of stone sill, sand placement, planting of four species of marsh grass, and design of 3,000 feet of embankment protection.

Saving the Shores

Maryland Eastern Shore RC&D
Maryland



The RC&D received EPA 319 grant funding to work with partners to demonstrate how dairy manure composting can be accomplished in an ecologically sensitive manner. As an example, Laurel Brook Farm, a dairy in East Canaan, is composting approximately 75 yards of manure each day. The project has been successful in producing high quality compost, mulch, garden mix, and topsoil products. These products are being sold in local and residential markets. This project is not only profitable, but helps turn the nutrient-rich manure compost into a valued product and keeps it out of waterways.

Green Rewards

Eastern Connecticut RC&D
Connecticut



Waste Solutions

Shenandoah RC&D
Virginia



In the face of increasing challenges, livestock and poultry producers need new tools and innovative, effective approaches to not just survive, but also help provide clean air and water. This RC&D organized the Waste Solutions Forum (WSF) to address these issues. The group developed a strategy for identifying, researching, and implementing economically and environmentally sustainable solutions for manure and litter management in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. WSF, through Virginia Tech, received \$1 million from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to implement pilot projects in the valley related to agricultural waste.



To volunteer for projects with your local RC&D council, submit ideas of your own, or find an RC&D council near you, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd> or www.rcdnet.org, or contact your local USDA Service Center.

You can make a difference!
Get involved with an RC&D in your area.

Look for other fact sheets highlighting RC&D projects in the areas of:

- **Self-Sustaining Communities**
- **Sustainable Agriculture Production**
 - **Child Nutrition**
 - **Job Creation & Retention**
 - **Renewable Energy**