

Course Name: Introduction to Michigan NRCS	
Course Coordinator: ASTC(O) & HRM	Course Number: MI0064

Overview:

This course provides an overview of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), its history, mission, programs, structure, operations, and relations with partner agencies. Also included are administrative actions and policies (such as the Merit Promotion System, applying for positions, timekeeping, obtaining approval to travel, etc.) that the NRCS employee needs to know.

Purpose:

To provide training to newer NRCS employees to help them understand what the agency does, how the agency works, and how they fit into the agency.

Prerequisites:

- Read “Conquest of the Land Through 7,000 Years” (this and the following three readings can be found on the NRCS website)
- Read “Natural Resources Conservation Service Brief History” by Douglas Helms
- Read “Biography of Hugh Hammond Bennett, The Father of Soil Conservation”
- Read “Conservation Districts: Getting to the Roots” by Douglas Helms.

Duration:

2 to 3 days

Target Audience:

The course is intended for NRCS Michigan employees who have been in NRCS one year or less. Employees who have been with the agency up to 2 years may be included as needed.

Expected Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course the attendees are expected to know and understand the history and mission of NRCS; they will understand how they fit into the agency. They will have a basic working knowledge of how to operate as an employee of the agency.

Resources needed:

Classroom with:

- Computer
- Video projector
- Screen

Outline for: Introduction to Michigan NRCS

The course will cover the history of SCS and NRCS, the current organization of the agency, NRCS and some USDA conservation programs, and the historical relationship between conservation districts and NRCS. The course will also cover NRCS operations including ethics, merit promotion principals, how to apply for positions within NRCS, personnel practices, the basics of travel, accountability, an introduction to NRCS state staffs, and an introduction to Michigan's core conservation partners.