



Soil and Water Conservation Action Plan 2022-2026

NRCS State Tech Advisory Committee

February 14, 2023

Moving the Needle on Water Quality

Big Picture

1. By 2026, more farms in Tennessee are fertilized according to soil test/plant tissue analysis than in 2022.
2. By 2026, fewer streams are impaired by agriculture on the List of Impaired Waters than in 2022.
3. By 2026, Tennessee will have an ambient stream monitoring network that will accurately assess nutrient loadings from Tennessee to the Mississippi River.
4. By 2026, more Tennessee farms will have nutrient management plans than in 2022.

Moving the Needle on Water Quality

- **Task 1- Establish a Baseline**

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- TDA will, by October 2022, working in partnership with UT-Extension and USDA- NASS, develop a survey to be sent to a representative sample of Tennessee agricultural producers to ask questions about soil testing, trends in fertilization, use of precision ag technology, etc. The results of this survey will form the basis of our outreach and education campaign of this Action Plan. We will conduct this survey on an annual basis through at least 2026.

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Survey Request: Demonstrating Environmental Stewardship

Author: Aaron Smith, Associate Professor and Extension Economist No Comments

Dear Tennessee Producer:

We invite you to participate in a study conducted by University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture researchers along with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. *The purpose of this survey is to demonstrate the progress Tennessee farmers are making towards environmental stewardship.*

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary. **NO** personal information or data will be collected.

Click the link below to begin the survey:

https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b8kZyA9i5i9uL1O

Please contact us if you have any other questions about the survey. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to help us!

Thank you for your time,

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Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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- TDA, through LWSS field staff and in partnership with SWCDs, will begin the process of ground truthing the TDEC's List of Impaired Waters that are impaired for some agricultural-related reason. An on-the-ground evaluation of each of these impaired waterbodies will confirm the accuracy of the listing, and perhaps uncover some where the agricultural sources no longer are present.
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- **Request 1 of District Technicians**

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- Using the TDEC Data Viewer, become familiar with the Impaired streams in your District—especially those with a source identified as some form of Agriculture
 - Provide TDA an opinion as to whether you and your local partners concur that the source is correct or incorrect.
 - If you feel the source ID'd by TDEC is incorrect, provide a reason why.
- If the source is correct, communicate this to TDA too.
- TDA will communicate this information to TDEC and they will evaluate to amend the impaired waters list, or perhaps follow up sampling will show stream can be removed from the Impaired List.
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- **Request 2 of District Technicians**

- Begin a process of evaluating farmland in your District in terms of the severity of the resource concerns and make contact with the owners of these parcels are aware of the programs offered through the district.

- Document their responses.

- This will ensure the documentation by the District that the owners of the lands in each District with the worst resource condition have been contacted by the District and are aware of the programs offered.

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