

## INDIANA CONSERVATION CHOICES

# Erosion Control Management

Conservation practices help improve soil health, reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide other natural resource benefits.

## INDIANA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

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Your SOIL is the most valuable asset on your farm. Once soil moves from one spot to another (erosion), that asset has lost value. Are you interested in controlling the erosion on your farm?

Unprotected soil is subject to erosion from water and wind. The more soil is disturbed with tillage or over-grazing, the higher the possibility of erosion, especially where runoff concentrates.

Erosion can be almost invisible as thin layers of top soil slowly move (sheet and rill erosion), or it can form deeper gullies. Some gullies can be erased by tillage (called ephemeral gullies). If not addressed they can then become gullies that can no longer be farmed.

Controlling erosion saves nutrient rich top soil, reduces sediment deposition issues on and off the field, maintains yields, and avoids the expense to fix gullies and other issues. The key to controlling erosion is to provide year-round cover (living plants, residues, etc.), and reduce runoff (improved infiltration).

The first step is to get a conservation plan. In essence, your plan is a “road map” to guide you from where you and your land are to where you want to be.

This factsheet lists common conservation practices for controlling erosion. To learn more about managing your land, visit your local NRCS office.





## FOR SHEET, RILL AND WIND EROSION

### Description

### Benefits

#### Reduced Tillage



Minimizing the intensity and frequency of tillage, including no-till, strip-till and mulch till.

- » Living cover and residue protects the soil and reduces sheet, rill and wind erosion.
- » Minimizes compaction and improves infiltration leading to reduced runoff and controlled ephemeral gullies.
- » Prevents sediment from entering streams.

#### Conservation Crop Rotation



Growing a diverse number of crops in as many years as possible, such as small grains or hay in a corn/soy rotation.

- » High residue and long-lived crops protect the soil and reduces sheet, rill and wind erosion.

#### Cover Crops



Grasses, legumes, and broadleaves planted for seasonal cover.

- » Living cover and residue protects the soil and reduces sheet, rill and wind erosion.
- » Reduces compaction and improves infiltration leading to reduced runoff and controlled ephemeral gullies.
- » Prevents sediment from entering streams.

## FOR EPHEMERAL AND CLASSIC GULLY EROSION

#### Grade Stabilization



A concrete/steel structure installed to stabilize active gullies.

- » Stabilizes the grade and head cutting of active gullies.
- » Prevents sediment from entering streams.

#### Grassed Waterway



Shaping and/or seeding areas to stabilize gullies and/or safely convey runoff.

- » Stabilizes active gullies.
- » Conveys runoff from terraces, diversions, etc.
- » Can be made compatible with farm equipment.
- » Prevents sediment from entering streams.

#### WASCOB Water and Sediment Control Basin



Earthen berms installed in a series of active gullies to form a sediment trap.

- » Stabilizes active gullies.
- » Traps sediment.
- » Can be made compatible with farm equipment.

For more information: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/Indiana](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Indiana)