

# NRCS NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service  
375 Jackson Street • Suite 600 St. Paul, MN 55101-1854 • (651) 602-7900  
Web: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov>

---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 7, 2008

### Contact:

[Julie MacSwain](#), State Public Affairs Specialist, (651) 602-7859

## MANAGING SOIL – YOUR MOST IMPORTANT INPUT

**SAINT PAUL, MN**– As Farmers make planting plans for 2008, you should not overlook your most basic input – the soil. The soil serves the crop by holding and supplying plant nutrients, water and supporting the plant root structure. With costs of production going to record highs, one must manage agricultural inputs with even greater care, and this is especially true of your soil.

Resources to do just that are available through your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office.

- The soil survey of is full of information about your soil, and it is available on-line through the web soil survey. This web based program offers many analysis tools for identifying and managing your soil resource to its greatest potential. Combined with detailed soil tests, these tools can also help you identify critical areas for management on your farm.
- Manure and fertilizer management information and other technical resources are available on the MN NRCS website and in person at the (county) USDA Service Center.
- Trained conservation planners can help you identify and review alternatives to identify and address your soil erosion and other resource concerns.
- Financial assistance opportunities may be available through the NRCS and other Conservation agencies to help with the costs of applying your conservation to the land.

As you look around at the thawing fields, remember what it was like last summer when we received the heavy rains. Were your waterways adequate or did you get gullies in your fields? In a dry spring, is your soil hard and dry, slowing infiltration of rain water and emergence and growth of your crop? Minimum tillage and maintaining proper residue cover helps with this.

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer