

# SOIL & WATER CONSERVATIONIST

## DEFINITION

Under general supervision, to provide for the servicing, application, layout and maintenance of conservation plans including field work and perform related work as required. The incumbent is under technical supervision of the District Conservationist of the United States Soil Conservation Service. The incumbent is subject to the rules, regulations and policies of Dane County, as administered by the County Agent's office.

## EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Contacts landowners and operators to review with them soil and water conservation problems on their units of land, to obtain physical data such as crop history, field arrangement, problem areas, and related information about the farm enterprise, suggests feasible alternative solutions to problems and assists the landowner in developing a conservation plan which is geared to the land capabilities and the desires and needs of the individual landowners or operator.

Contacts farmer cooperators to follow up on conservation plans which have been in existence for some years; reviews status of plan, recommends changes needed to bring the plan up to date and encourages the landowners to continue to apply the agreed upon conservation measures.

Is responsible for schedules, lays out and applies all types of soil conservation practices common to the county such as contour strip, waterways, terraces, diversions, erosion control structures, streambank protection and barnyard runoff control.

Determines need and feasibility of all types of practices as requested by farmers through program referrals; supervises installation and determines adequacy of practices installed; makes recommendations to the district conservationist as to acceptability of practices for cost-sharing in the county.

Determines need for and schedules servicing assistance contacts to cooperators. Makes needed revisions to conservation plans, encourages landowners or operators to complete the application of needed practices and arranges for necessary on-site application assistance.

Makes necessary surveys and develops engineering design for most of the repetitive or simpler routine practices in the unit. Plans are developed in accordance with soil conservation service specifications.

Keeps daily activity record, maintains records assigned by the district conservationist and extension agent and assist in the preparation of reports.

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SOIL & WATER CONSERVATIONIST (continued)  
Page 2

As directed, attends meetings of inter-agency groups, regional and/or community development groups to gain insight into particular program areas and to observe and develop competence in personal work relationships and group meeting techniques.

Reviews preliminary subdivision plats, erosion control plans and final subdivision plats for proper control measures.

## EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience: Any combination of education and experience equivalent to a bachelor's degree in one of the following areas: soils, agronomy, forestry, engineering or natural resources conservation. Qualifying experience in lieu of education must be in the professional application of soil and water conservation practices. Working knowledge of farm operations is preferred.

Special Requirements: Must have (or be eligible for) a valid Wisconsin driver's license and access to personal transportation.