

Soil Conservation Planner

Nature of Work

A Soil Conservation Planner is the entry level of soil and water conservation work related to agricultural operations, property and land. Employees in this classification develop and oversee the implementation of agricultural Resource Conservation plans, apply for and oversee the implementation of cost-share funding for best management practices. Employees apply soil and water conservation principles and practices and work closely with agricultural landowners and operators along with Federal and MD Department of Agriculture staff.

Employees in this classification receive close supervision from an MDA Resource Conservation District Supervisor (District Manager) and oversight by the Carroll Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Technical guidance is also provided by a USDA District Conservationist. Considerable time may be spent out-of-doors under varying climatic conditions in rural areas.

Examples of Work

Works directly with agricultural landowners and operators to develop and implement comprehensive soil conservation and water quality plans that provide for effective erosion control and water quality improvement or water management;

Develops or secures necessary field data and associated material such as soil maps, aerial photos, and MD Property Finder to prepare plans and review project applications;

Oversees implementation of best management practices;

Inspects installed practices to determine adherence to specifications;

Consults with other specialists to evaluate land use problems and propose solutions to problems;

Performs other related duties.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Knowledge of soil and water conservation principles, practices, methods and procedures;

Knowledge of soil types;

Knowledge of land use factors that affect soil erosion and water quality;

Knowledge of aspects of agronomy, hydrology and engineering related to the planning and installation of soil and water conservation projects;

Skill in recognizing soil erosion and water quality problems;

Skill in developing plans for conservation practices;

Skill in analyzing soil types and recognizing advantages and limitations of soils;

Skill in preparing and presenting reports;

Ability to apply laws, rules and regulations concerning soil and water conservation and grants programs;

Ability to use program manuals, forms, web-based resources, and guides to assure BMPs and conservation measures meet program requirements;

Ability to make sound recommendations;

Ability to establish and maintain harmonious working relationships with State, federal and community representatives, farm operators, land owners and the general public.