SWCD Cost-Share Process & Practices

SWCD's Purpose

- The Soil and Water Conservation Cost-Share Program is a state-funded incentive program designed for the purpose of saving the soil and protecting the water resources of the state to preserve the productive power of Missouri agricultural land.
- The cost-share program is intended to provide financial incentives to cooperators to install practices that they would not otherwise install.
- Public tax dollars are made available to Soil and Water Conservation District Boards of Supervisors to fund practices intended to save soil and protect the water resources of the state.

Cost-Share Process

- Annual Sign-Up for SGE practices
  - February
- Ranking of Applications
  - Vegetative practices automatically ranked at 101 points out of 100
- Primary & Supplemental Lists
- Before a Practice is Started:
  - Landowner/Operator Authorization
  - Pre-Practice Certification
  - Vendor Input Form for payments
  - Some practices have additional criteria, like soil testing for cover crops
- Practices with 10 year Maintenance Agreements must have signed and notarized Maintenance Agreement before payment

Practices

Terraces, Sediment Retention Basins, Diversions

- Pros
  - Controls overland flow of water
  - Shortens slope length
  - Diverts water to a stable outlet
- Cons
  - Costly
  - Dependent on good weather to build between crops
  - Usually requires a contractor
  - Disturbs a lot of soil and a large percentage of the area to what you are treating
  - Inconvenient to farm
  - Is not maintenance free


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Waterways

- Pros
  - Cost effective in conveying water to a suitable outlet
  - Can handle much larger area than tile outlets
- Cons
  - Take up a larger area
  - Have to maintain a good stand of grass
  - If erosion is not controlled they can catch a lot of sediment

Grass Establishment

- Reduces soil erosion
- Can be installed without a lot of equipment
- Can be used on areas that are not ideally suited for cropping systems
- Can be hayed or grazed

Cover Crops

- Reduces soil erosion
- Can be installed without a lot of equipment
- Improves soil health
- Can help with weed control and nutrient loss
- Can provide grazing forage

Filter Strips

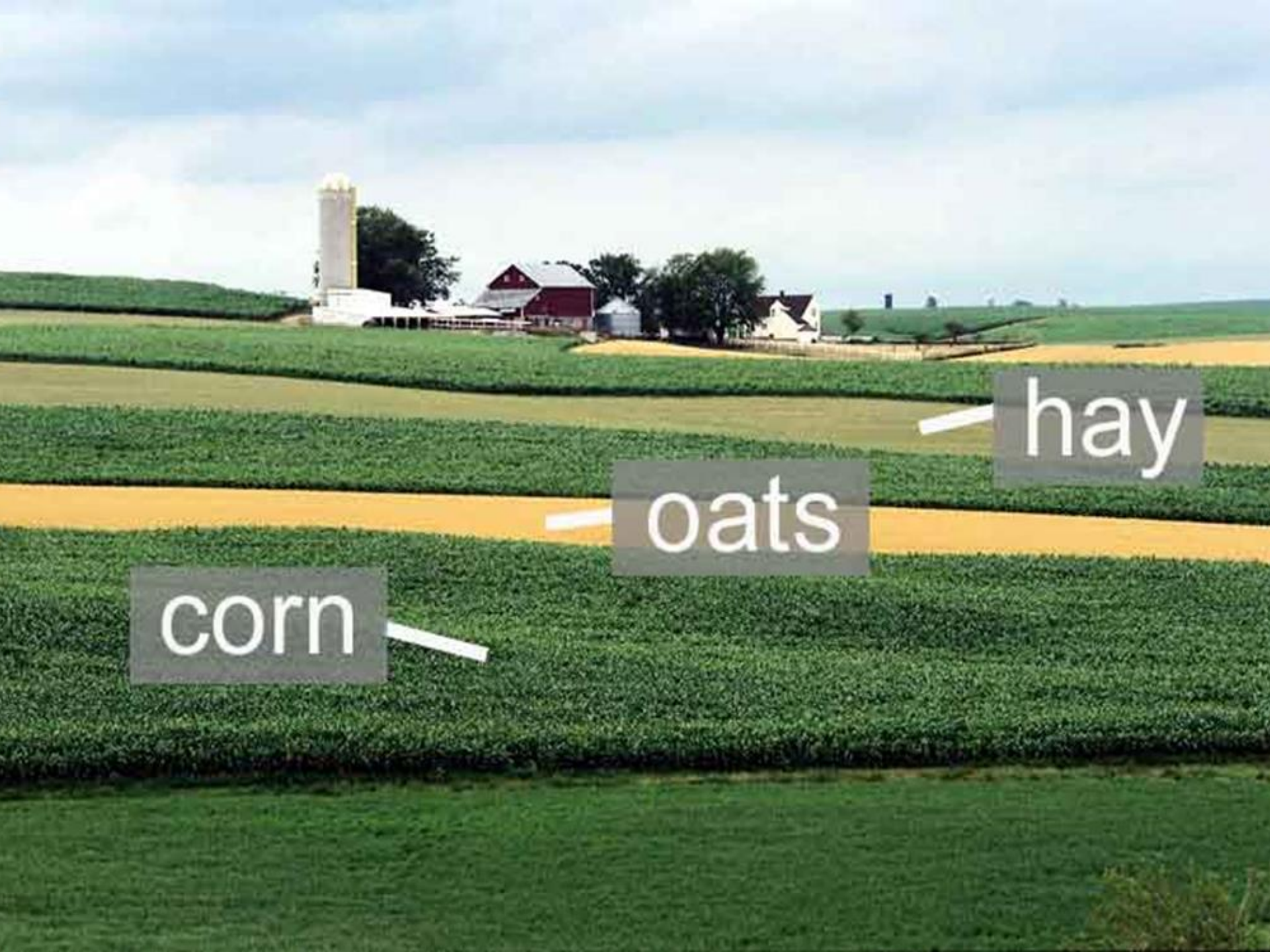
- Economics look good
- Can be installed without a lot of equipment
- Several programs
- Convenient to farm
- Can provide grazing depending on program
- Catches soil and nutrients before they leave the field

Contour Buffer Strips

- Economics look good
- Can be installed without a lot of equipment
- Easier than terraces to farm
- Does not disturb a lot of area or soil
- Can hay or graze with SWCD

Stripcropping

- Economics look good
- You already have the equipment
- Reduces soil erosion
- No terraces to deal with
- Flexible


hay
oats
corn

Field Borders

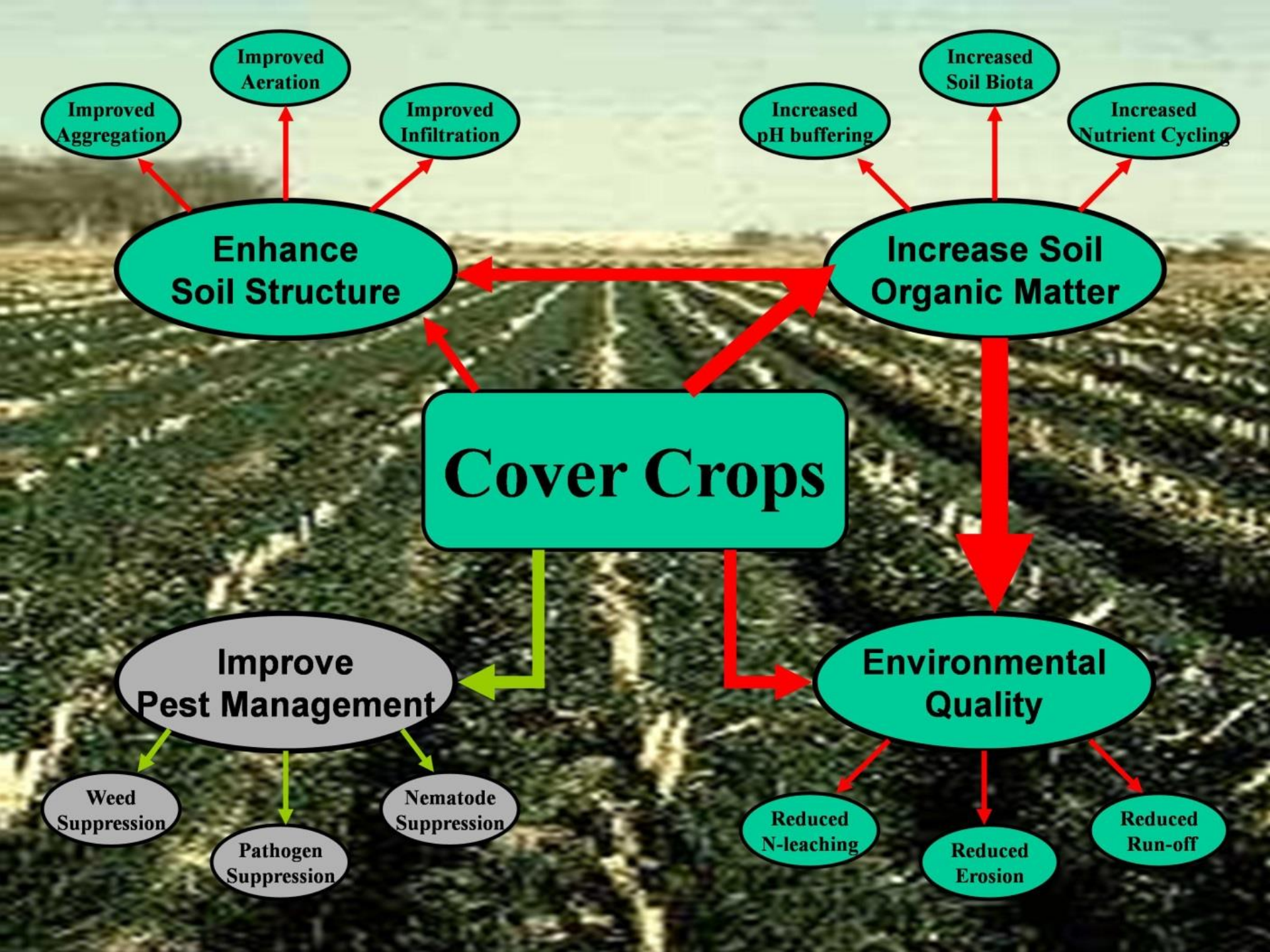
- Economics look good
- Can be installed without a lot of equipment
- Several programs
- Convenient to farm
- Can hay or graze with SWCD
- These areas are notorious for having higher input costs, lower yields, and as compaction zones
- They allow easy access around the entire field

Some of Our Other Practices Available

- No-Till
- Animal Waste Management Practices
- Streambank Stabilization
- Well Decommissioning
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Stream Protection
- Forest Plantation
- Livestock Exclusion
- Grazing Practices
- And More!

“I’m really intrigued with the amount of water infiltration we’re seeing with our cover crops. As we go to cover crops with deeper roots, and bigger root masses, we’re seeing rainfall dissipate through the soil better. We don’t have water pockets in our tight clay soils anymore.”

David Brandt, Ohio


Improved Aeration
Improved Aggregation
Improved Infiltration
Increased Soil Biota
Increased pH buffering
Increased Nutrient Cycling
Enhance Soil Structure
Increase Soil Organic Matter
Cover Crops
Improve Pest Management
Environmental Quality
Weed Suppression
Pathogen Suppression
Nematode Suppression
Reduced N-leaching
Reduced Erosion
Reduced Run-off

Grasses

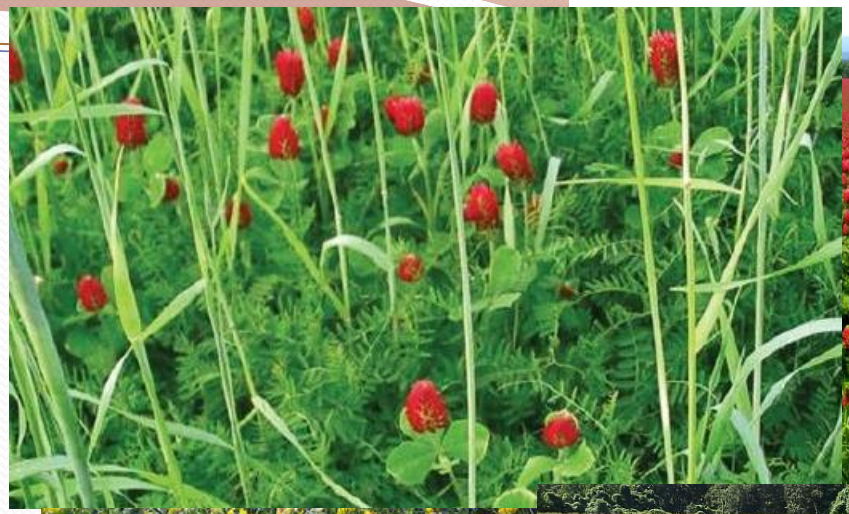
- Cereal Rye
- Annual Ryegrass
- Barley
- Oats
- Wheat
- Triticale
- Millet
- Sorghum
- Sudangrass

Broadleaves

- Radish
- Turnip
- Canola
- Buckwheat
- Sunflower

Legumes

- Clover
- Vetch
- Pea
- Birdsfoot Trefoil
- Sunnhemp
- Soybean (forage)






Questions?