

Organic – Conservation Cross Training Pre / Post Test *For Organic Professionals*

- 1. The NRCS started out in 1933 as the:
 - A. Soil Conservation Service
 - B. Farmers Cooperative Extension Service
 - C. Soil Erosion Service
 - D. National Erosion Control Agency
- 2. The Mission of the NRCS is:
 - A. Sustainable Watersheds and Productive Agriculture
 - B. Saving Our Soil
 - C. Productive Lands, Healthy Soil
 - D. Helping People Help The Land
- 3. NRCS has a long standing and close partnership with which of the following:
 - A. Soil and Water Conservation Society
 - B. Soil and Water Conservation Districts
 - C. Watershed Councils
 - D. Environmental Defense Council
- 4. NRCS works with private landowners to:
 - A. Help producers secure cost-share funding
 - B. Limit damage to natural resources related to the production of food and fiber
 - C. Align food and fiber production with World Trade Organization rules
 - D. Help producers maximize income
- 5. Conservation plans are developed by:
 - A. A producer with help from a resource planner
 - B. A resource planner with help from Extension Service
 - C. The Soil and Water Conservation District
 - D. Certified crop advisors
- 6. The primary purpose of conservation planning is to:
 - A. Help producers secure cost-share funding
 - B. Make producers aware of existing resource concerns
 - C. Dictate actions needed to comply with federal and state laws
 - D. Help producers maximize profits

PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY



7. What resources does NRCS address in the planning process:

- A. Watershed Health and , Productivity
- B. Cropland, Grazingland, and Forestland Ecology
- C. Tillage, Residue Management, Crop Productivity, Grazing Management and Irrigation systems
- D. Soil, Water, Air, Plant, Animals, Human, and Energy
- 8. What are the first 2 steps in the planning process:
 - A. Determine Objectives & Identify Problems
 - B. Inventory Resources & Estimate Costs
 - C. Determine Objectives & Secure Funding
 - D. Identify Problems & Identify Appropriate Farm Bill Program
- 9. In determining which resource issues to address, the NRCS planner relies most heavily on:
 - A. The local watershed council
 - B. Professional judgment and input from the producer
 - C. National Environmental Policy Act
 - D. National priorities defined in the Farm Bill

10. When presenting a producer with options to address resource issues the planner should focus on conservation practices that:

- A. Are going to maximize profits
- B. Are needed and feasible
- C. Will minimize ground disturbance
- D. Align with national priorities defined in the Farm Bill
- 11. Every conservation plan should contain an economic analysis that:
 - A. Accounts for funds provided by NRCS cost-share programs
 - B. Can be uploaded into Quickbooks
 - C. Provides cost/benefit information to help the client to make a decision
 - D. Identifies planned actions that are tax deductible
- 12. What Socio-Economic conditions does NRCS consider in planning:
 - A. The producer's risk tolerance
 - B. A producer's managerial abilities
 - C. The opinions of members of the surrounding community
 - D. All of the above
- 13. NRCS uses "Quality Criteria" to:
 - A. Rate the quality of conservation plans
 - B. Rate the producer as to the number of BMPs being used
 - C. Rate a producer's managerial abilities
 - D. Define a resource condition that equates roughly with sustainable use

PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY



14. A Resource Management System (RMS):

- A. A conservation plan that addresses all resource concerns
- B. A standard set of Best Management Practices for a given land use
- C. Is required for producers to obtain cost-share funds
- D. Is a description of the recordkeeping system implemented by a producer

15. One of the key resource assessment tools used by NRCS is the:

- A. Resource Management System (RMS)
- B. Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE)
- C. Direct Indicator of Dirt and Dust Latent Yield (DIDDLY)
- D. Soil Quality User Assessment Tool (SQUAT)
- 16. Which of the following is <u>not</u> an output of RUSLE:
 - A. Interrill and rill erosion
 - B. Sediment yield
 - C. Estimate of trend in organic matter production and retention
 - D. Stream channel erosion

17. What factors does Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) use to calculate the degree of soil disturbance between production systems

- A. Speed, depth, % surface disturbance, tillage type, soil type
- B. Crop produced and yield
- C. Slope, aspect, and climate
- D. Overland flow for lower eroding portion of slope
- 18. Why are stream assessments an important tool in conservation planning?
 - A. They help the NRCS planners design streambank protection measures
 - B. The Clean Water Act dictates water quality standards that must be met
 - C. They offer shade and shelter to planners on hot summer days
 - D. Streams, typically the lowest point in the landscape, are good indicators of the condition of upland resources
- 19. Stream Visual Assessment Protocol assesses:
 - A. Effectiveness of EPA water quality programs
 - B. Impacts of the Clean Water Act standards
 - C. A Stream's condition on a landowner's property, regardless of cause
 - D. Impact of a landowner's operations on fish habitat
- 20. What criteria do Farm Bill Conservation Programs and Organic Certification have in common?
 - A) They subject producers to a certification processes to determine eligibility to participate
 - B) They provide incentives to encourage changes in behavior
 - C) They utilize national best management practices
 - D) B&C