

Technician Development Program

“From pie in the sky to on the ground training”



DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES
DAVID HANSELMANN, CHIEF

Technician Development Program

Program Goals

Provide formal and uniform training for SWCD technicians across the state

Raise the technical ability of SWCD technicians and design consistency across the state

Provide an opportunity for experience & foster confidence

Expand engineering support for programs & SWCDs



Technician Development Program

Development

Hired 6 Professional Engineers to service 5 administrative areas & conduct training

Rolled out TDP in February 2003



Technician Development Program

Plan

Focus on basic technical skills for technicians within 5 years of hiring:

- design and construction of basic conservation practices
- utilize NRCS manuals and other common technical references

Build in advanced courses for mid-career staff



Technician Development Program

Plan

Include sample problems, class exercises or demonstrations

1-2 days / class (7 to 10 days / year)

\$40-\$60 / class (covers costs only)

Provide all class materials



Technician Development Program

Classes

TDP consists of five levels:

- Levels 1 & 2 contain fundamental courses required for all participants
- Levels 3, 4 & 5 are taken as electives on advanced practices and design concepts

All classes are available to take on as as-needed basis



Technician Development Program

Classes

Level 1

Engineering Tools & Technical Resources

Surveying; Levels & Leveling *EFH1*

Hydrology; Estimating Runoff & Peak Flows *EFH2*

Preparation of Engineering Plan *EFH5*

Math Refresher

Basic Soils



Basic Soils



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Classes

Level 2

- Surveying; Transits *EFH1*
- Basic Hydraulics *EFH3*
- Soils Engineering *EFH4*
- Grassed Waterway Design *EFH7*
- Grade Stabilization Structures *EFH6*
- Pond Design *EFH11*
- Construction Inspection & Materials *EFH17*



Soils Engineering



Technician Development Program

Classes

Level 3-4-5 (electives)

Surveying; Total Station
LiDAR
GIS
Hydrology; TR-55
Agrichemical Handling Facilities
Dry Hydrants
Wetland Design
Animal Waste Storage Facilities
Subsurface Drainage Design
Mortality Composting Facilities
Wastewater Irrigation Systems
Open Channels
Livestock Watering Systems
Stream Morphology (1 and 2)
Construction Site Erosion Control (1 and 2)
Stormwater Detention Basins
Handling Ag. Pollution Complaints



Surveying; Total Station

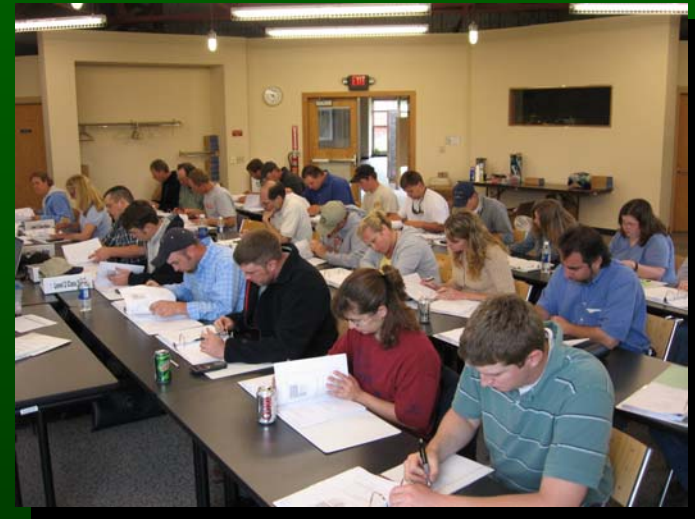


Technician Development Program

Certification

Technicians are tested and receive certification upon completion of each level:

- Creates a recognized “credential”
- Can be used by SWCDs in their employment and salary structure



Technician Development Program

To Date

32 classes or 'modules' developed

275 SWCD technicians, 67 NRCS staff and 15 partner staff trained

262 have enrolled in the whole program and 95 attended individual classes as needed



Other Trainings

Coordinated with partners to provide:

- a week long conservation planning training
- certified nutrient management training

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