



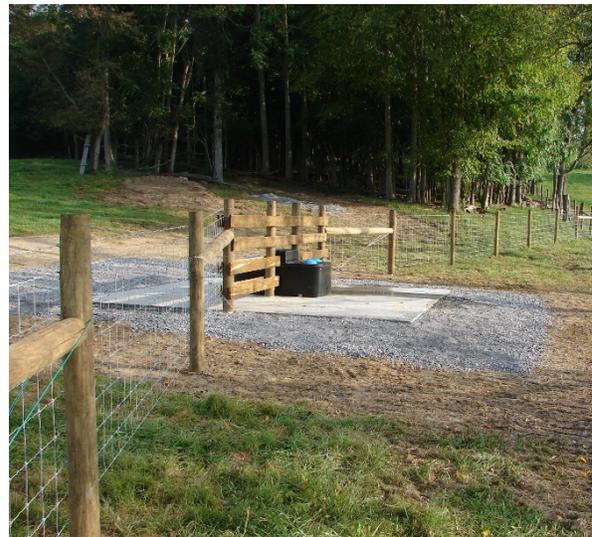
# **Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF)**

## **2023 Biennial Report**

### **Submitted to the Tennessee General Assembly**

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

**Improving Tennessee's Soil and Water Quality – One Farm at a Time**



**February 1, 2023**

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*On the Cover (left): Winter Cover for Soil Health in Hardeman County,  
(right): Alternative livestock watering system and a heavy use area with cross fencing in Sullivan County.  
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## Introduction

In 1991, the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly established the Agricultural Nonpoint Water Pollution Control Fund [TCA §67-4-409(l)]. The purpose of the Fund was to implement a program for the abatement and prevention of nonpoint source pollution that may be caused by agricultural activities. Revenue for the program is derived from the Recordation Tax on the transfer of real property from which the Ag Nonpoint Fund receives 1.5 cents per \$100 of property value, or from appropriations of the General Assembly. Pursuant to TCA §67-4-409(m)(1)(C), the Commissioner of Agriculture is required to file a report every odd-numbered year that details the expenditures from this fund.

In 1997, the General Assembly enacted modifications to the Fund, renaming it the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF) and focusing the program to fund solutions to nonpoint water pollution from agriculture; to educate landowners, producers, and managers about activities to eliminate nonpoint source pollution; and to fund projects associated with livestock production that may cause pollution. In FY 2003, the funding status of the program changed from recurring to a mixture of recurring and non-recurring funding. In FY 2008, the funding status changed to totally non-recurring funding. In FY 2010, funding was restored to the original recurring status.

FIGURE 1: GRADE CONTROL STRUCTURE  
MADISON COUNTY



The ARCF provides funding to landowners in all 95 counties through partnerships with Tennessee's 95 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The money supports installation of Best Management Practices to lessen impairment Tennessee water from excessive soil loss, livestock impacts, and associated pollutant transport. Funds are also available for a wide array of information and education projects to inform landowners, producers, and managers about how prevent degradation of our streams, lakes, and rivers. Grants are

awarded to purchase specialty equipment for the promotion of on-farm management activities which lessen soil erosion and impacts from runoff.

It is the responsibility of the Land and Water Stewardship Section within the Department's Administration and Grants Division to administer the ARCF. The ARCF is used by the Department as a programmatic non-federal matching fund for the 319 Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Grant Program, funded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



FIGURE 2: WATERWAY BEFORE (TOP) AND AFTER (BOTTOM) SMITH COUNTY

## Program Components

Activities supported by the ARCF include:

**Best Management Practices (BMPs) that control soil erosion from cropland** such as terraces, grade stabilization structures, diversions, water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, field borders, riparian buffers, cover crop incentives and other practices that may be recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS).

**BMPs that control and manage animal waste** such as structural systems (lagoons, holding ponds), livestock exclusion systems, rotational grazing systems, alternative watering facilities, and other practices recommended by the USDA-NRCS.

**Information and Education projects that promote adoption of agricultural BMPs and create public awareness about such activities** such as field days, workshops, events sponsored by Soil and Water Conservation Districts, on-farm demonstrations, applied research conducted by institutions of higher education, and specialty equipment grants to encourage better management of resources.

## Program Priorities

As stated in TCA §67-4-409 (l), "It is the intent of the general assembly that the highest priority of the agricultural resources conservation fund is to abate and prevent nonpoint source water pollution that may be associated with agricultural production." Further, the statute directs funds "to address point and nonpoint source water quality issues, as well as nuisance problems, including, but not limited to, odor, noise, dust and similar concerns." Therefore, the Department has developed guidelines for the program to ensure that the BMPs installed across Tennessee will have a positive effect on the water resources of our state.

## Financial History

Consistent with the requirements of TCA 67-4-409(m), the following is a summary of expenditures relative to implementation of the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund. From FY 1992 to FY 2022, more than \$140 million dollars have been directed and/or appropriated to this program. With the voluntary participation of Tennessee farmers, more than 53,000 conservation practices have been installed, positively impacting more than 1.7 million acres of farmland and the adjacent and downstream water resources.

## Summary of Activities of the ARCF

Fiscal Year	FY 1992-1999	FY 2000-2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Revenues	\$18,489,629	\$95,544,833	\$10,989,056	\$15,229,583
Expenditures	\$16,767,331	\$79,361,964	\$5,761,094	\$11,341,721
Grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts	660	1,920	95	95
Grants to Other Qualifying Partners	139	253	9	7
Number of Practices Installed	11,275	38,067	2,109	2,205
Acres Treated/ Stabilized	340,624	1,264,724	64,982	106,270



FIGURE 3: GRADE CONTROL STRUCTURE BEFORE (TOP LEFT), AFTER INSTALLATION (TOP RIGHT), AFTER GRASS ESTABLISHMENT AND EXCLUSION FENCING INSTALLED (RIGHT) FAYETTE COUNTY

## Documented Successes

To date, there have been 43 approved success stories in watersheds across Tennessee where water quality has measurably improved due to the implementation of conservation projects funded through the ARCF, along with other conservation programs and partners.

Full descriptions of these successes may be found online at:

[www.epa.gov/nps/nonpoint-source-success-stories-tennessee](http://www.epa.gov/nps/nonpoint-source-success-stories-tennessee)  
[www.tn.gov/agriculture/farms/conservation/nps-success-stories.html](http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/farms/conservation/nps-success-stories.html)

FIGURE 4: MAP OF TENNESSEE’S NONPOINT SOURCE SUCCESS STORY WATERSHEDS

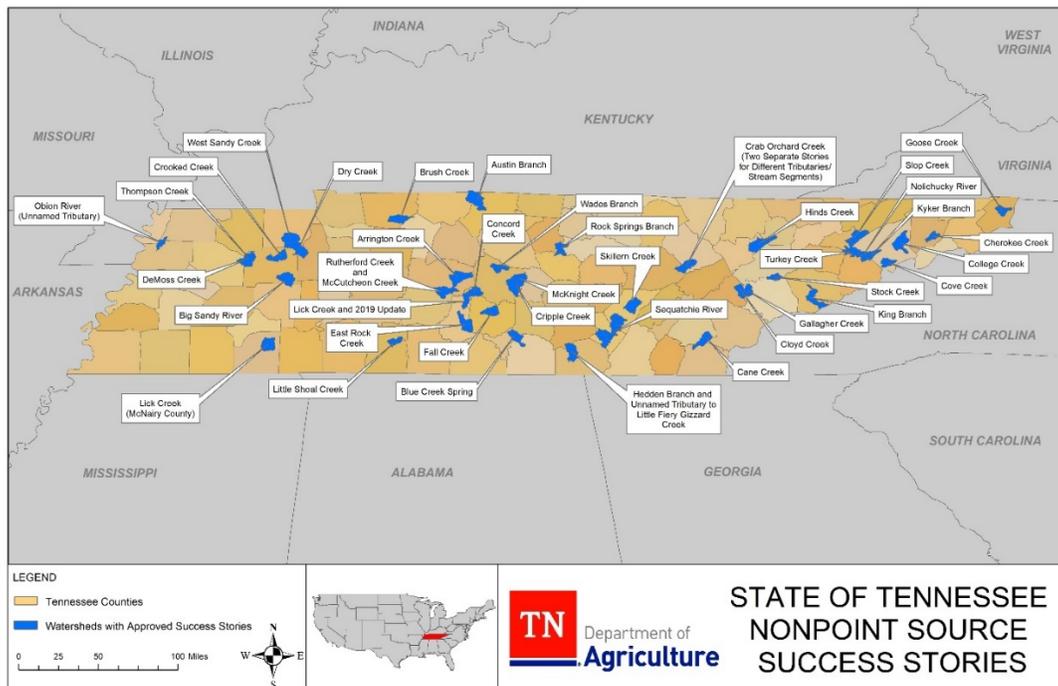


FIGURE 5: EXCLUSION FENCING  
JOHNSON COUNTY





FIGURE 6: CROSS FENCING OF PASTURE HUMPHREYS COUNTY



FIGURE 7: CROSS FENCING AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK WATERING FACILITY MARION COUNTY



FIGURE 8: STREAMBANK STABILIZATION BEFORE (ABOVE)  
AND AFTER (BELOW)  
WASHINGTON COUNTY



### Summary of Expenditures

The table below is a report of Soil and Water Conservation District expenditures for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022 for the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund, including administrative charges and equipment/field day grants.

County SWCD	FY 2021		FY 2022		Totals	
	Practices Installed	Expenditures for Practices	Practices Installed	Expenditures for Practices	Total Practices	Total Expenditures (Including Conservation Practices, Administrative Costs, Education and Outreach, etc.)
Anderson	16	\$ 33,339.00	38	\$ 70,349.00	54	\$ 112,208.00
Bedford	58	\$ 87,271.44	71	\$ 174,844.38	129	\$ 323,756.68
Benton	15	\$ 27,441.30	16	\$ 65,329.90	31	\$ 98,563.52
Bledsoe	8	\$ 24,230.70	3	\$ 14,190.26	11	\$ 46,069.07
Blount	53	\$ 87,115.08	68	\$ 130,278.54	121	\$ 222,463.62
Bradley	14	\$ 49,229.13	15	\$ 37,412.24	29	\$ 108,802.94
Campbell	20	\$ 57,895.00	18	\$ 77,190.00	38	\$ 142,315.00
Cannon	21	\$ 28,312.69	20	\$ 37,316.59	41	\$ 86,999.28
Carroll	40	\$ 67,953.01	66	\$ 108,880.44	106	\$ 207,173.45
Carter	0	\$ - 0.00	0	\$ 17,000.00	0	\$ 22,280.00
Cheatham	15	\$ 57,254.66	12	\$ 104,991.47	27	\$ 179,158.90
Chester	18	\$ 18,761.03	45	\$ 61,815.12	63	\$ 85,496.15
Claiborne	64	\$ 167,862.00	162	\$ 465,186.00	226	\$ 656,268.00
Clay	44	\$ 52,234.60	50	\$ 91,912.97	94	\$ 189,229.65
Cocke	5	\$ 7,368.00	15	\$ 64,377.00	20	\$ 102,895.00
Coffee	46	\$ 69,093.90	66	\$ 130,770.16	112	\$ 231,893.48
Crockett	24	\$ 37,543.86	39	\$ 59,911.72	63	\$ 103,065.58
Cumberland	3	\$ 5,886.81	17	\$ 23,965.98	20	\$ 53,342.79
Davidson	8	\$ 13,600.83	16	\$ 57,787.13	24	\$ 88,174.76
Decatur	23	\$ 47,407.90	31	\$ 108,449.00	54	\$ 161,076.90
DeKalb	10	\$ 18,263.78	2	\$ 16,772.08	12	\$ 61,865.86
Dickson	30	\$ 142,656.09	48	\$ 135,009.95	78	\$ 303,458.82
Dyer	10	\$ 15,655.16	22	\$ 30,628.72	32	\$ 53,152.96
Fayette	32	\$ 215,085.44	50	\$ 235,869.60	82	\$ 482,702.54

FY 2023 ARCF Report to the General Assembly

County SWCD	FY2021		FY2022		Totals	
	Practices Installed	Expenditures for Practices	Practices Installed	Expenditures for Practices	Total Practices	Total Expenditures (Including Conservation Practices, Administrative Costs, Education and Outreach, etc.)
Fentress	26	\$ 72,962.72	40	\$ 181,804.64	66	\$ 310,820.04
Franklin	31	\$ 94,676.03	63	\$ 112,680.54	94	\$ 213,956.57
Gibson	40	\$ 94,870.37	24	\$ 74,647.80	64	\$ 176,258.17
Giles	2	\$ 73,438.07	83	\$ 196,526.27	85	\$ 297,539.93
Grainger	111	\$ 167,068.00	139	\$ 321,307.00	250	\$ 517,563.00
Greene	17	\$ 48,065.00	57	\$ 187,911.00	74	\$ 244,080.62
Grundy	2	\$ 8,691.11	3	\$ 2,441.99	5	\$ 17,553.10
Hamblen	30	\$ 100,459.31	50	\$ 209,431.29	80	\$ 317,220.60
Hamilton	4	\$ 14,570.51	20	\$ 52,866.89	24	\$ 74,115.51
Hancock	13	\$ 25,954.00	90	\$ 299,124.52	103	\$ 342,410.27
Hardeman	34	\$ 77,783.29	31	\$ 53,503.74	65	\$ 147,029.93
Hardin	1	\$ 25,000.00	28	\$ 160,657.10	29	\$ 190,697.10
Hawkins	15	\$ 24,987.00	101	\$ 237,792.67	116	\$ 289,393.45
Haywood	27	\$ 45,897.55	35	\$ 52,713.95	62	\$ 105,688.53
Henderson	34	\$ 70,219.91	61	\$ 153,245.75	95	\$ 230,875.66
Henry	10	\$ 29,802.74	36	\$ 162,787.52	46	\$ 221,160.26
Hickman	11	\$ 26,312.84	16	\$ 40,643.64	27	\$ 73,684.48
Houston	11	\$ 20,889.77	13	\$ 27,491.13	24	\$ 56,910.90
Humphreys	26	\$ 59,523.29	11	\$ 30,399.92	37	\$ 98,934.45
Jackson	47	\$ 71,523.66	26	\$ 54,366.23	73	\$ 145,707.99
Jefferson	38	\$ 92,758.00	82	\$ 250,877.75	120	\$ 375,867.54
Johnson	0	\$ 0.00	25	\$ 64,948.66	25	\$ 76,768.66
Knox	37	\$ 58,066.00	23	\$ 165,159.00	60	\$ 264,493.04
Lake	7	\$ 44,732.80	4	\$ 80,256.62	11	\$ 130,658.92
Lauderdale	58	\$ 100,604.36	77	\$ 166,905.02	135	\$ 292,159.38
Lawrence	8	\$ 31,028.18	35	\$ 49,902.12	43	\$ 98,214.63
Lewis	7	\$ 5,297.79	10	\$ 34,815.87	17	\$ 64,504.47
Lincoln	19	\$ 36,387.72	56	\$ 127,041.22	75	\$ 180,630.79
Loudon	17	\$ 37,423.26	47	\$ 75,460.00	64	\$ 143,429.96

County SWCD	FY2021		FY2022		Totals	
	Practices Installed	Expenditures for Practices	Practices Installed	Expenditures for Practices	Total Practices	Total Expenditures (Including Conservation Practices, Administrative Costs, Education and Outreach, etc.)
Macon	20	\$ 20,113.01	28	\$ 34,439.41	48	\$ 76,795.30
Madison	29	\$ 75,547.10	62	\$ 109,953.57	91	\$ 192,130.67
Marion	7	\$ 10,169.35	12	\$ 22,838.95	19	\$ 38,708.30
Marshall	37	\$ 67,197.85	27	\$ 67,090.37	64	\$ 141,715.19
Maury	37	\$ 87,066.27	122	\$ 218,651.14	159	\$ 313,125.23
McMinn	20	\$ 22,434.11	24	\$ 50,894.32	44	\$ 79,418.43
McNairy	5	\$ 10,177.13	40	\$ 81,998.22	45	\$ 117,675.35
Meigs	9	\$ 12,432.54	31	\$ 49,231.45	40	\$ 103,990.07
Monroe	10	\$ 30,329.76	122	\$ 271,113.00	132	\$ 330,775.35
Montgomery	20	\$ 57,306.20	17	\$ 77,617.63	37	\$ 148,849.93
Moore	2	\$ 3,579.33	3	\$ 2,400.01	5	\$ 12,639.29
Morgan	7	\$ 24,532.00	24	\$ 145,755.20	31	\$ 221,468.61
Obion	30	\$ 45,692.94	81	\$ 211,062.45	111	\$ 262,505.39
Overton	5	\$ 5,995.10	45	\$ 137,058.75	50	\$ 163,395.05
Perry	24	\$ 33,413.69	39	\$ 62,055.51	63	\$ 102,819.20
Pickett	13	\$ 7,130.70	27	\$ 138,410.59	40	\$ 198,633.19
Polk	2	\$ 2,275.00	8	\$ 21,872.26	10	\$ 30,977.26
Putnam	6	\$ 9,001.72	13	\$ 49,204.36	19	\$ 78,383.20
Rhea	0	\$ 5,987.61	15	\$ 47,639.20	15	\$ 87,145.81
Roane	17	\$ 24,021.63	30	\$ 41,249.00	47	\$ 78,713.47
Robertson	101	\$ 146,318.53	53	\$ 147,294.38	154	\$ 326,482.91
Rutherford	33	\$ 51,197.40	11	\$ 43,530.74	44	\$ 102,048.14
Scott	5	\$ 5,908.48	14	\$ 65,376.94	19	\$ 106,143.17
Sequatchie	1	\$ 882.63	8	\$ 20,631.67	9	\$ 27,594.30
Sevier	12	\$ 19,996.11	29	\$ 122,980.50	41	\$ 150,466.61
Shelby	10	\$ 15,473.75	10	\$ 36,148.73	20	\$ 55,822.48

County SWCD	FY2021		FY2022		Totals	
	Practices Installed	Expenditures for Practices	Practices Installed	Expenditures for Practices	Total Practices	Total Expenditures (Including Conservation Practices, Administrative Costs, Education and Outreach, etc.)
Smith	40	\$ 44,046.59	36	\$ 82,086.07	76	\$ 132,822.66
Stewart	9	\$ 14,931.20	0	\$ 0.00 -	9	\$ 19,840.20
Sullivan	20	\$ 59,116.00	17	\$ 54,456.62	37	\$ 121,332.62
Sumner	27	\$ 43,918.51	28	\$ 95,098.03	55	\$ 144,056.54
Tipton	78	\$ 130,292.92	178	\$ 305,948.03	256	\$ 440,740.95
Trousdale	17	\$ 30,439.01	1	\$ 7,378.11	18	\$ 43,567.12
Unicoi	1	\$ 0.00	2	\$ 46,168.82	3	\$ 51,058.82
Union	39	\$ 84,737.00	80	\$ 402,273.00	119	\$ 511,398.00
Van Buren	4	\$ 17,929.04	26	\$ 99,332.66	30	\$ 186,991.32
Warren	32	\$ 66,438.75	34	\$ 63,503.96	66	\$ 188,843.46
Washington	26	\$ 203,380.23	26	\$ 131,388.17	52	\$ 342,604.45
Wayne	30	\$ 85,604.90	47	\$ 130,291.81	77	\$ 236,259.53
Weakley	29	\$ 61,527.85	49	\$ 170,922.64	78	\$ 273,290.49
White	57	\$ 75,261.18	27	\$ 27,029.02	84	\$ 105,800.20
Williamson	18	\$ 38,530.08	10	\$ 8,203.77	28	\$ 53,263.85
Wilson	38	\$ 81,627.42	42	\$ 115,746.88	80	\$ 219,839.30

### Partners

- Tennessee’s 95 Soil Conservation Districts
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- County Governments
- Tennessee Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
- University of Memphis
- Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts
- Tennessee Conservation District Employees Association
- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation



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