

Water Erosion

The erosion rate by water on U.S. croplands has been reduced by 24% in the last 15 years.

Match the graphic to the term that describes each soil conservation technique.

_____ **Contour farming** - planting alternating strips of crops across the slope of the land. The strips usually alternate between a row crop like corn with a solid-seeded crop like wheat, barley or alfalfa.

_____ **Terraces** - a series of step-like contours in fields. Each "step" slows the flow of water runoff, slowing the erosion process.

_____ **Dam** - an earthen or concrete structure to stop water flow to trap sediment, stabilize drainage ways and reduce erosion, store excess water temporarily to reduce flood damage, or store water for livestock, irrigation, household or municipal use.

_____ **Grassed waterway** - seeding grass in areas of a farm field prone to heavy water erosion or gullying.

