Conservation Planning Process

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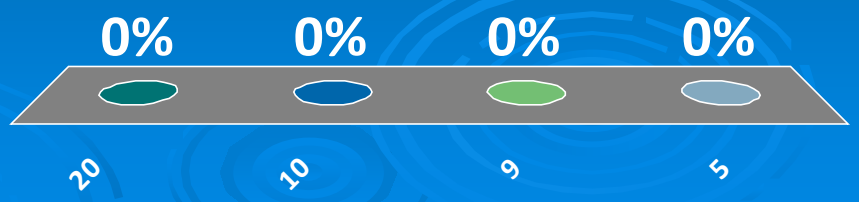
How many steps are in the planning process

A. 20

B. 10

C. 9 ✔

D. 5



Current Steps of Conservation Planning

1 Producer states the practices he wants
2 Field Office takes an application
3 Field Office ranks the application
4 Eligibility is verified with FSA
5 Field Office completes a contract
6 Producer calls to say the practice is installed
7 Field Office goes to verify in the field
8 Payment is made
9 Plan is developed in toolkit

Conservation Planning Process

Nine Steps of Conservation Planning:

1. Identify Problems
2. Determine Objectives
3. Inventory Resources
4. Analyze Resources
5. Formulate Alternatives
6. Evaluate Alternatives
7. Make Decisions
8. Implement Plan
9. Evaluate Plan

Guiding Principles of the Planning Process

- Voluntary
- Client/decision maker is the focal point
- Takes place in the field with the client
- Sees the “Big Picture”
- Site specific
- Progressive planning
- Comprehensive
- Utilizes partners
- Adaptive management

Planning Process Resources

- National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH)

Part 600 – National Planning Procedures Handbook

Subpart D – Plan Format and Content

600.30 Introduction

A. The conservation plan is developed jointly by the client and the planner, for the client's and planner's use to record decisions for natural resource protection, conservation, and enhancement. The NRCS copy of the plan is maintained in hardcopy or electronically, as appropriate.

Figure 600-D1: Client and conservationist discuss a conservation plan.

B. Decisions and resource information needed during implementation and maintenance of the plan are recorded throughout the planning process. The plan narrative and supporting documents provide guidance for implementation and may serve as a basis for compliance and program funding through Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial, or local financial support initiatives. Assistance notes are recorded at each step in the planning process to document important points or discussions with the client.

C. The following guidance helps to maintain quality and provide appropriate documentation of a plan. Though this section outlines required items to be included in a plan, the plan content will be tailored to the client's needs.

600.31 Conservation Plan

A. The plan document provided to the client must be a quality document containing meaningful information for the client. The document may be provided to the client electronically or as hardcopy. It must include the following items:

(1) A folder, binder, or other means to assemble the contents of the plan (if hardcopy).
(2) A conservation plan map. This may consist of several map documents to account for the entire planning area.
(3) Soils maps and other resource maps, as needed, with appropriate interpretations, such as soil descriptions or land cover descriptions.
(4) At a minimum, each map will include the following:
  (i) Title block showing the following:
    - Title, "Plan Map"
    - Client's name (individual or business)
    - "Prepared with assistance from USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service" and "ASSISTED BY [planners name]"
    - Name of the applicable conservation district, county, and State
    - Date prepared
  (ii) Scale of the map
  (iii) Information needed to locate the planning area, such as geographic coordinates, public land survey coordinates, etc.
  (iv) North arrow
  (v) Appropriate map symbols and a map symbol legend on the map or as an attachment
(5) The "Plan Map" will specifically include the following items:
  (i) Boundary lines for the PLUs with labels (name, number, or both)
  (ii) Land-use designation and applicable land use modifiers for each PLU
  (iii) Acreage for each PLU
(6) Location of planned and applied conservation practices, using NRCS map symbols (see Title 170, National Map Symbol Handbook, Part 601)
(7) If the conservation plan includes non-private lands, such as Federal or Tribal lands, a land status map must be included to display land ownership categories (Private, State Trust, BLM, Tribal, and Territorial, etc.)
(8) A record of the client's decisions, which includes the following:
  (i) PLU label (name, number, or both)
  (ii) NRCS practice name and code
  (iii) Amount or estimated amount to be applied (update amount when practice design is completed and when financial assistance is requested)
  (iv) Brief description of the practice (practice narrative)
  (v) Date the planned practice is scheduled to be implemented (update when financial assistance is requested)
  (vi) Certified amount of practice applied (after implementation)
  (vii) Date practice was certified (after implementation)
(9) Appropriate worksheets developed with the client. Worksheets include such things as forage inventories, erosion estimates, and cost estimates
(10) As needed, applicable "Conservation Practice Overview" sheets, specifications and implementation requirements (job sheets), and other prepared material
(11) Operation and maintenance agreements and procedures
(12) Practice designs, if completed at this time. Some designs may also be kept in the office file under the client's name when size limits duplication
(13) Conservation district cooperative agreement, where applicable
(14) Available maps, sketches, and designs resulting from the planning process that will be useful to the client in implementing the plan
(15) Information reflecting site-specific practice effects, based on onsite visits

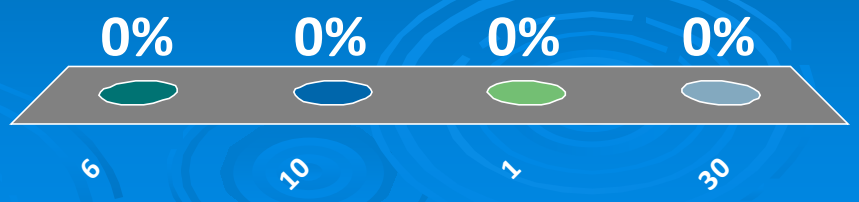
How many resources are addressed by an RMS

✓ A. 6

B. 10

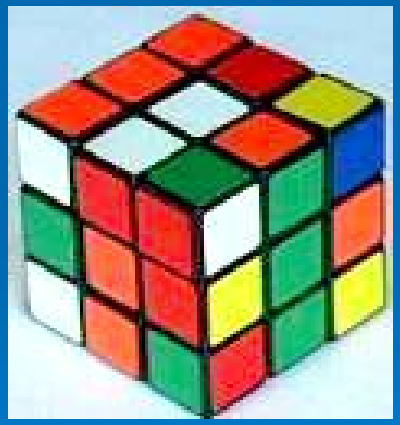
C. 1

D. 30

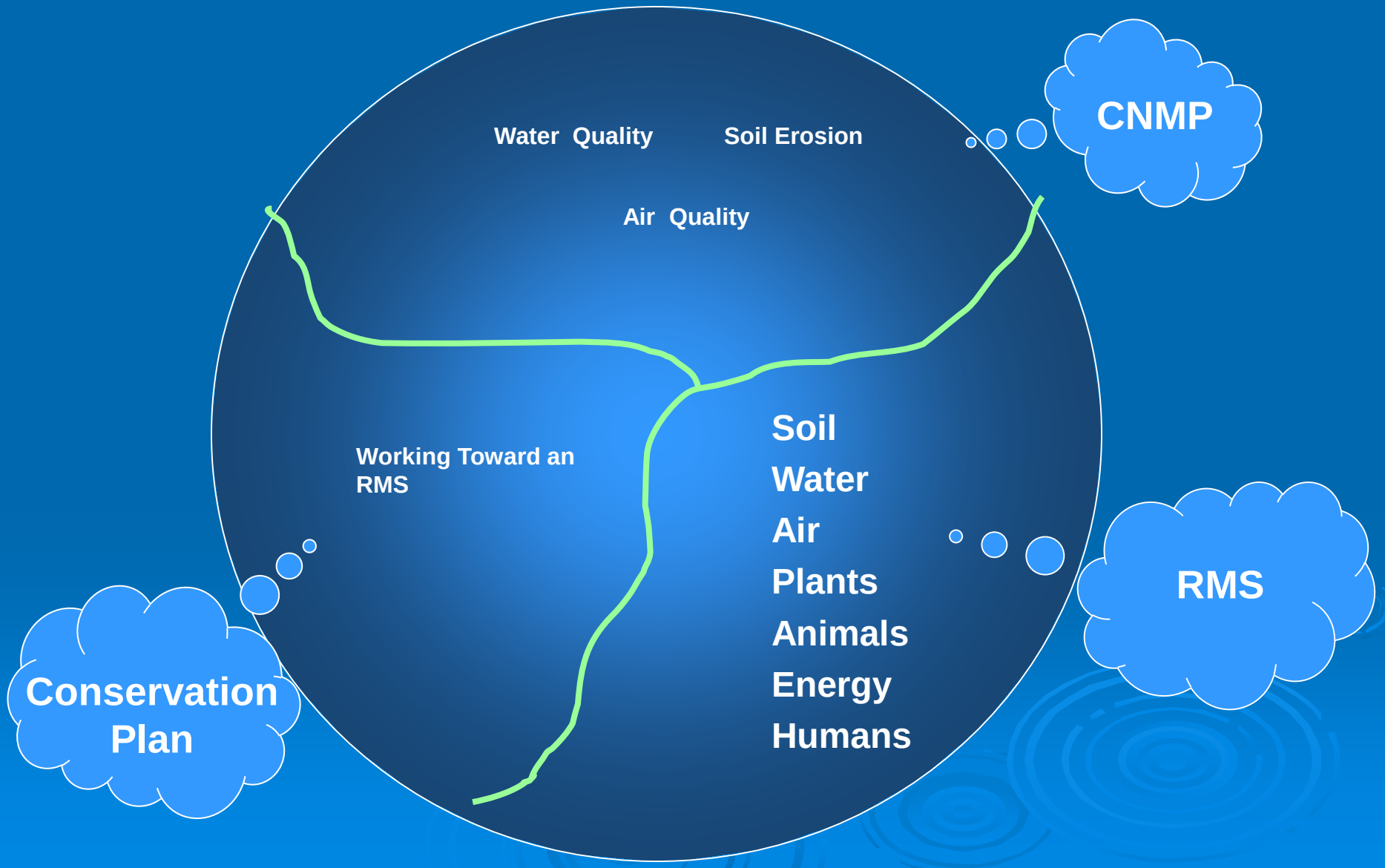


Conservation Planning Process

- **Six Resources that are addressed by a Resource Management System:**
  - **Soil**
  - **Water**
  - **Air**
  - **Plants**
  - **Animals**
  - **Energy**
  - **+ Humans**



Conservation Planning Process



Required Resource Concerns addressed through a CNMP

1. Water Quality
   nutrients, organics, and sediments in surface and groundwater
2. Soil Erosion
   sheet and rill, wind, ephemeral gully, classic gully, and irrigation-induced natural resource concerns on the production area and land treatment area
3. Air Quality (mitigates, if feasible, any excessive air emissions and/or negative impacts to air quality resulting from practice in the CNMP or from existing on-farm areas/activities.

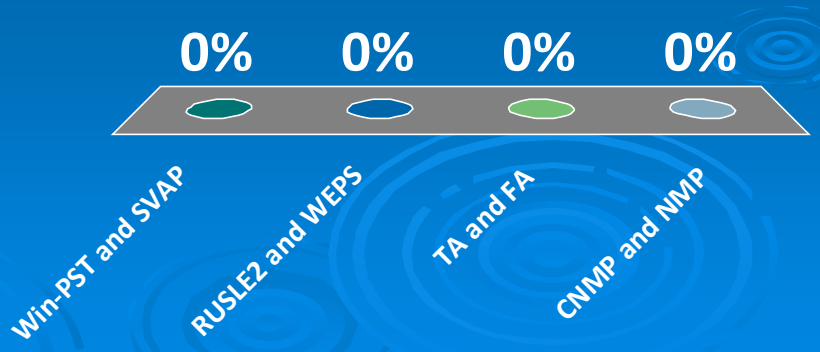
Conservation Planning Process

- **Planning Criteria for Soil Erosion**

Resource Concern	Description of Concern	Land Use	Component	Screening
Soil Erosion – Sheet, rill, & wind	Detachment and transportation of soil particles caused by rainfall runoff/splash, irrigation runoff or wind that degrades soil quality.	Crop Developed Land Farmsteads Associated Ag Land Designated Protected Area Other Rural Land Pasture	Sheet & Rill Wind	Permanent ground cover > 90% and slope < 10%

What are the two assessment tools for Soil Erosion

A. Win-PST and SVAP
B. RUSLE2 and WEPS
C. TA and FA
D. CNMP and NMP



Conservation Planning Process

- **Planning Criteria for Soil Erosion**

Assessment Level	Assessment Tools
Water erosion rate $\leq$ T	RUSLE2
Wind erosion rate $\leq$ T	WEPS

Conservation Planning Process

- **Planning Criteria for Water Quality**

Resource Concern	Description of Concern	Land Use	Component	Screening
Water Quality Degradation – Excess Nutrients in Surface and Ground Water	Nutrients – organic and inorganic – are transported to receiving waters through surface runoff and/or leaching into shallow ground waters in quantities that degrade water quality and limit use for intended purposes	Crop	Excess nutrients in surface water Excess nutrients in groundwater	Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND PLU is not grazed
		Pasture	Excess nutrients in surface water Excess nutrients in groundwater	

Conservation Planning Process

- **Planning Criteria for Water Quality**

Land Use	Component	Assessment Level	Assessment Tools
Crop	Excess nutrients in surface water	Nutrients and amendment applications are based on soil or tissue tests and nutrient budgets for realistic yields AND Conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize surface water impacts	Client input/planner observation Nutrient budget
	Excess nutrients in groundwater	Nutrients and amendment applications are based on soil or tissue tests and nutrient budgets for realistic yields AND Conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize groundwater impacts	
Pasture	Excess nutrients in surface water	PCS – streambank/shoreline erosion element score $\geq$ 4 AND PCS – livestock concentration areas element score	PCS – Pasture Condition Score Nutrient Budget
	Excess nutrients in groundwater		

Other Resource Concerns to Be Addressed through the CNMP

- Auxiliary Resource Treatment that is essential for appropriate implementation of the Nutrient Management element.

- Examples:
  - Prescribed Grazing
  - Irrigation Water Management

All Planning and Application Must Meet the Technical Standards and Specifications of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

Search

- FOTG
  - Section I
    - Table Of Contents
    - A. Cost Data
    - B. Maps
    - C. References
    - D. Erosion prediction
    - E. Laws
    - F. Technical Notes
    - G. Archive Materials - Section I
    - H. Notices

FOTG Home Page

What is FOTG?

Technical guides are the primary scientific references for NRCS. They contain technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources.

...more

For additional information and requirements please contact your local USDA Service Center.

What's in FOTG?

Section I	- General References
Section II	- Natural Resources Information
Section III	- Conservation Management Systems
Section IV	- Practice Standards and Specifications
Section V	- Conservation Effects

...more

In The Spotlight

Tools

Technical Materials

What's Changed Recently

Fence (382) Brace Specification (11/18/2015)
Fence (382) Planning Tool (11/18/2015)
Used to plan and checkout FL 382 Fence Practice
f) US Congressional Districts (11/13/2015)
This map shows the boundaries of US congressional districts and a list of current representatives
FL-001 8.5X11 Cover Sheet PDF (11/13/2015)
FL-002 22X34 Cover Sheet PDF (11/13/2015)
8.5X11 COVER SHEET FL-001
FL-002 11x17 Cover Sheet PDF (11/13/2015)
Cover Sheet 11x17
FL-001 COVER SHEET 8.5X11 (11/13/2015)
FL-002 COVER SHEET 2015 11X17 (11/13/2015)
COVER SHEET 2015
Emergency Animal Mortality Management (NO) 368 (11/10/2015)
A means or method for the management of animal carcasses from catastrophic mortality events.
Broward County (11/6/2015)
Farmland Classification
Bradford County (11/6/2015)
Farmland Classification
Water Conservation Area (11/6/2015)
Farmland Classification
Washington County (11/6/2015)
Farmland classification of soils.
Walton County (11/6/2015)
Farmland classification of soils.
Wakulla County (11/6/2015)
Farmland Classification
Volusia County (11/6/2015)
Farmland Classification
Union County (11/6/2015)
Farmland Classification
Taylor County (11/6/2015)
Farmland Classification
Suwannee County (11/6/2015)
Farmland Classification
Sumter County (11/6/2015)
Farmland Classification
St. Lucie County (11/6/2015)
Soils that have a farmland classification

Technical Guides

- National Conservation Practice Standards and Guidance
- State Technical Guides
- Variances to National Conservation Practice Standards and Guides
- Interim Conservation Practice Standards

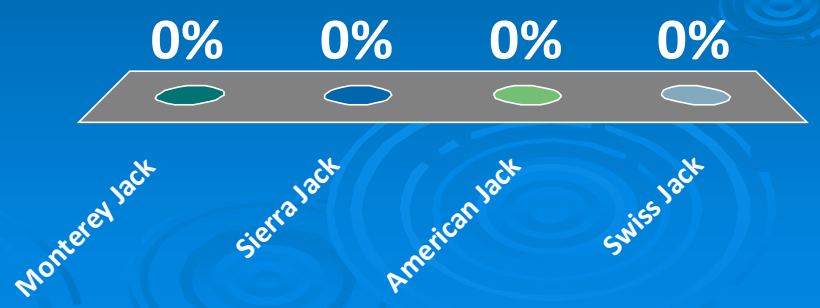
In the 1890's, what type of cheese did a California man named David Jacks introduce?

✓ A. Monterey Jack

B. Sierra Jack

C. American Jack

D. Swiss Jack



Conservation Planning Process

Questions?