CUMBERLAND COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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4TH GRADE CONSERVATION TOUR

Photo -- Greg Sherwood, Embarras River Management Association, explaining to 4th grade students the importance of saving soil

Each year for more than 40 years the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District has sponsored a conservation tour for 4th grade students in the county. SWCD staff members go into the classroom to give the students an overview of the variety of things the SWCD does in the county. They are shown examples of conservation practices used to control soil erosion and given an explanation of how these practices actually work. The next day the students are taken on a bus tour of the county, giving them the opportunity to see the actual practices on the land. A poster contest then gives the students a chance to show what they have learned. It is vital that we learn to save our soil to be able to produce food and to protect our drinking water supplies. If we are to impress upon people the need to protect and conserve our natural resources, we need to start at an early age.

ALUMINUM GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE

Photo – Contractor installing large grade stabilization structure

This large aluminum grade stabilization structure was installed to protect the lower end of a 2160 foot grass waterway in western Cumberland County. This waterway and structure carried the runoff from 100 acres of cropland. Prior to installation a large gully was washing through the crop field. An estimated 140 tons of soil per year was saved due to this project. This structure is made of aluminum, meaning it will not rust away. It is permanently set in concrete, meaning it will not wash out. This structure will help to save soil for many, many years to come. Projects such as this and many like it is the reason Soil and Water Conservation Districts are vital to Illinois agriculture.