

Tazewell County Soil & Water Conservation District
1440 Valle Vista Blvd.-Ste. B, Pekin, IL 61554-Phone (309) 346-4462 Ext. 3
Contacts: Rob Clark, Resource Conservationist & Joy Severns, Administrative Coordinator



Before installation of stream barbs

After installation of stream barbs

Stream Barbs on Mackinaw River

Tazewell County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service just completed installation of stream barbs on 4 separate locations on the Mackinaw River. This site shown above was suffering from severe streambank erosion from all the heavy rains and high flows during 2007 and 2008. Large amounts of the bank were eroding into the Mackinaw River and becoming a direct source of sediment and deposition for the Mackinaw and Illinois Rivers. The Tazewell County SWCD, NRCS, and the Cincinnati Levee & Drainage District worked together to get the projects completed. On this particular project 268 tons of soil was saved and 1500 acres of farmland protected from scour erosion. This project will not only provide erosion and sedimentation control but also improved water quality benefits and fisheries habitat. As sedimentation accumulates in front of and behind the barbs, the banks will stabilize and vegetation and trees will naturally re-vegetate the banks helping hold the soil in place. These stream barbs were funded under a joint program from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Tazewell County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). The SWCD funds were obtained through the Illinois Department of Agriculture. In just 2-3 weeks in Jan.-Feb., 4 projects were completed totaling \$173,000 total cost. These are part of 25 streambank projects completed encompassing a total cost of \$647,000 in Tazewell County since 1997.

For more information on projects and activities with the Tazewell County Soil and Water Conservation District visit us at our office, phone us at the above phone number or e-mail us at the following addresses: rob.clark@il.nacdnet.net or joy.severns@il.nacdnet.net