Promoting Soil Health Across a Watershed

Working toward soil health

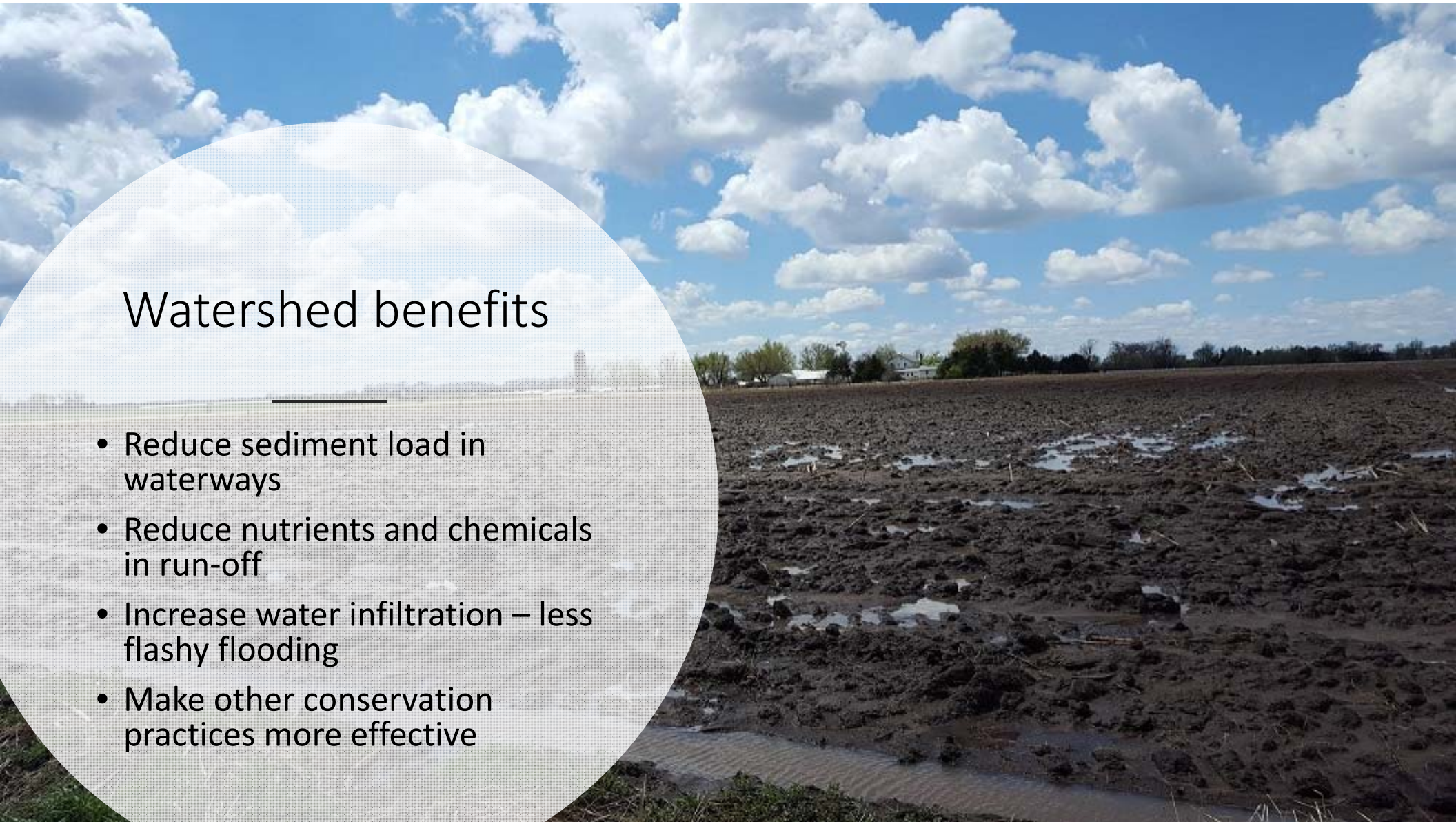
Keep the soil covered with living plants or plant residues
Less tillage – more soil structure

Anchor the soil with living roots
Use diversity to build microbial communities and disrupt pest cycles

Bring livestock out of pens and
into fields to graze

Watershed benefits

- Reduce sediment load in waterways
- Reduce nutrients and chemicals in run-off
- Increase water infiltration – less flashy flooding
- Make other conservation practices more effective



How is it different to promote soil health on a watershed scale?

“Rye Growers Anonymous”

Pop-up field tours

Winter workshops with lunch

Summer field days

David Brandt
Gabe Brown
Jimmy Emmons
Ray Archuleta
Steve Groff
Darrin Williams
Michael Thompson
Gail Fuller
Lance Gunderson
Jerry Doan
Jake Miller

Children

Landowners, spouses, watershed residents

Incentives

- USDA Programs
- Cheney Lake Watershed

Requirements

- Minimum of 3 species
- Payment on 80 acres or less
- Living crop at least 300 days of year
- Residue at least 80% cover

Grazing encouraged

- Maintain adequate cover
- Don’t concentrate livestock near streams
- Have a Plan B (and C)

Application

- Owner/operator contact info
- Location, # acres, basic crop rotation
- Signature

Incentive payments

WRAPS funding (60%)
City of Wichita (40%)

- $30/acre – Year 1
- $20/acre – Year 2
- $20/acre – Year 3

Application and payments approved at the watershed level

Use signage to show the neighbors

Build a soil health culture