

## Episode 18

### Marty Adkins, soil expert

Charlie visited Marty Adkins at the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Marty said that one of the natural resources he works to protect is the rich soil here in Iowa.

1. Why is good soil important in Iowa?

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2. Charlie asked Marty what tilling means. Explain what tilling is.

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3. Marty told Charlie that there are many creatures who live in the soil and help make our soil healthy. What are two things Marty said that these small creatures do?

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4. Did you know there are more living organisms in a shovelful of soil than there are people living on the earth? That's more than 7 billion! How is that possible?

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*Using each letter of the word "underground," write a sentence or word about the living ecosystem under our feet or how to keep it healthy.*

Examples: Disturb the soil as little as possible. Read information about healthy soil.

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N \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

O \_\_\_\_\_

U \_\_\_\_\_

N \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_