



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Committee Meeting

March 28, 2024 | 10 a.m. Central Daylight Time

Virtual Meeting held via TEAMS
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device:
Meeting ID: 251 366 977 538 Passcode: ZzXbof
Or call in (audio only) [+1 202-650-0123,,303666762#](#)
Phone Conference ID: 303 666 762#

AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks

Tony Sunseri, State Conservationist / Colette Kessler, Assistant State Conservationist Partnerships

STC meeting notifications have been distributed via email;

NEW: Subscribe to updates for the USDA NRCS SD State Technical Committee, please visit www.farmers.gov, then “subscribe” at the upper right of the page. (instruction sheet) – look for “State Technical Committee” in the topic list. Also, opportunity to subscribe to topics down to county level updates.

New mailbox for STC: sm.fpac.nrcs.sd.partnerships@usda.gov

Notifications via U.S. Postal Service may be requested by contacting the NRCS State Office Randi Papka randi.papka@usda.gov or calling (605) 352-1200.

2. Congressional Delegates Updates

3. Natural Resources Conservation Service South Dakota Updates

Tony Sunseri, State Conservationist

- Staffing and Personnel Updates
-> NRCS South Dakota Web Page: Personnel Directory can be found under Contact Us <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/state-office-contacts/south-dakota-state-office>
- NRCS SD Strategic Planning

4. Conservation, Planning and Conservation Practices Update

- Status of South Dakota’s Remaining Native Grasslands and Woodlands
Guest speaker: Pete Bauman, SDSU Extension Range Field Specialist, Watertown
- Renovated Hay Land Project, Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Project
Guest speaker: Elk Creek Conservation District and Riley Kammerer, Rancher

- South Dakota Technical Guide Updates - Notices 514, 515, 516 - Updated and new engineering standard job plans, specifications, and design tools
Jim Reedy, State Conservation Engineer

5. Farm Service Agency Conservation Program Update

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Owen Fagerhaug, Agricultural Program Specialist, Farm Service Agency

6. NRCS Conservation Programs of the Farm Bill Updates

Val Dupraz, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – *Jennifer Wurtz*
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – *Val Dupraz*
- Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP) – *David Flanery*
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – *Matt Morlock*

7. Wetland and Highly Erodible Workload Update

Deke Hobbick, Assistant State Conservationist for Compliance

8. Agreements Update

Colette Kessler, Assistant State Conservationist Partnerships

- **Conservation Collaboration Cooperative Agreements (CCCA) for FY2024** Apply through April 29, 2024 via www.grants.gov, search for “NRCS South Dakota” or [USDA-NRCS-SD-MULTI-24-NOFO0001327](https://www.usda.gov/programs/nrcs/conservation-collaboration-cooperative-agreements)
- USDA [Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants](https://www.usda.gov/programs/urban-agriculture-and-innovative-production-grants) - Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production (UAIP) competitive grants initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production. *Apply to USDA-NRCS-NHQ-UAIP-24-NOFO0001336 via www.grants.gov by April 9, 2024.*
- USDA NRCS **Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)** - *Apply via www.grants.gov by May 26, 2024.*

9. Round Robin of Conservation Partners Updates:

- Rachel Bush, The Nature Conservancy
- Maggie Hanna, Central Grasslands Roadmap
- Kris Dozark/Tanner Clausen, SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Blaine Brakke, Locally Led Coordinator, SD Association of Conservation Districts
- Laura Kahler, SD Grasslands Coalition / SD Grasslands Initiative
- Jewell Bork, South Central RC&D
- Cindy Zenk, SD Soil Health Coalition
 - New Cover Crops Poster with the SDSHC / NRCS
- New Resources
 - New Grasslands Coloring Book of the “Dakota Grasslands: Where Good Things Grow” agreement of the SDGC/NRCS
 - Conservation Planning “Get Started! A Guide for USDA programs”



10. Upcoming State Technical Committee Meeting Dates

May 22, 2024 – Pierre

August 27, 2024 – Huron

USDA NRCS SD web page for [South Dakota State Technical Committee](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-state/south%20dakota/technical-committee) can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-state/south%20dakota/technical-committee>

Find individual STC Meeting information under “events” at:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/events/south-dakota-state-technical-committee-meeting>

Shortened URL: <https://bit.ly/StateTechnicalCommittee>

- ➔ To subscribe to updates for the USDA NRCS SD State Technical Committee and other updates, please visit www.farmers.gov then “subscribe” in the upper right corner of the page.



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

South Dakota's Remaining Native Habitats: 2013

This synopsis report highlights the results of a multi-partner effort (2014 -2024) to inventory South Dakota's remaining native grasslands, small wetlands, and woodlands. Nearly \$1 million has been invested into this project by federal agencies, state agencies, universities, and non-government conservation groups over the last decade. This project is unique in that it utilized a novel approach to land use inventory through incorporation of a multi-layered analysis method developed and refined by South Dakota State University. This analysis relied on information provided by several partner organizations, including significant financial and data contributions by those included on this cover page.

When reviewing this report, it is important to remember a few key points:

1. No analysis is perfect, but we are confident that this synopsis represents the most accurate compilation of the location and extent of South Dakota's native habitats ever compiled,
2. This report is based on 2012/2013 data, and
3. Native grasslands depicted in this report have been lost to additional conversion in the past decade.

It is our collective hope that this effort will guide native habitat conservation planning for South Dakota.

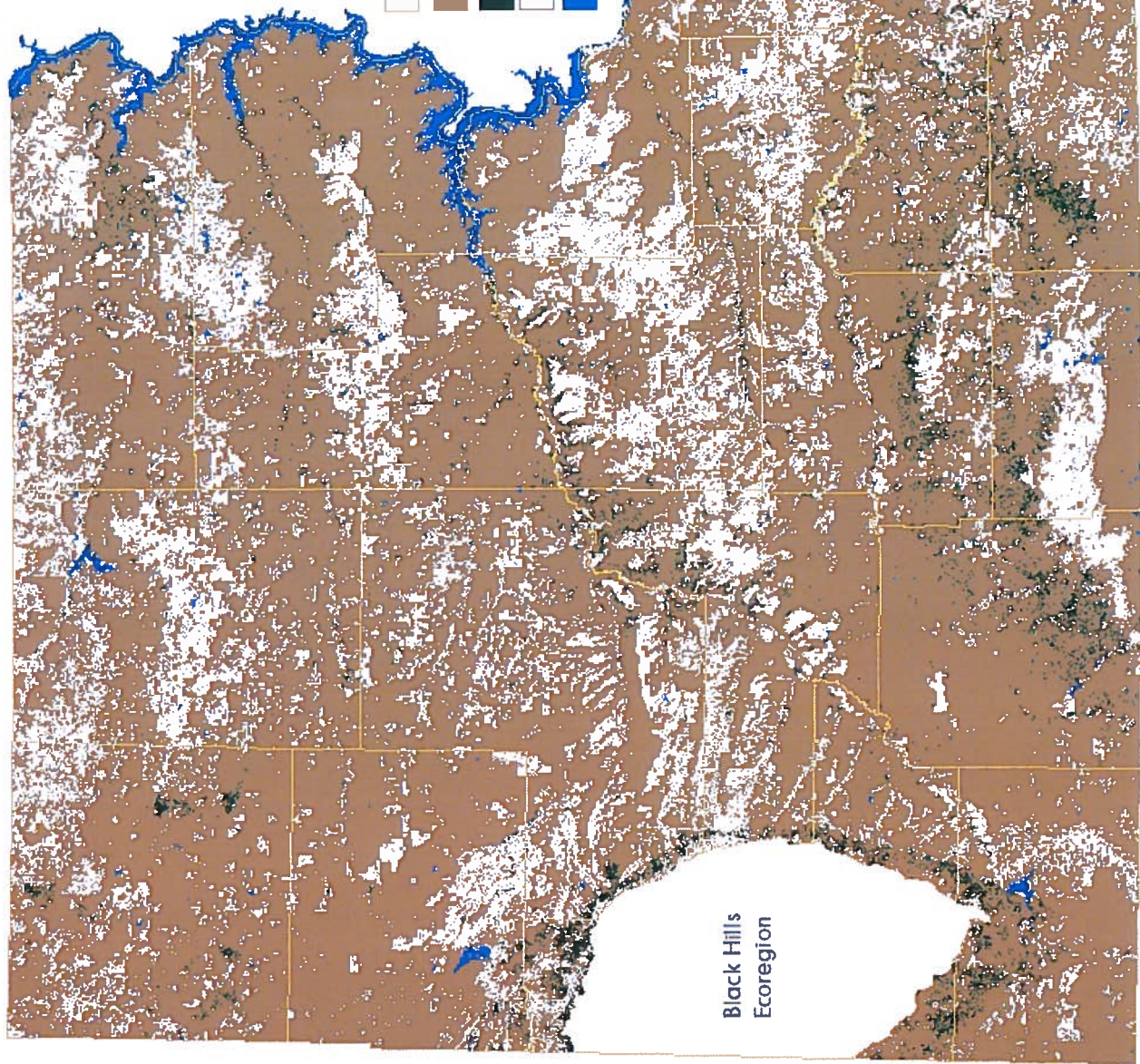
Project Partners



Western South Dakota Potentially Undisturbed (Native) Land: 2013

**Total Undisturbed
Grasslands and Woodlands
18,824,531 acres**

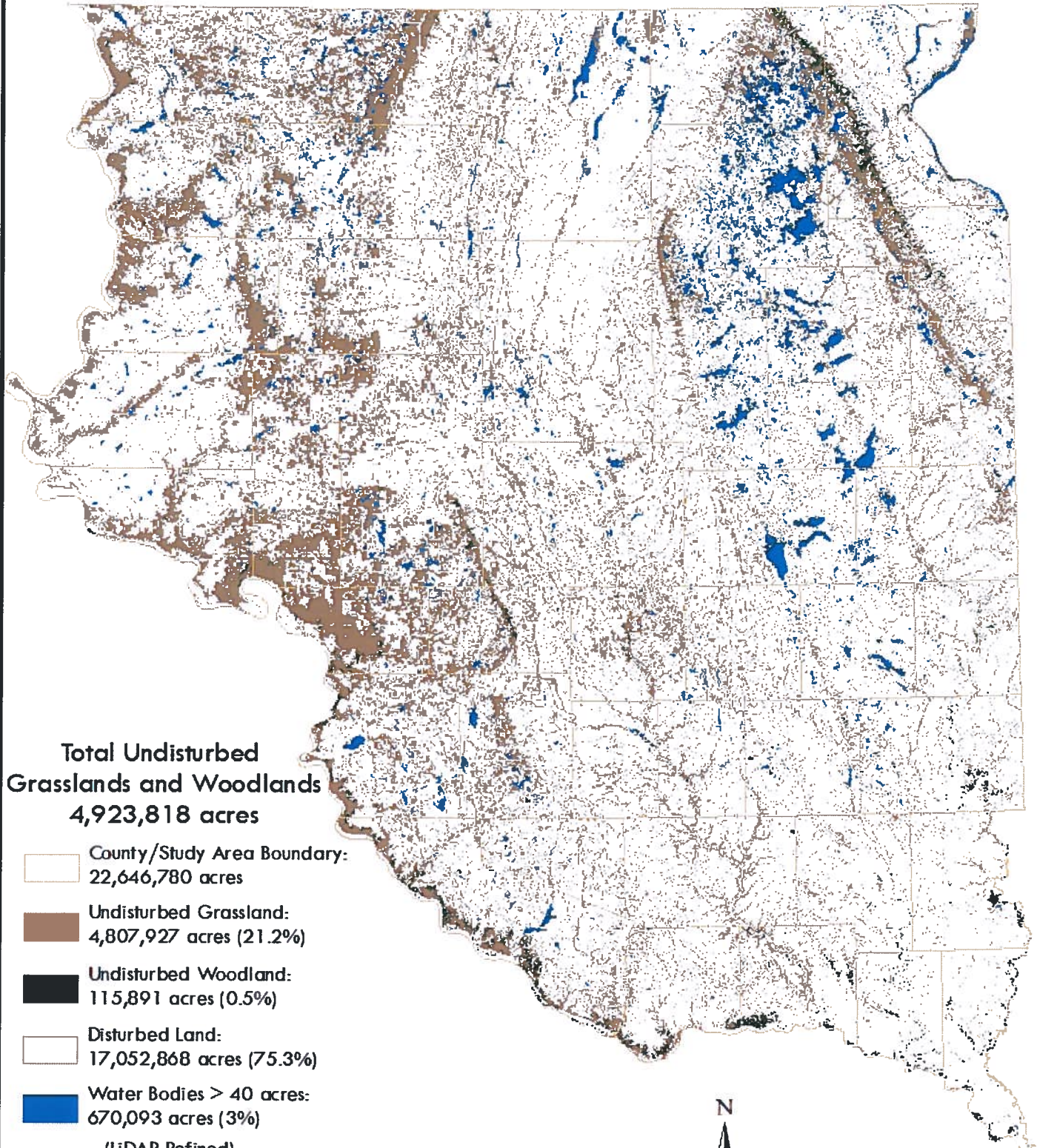
- County/Study Area Boundary: 25,317,244 acres
(Excluding Black Hills Ecoregion)
- Undisturbed Grassland: 18,462,188 acres (72.9%)
- Undisturbed Woodland: 362,342 acres (1.4%)
- Disturbed Land: 6,215,044 acres (24.6%)
- Water Bodies >40 acres: 277,669 acres (1.1%)
(Base Analysis)



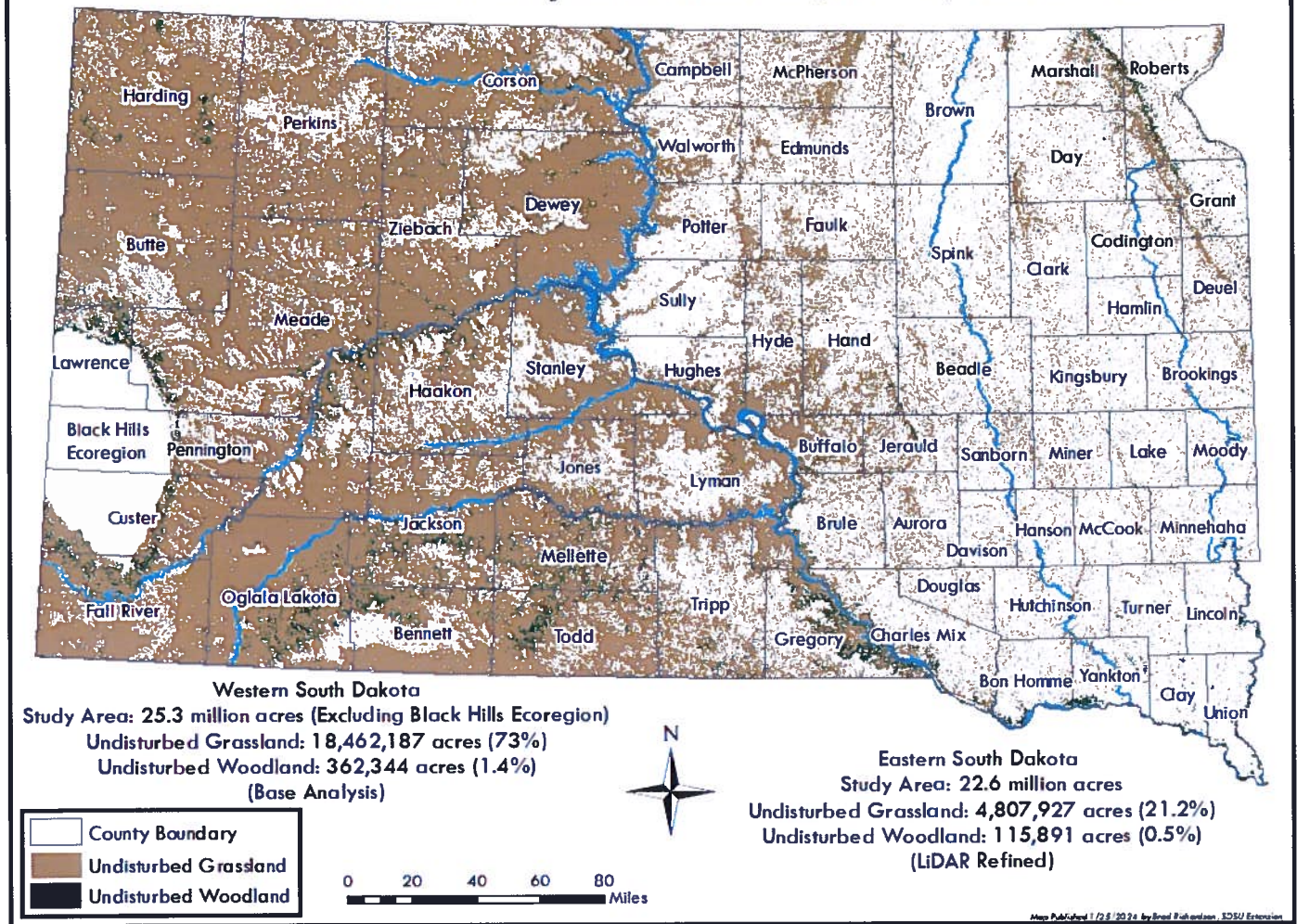
Black Hills
Ecoregion



Eastern South Dakota Potentially Undisturbed (Native) Land: 2013



South Dakota Potentially Undisturbed (Native) Land: 2013



Quick Facts

The northern Great Plains continues to lose native and non-native grasslands through conversion to cropland and other uses at an alarming rate.

Eastern South Dakota Facts:

- Only 1 out of 5 acres is still native grassland, the rest has a tillage history.
- About 1.4 million acres of eastern South Dakota grasslands are legally protected from future conversion. Of these, 800,000 acres are **native grasslands**, representing only 3.5% of the entire eastern South Dakota land base.

Western South Dakota Facts:

- About 3 out of 4 acres are native grassland (we suspect about 10% of what remains in grass today is likely 'go back' land that was historically farmed and is at significant risk).

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MillbornSeeds
Heavy Hammer 2023 Mix - 1 Acre

Common Name	LBs/Acre
Rebaca Clover	0.500
Baraboo Clover	0.500
Bravo (40%Wt)	0.500
Peak Millet (Conventional)	1.500
Primo Star Sorghum	0.500
Sorghum x Sorghum Hybrid (BMR Phytase) - Raster	4.000
Sorghum x Sorghum Hybrid (Conventional)	4.000
Stakron (Conventional)	1.500
ProSorb Sorghum	0.750
Poa	1.000
Total Seeding Rate (LB/Acre)	18.000

Phone: Brookings (605) 697-4206 / Rapid City (605) 646-4225
Email: info@millbornseeds.com / Online: www.millbornseeds.com

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO INCREASE PRODUCTION ON YOUR HAYLAND WHILE INCREASING AVAILABLE GRAZING AND SOIL HEALTH?

Join us Wednesday August 23rd to learn how Kammerer Ranch has been using cover crops to improve hayland production, increase available winter/fall grazing, and improving soil health.

When: August 23rd 8:00 am to 2:00 pm
Where: Kammerer Ranch - 22049 Elk Vale Road Piedmont, SD
 Please RSVP to Riley: 605-209-3544
 For reasonable accommodations please contact: Valerie Risher at 605-347-4952 ext. 3 or 605-499-8645 by 8/16/2023

Topics & Presenters:

- Tour of Cover Crop Fields
- Discussions on soil health, improving hay production, managed grazing, & grazing cover crops
- Dr. Kyle Nicheik will present on using soil biology to increase productivity

RSVP for meal by Aug 20th Lunch and water will be provided

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2021 Production

Elk Creek	Subplot 1	Subplot 2	Subplot 3	Subplot 4	Subplot 5	Subplot 6
Dry Mt	487	495	500	497	511	506
Wet Mt	881	881	875	875	880	875
Total Dry	1368	1376	1375	1372	1391	1381
Total Wet	1368	1376	1375	1372	1391	1381
Total by SP Mt Dry	1368	1376	1375	1372	1391	1381

2022 Production

Elk Creek	Subplot 1	Subplot 2	Subplot 3	Subplot 4	Subplot 5	Subplot 6
Dry Mt	212	208	202	204	211	207
Wet Mt	310	314	311	314	310	312
Total Dry	522	522	513	518	521	519
Total Wet	522	522	513	518	521	519
Total by SP Mt Dry	522	522	513	518	521	519

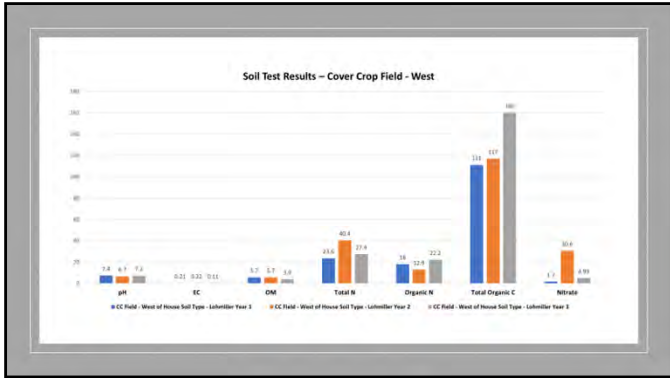
2023 Production

Riley Kammerer Ranch 2023 Cover Crop Clipping	Subplot 1	Subplot 2	Subplot 3	Subplot 4	Subplot 5	Subplot 6
Dry Mt	893	883	885	883	883	883
Wet Mt	1280	1310	1270	1270	1280	1280
Total Dry	2173	2193	2155	2153	2163	2163
Total Wet	2173	2193	2155	2153	2163	2163
Total by SP Mt Dry	2173	2193	2155	2153	2163	2163

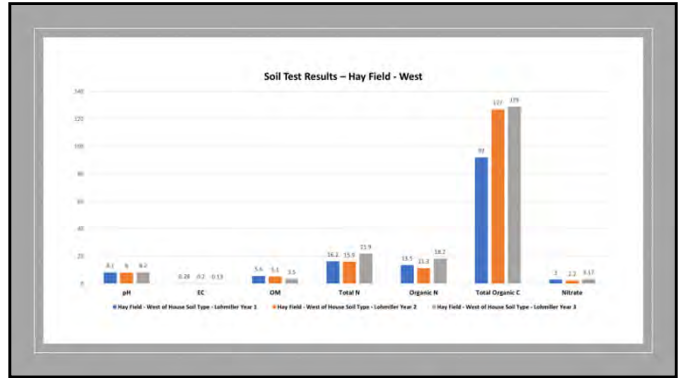
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CC Field - West of House				Hay Field - West of House			
0-6" Depth	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	0-6" Depth	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
pH	7.4	6.7	7.2	pH	8.1	8	8.2
EC	0.21	0.22	0.31	EC	0.28	0.2	0.33
OM	5.7	5.7	5.9	OM	5.6	5.1	5.5
Total N	23.6	40.4	27.4	Total N	16.2	15.9	21.9
Organic N	18	12.9	22.2	Organic N	13.5	11.9	18.2
Total Organic C	111	117	100	Total Organic C	92	127	119
Nitrogen	1.7	30.6	4.99	Nitrogen	3	2.2	5.17
Ammonium	0.7	1.7	0.2	Ammonium	0.7	1	0.6
Inorganic N	2.4	32.2	5.19	Inorganic N	2.7	3.2	4.57
Total P	48	22	20	Total P	5	4	13
Inorganic P	26.6	15.7		Inorganic P	5.1	2	
Organic P	6.4	6.7		Organic P	2.1	1.5	
K	101	72	288	K	91	76	218
Ca	889	1145	2462	Ca	3008	3605	4726
Mg	189	182	388	Mg	122	107	162
Np	16	14	10	Np	17	13	8
Al	100	100	10	Al	35	27	10
Sulfur	6.6	11.1	7.4	Sulfur	8.3	20	10
Zinc	0.4	0.37	0.71	Zinc	0.07	0.08	0.55
Iron	29	27	9.4	Iron	9	7	3.3
Manganese	4.3	2.4	4.4	Manganese	0.7	0.5	1.1
Copper	0.19	0.34	0.36	Copper	0.09	0.27	0.31
Soil Health Cat.	16.94	12.88	13.17	Soil Health Cat.	11.94	9.92	10.54

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PLFA Soil Microbial Community Analysis - (PLFA ng/g)							
CC Field - West of House				Hay Field - West of House			
Soil Note:	Dry	Moist	Moist	Soil Note:	Dry	Moist	Moist
0-6" Depth	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	0-6" Depth	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Total Living Biomass	959.3	8169.72	3613.55	Total Living Biomass	1650.85	7989.47	3363.49
Diversity Index	1.177	1.282	1.501	Diversity Index	1.223	1.301	1.504
Total Bacteria	514.61	2918.52	1736.98	Total Bacteria	889.9	2883.31	1711.33
Total Fungi	39.91	253.76	531.49	Total Fungi	86.52	327.64	504.4
Protozoa	0	44.82	0	Protozoa	0	0	4.01
Undifferentiated	404.78	4952.62	1345.1	Undifferentiated	674.42	4778.53	1143.75

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Economics 2023-24

- 125 AU grazing days per acre @ \$100 per acre costs= \$.80 AU
- \$1.04 per day per cow to winter graze cover crops
- vs. \$4+ to feed a cow hay
- Calves gain 2.5 lb day, 2.5 x \$2.75 x 30days= \$206.25
- Calf \$.40 day -Cost of gain is \$.32 per pound vs. \$.120+ in feedlot

- Estimated Net Profit per Acre \$400+
- We've only fed about 20 bales this winter

- What is the value of the nutrients that are recycled?

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Riley Kammerer 605-209-3544 barubeef@gmail.com

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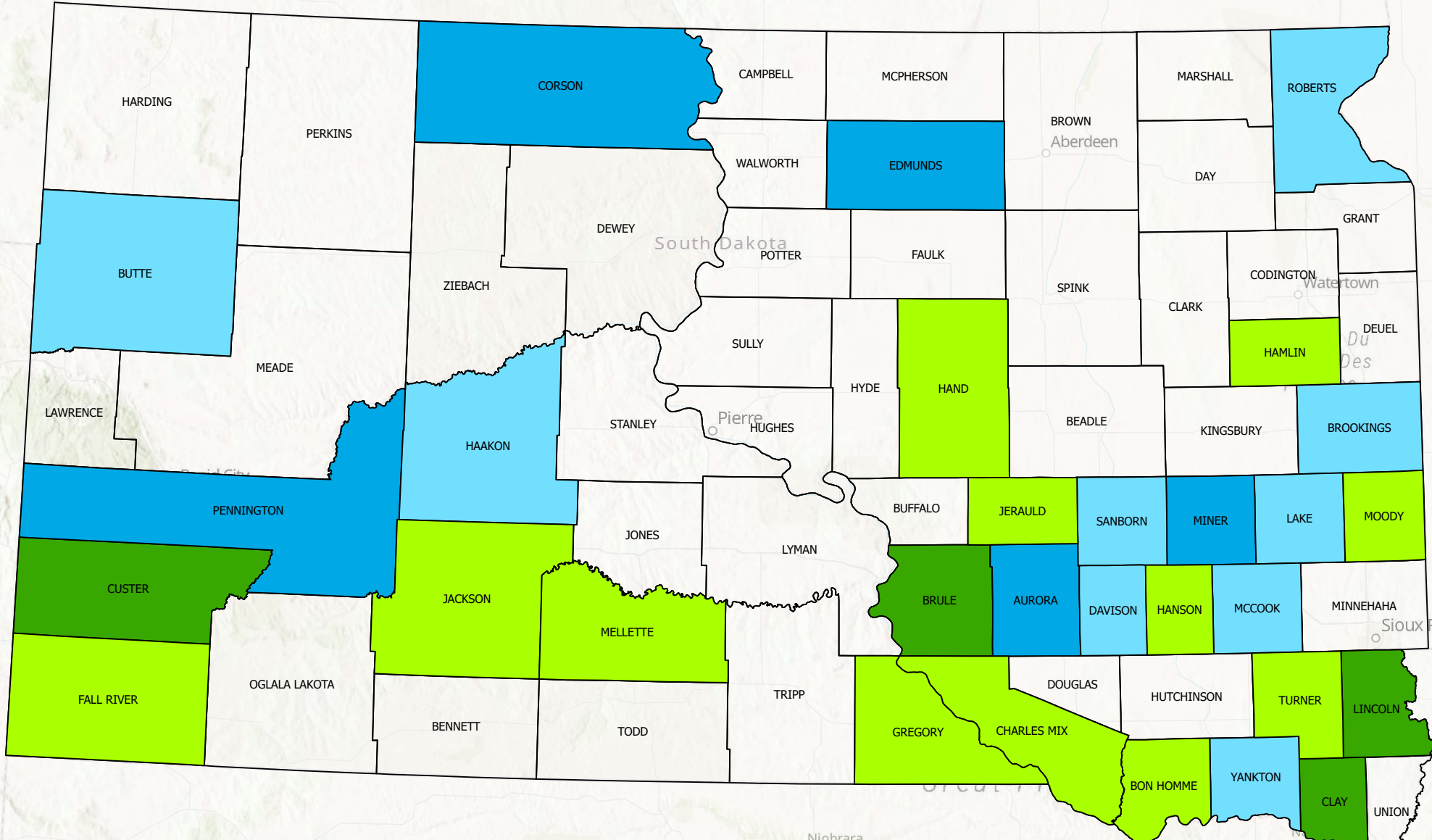
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)
Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

FY2024 WRE Applications		
Status	Total Acres	Number of Applications
Eligible	2,113	24
30-year	381	3
30-year RGR	100	1
30-year conversion	49	1
Permanent	1,433	18
Permanent RGR	150	1
Cancelled	0	0
Ineligible	2,258	7
Permanent	-	5
Permanent RGR	-	2
Total	4,371	31

Projected FY2024 WRE Agreements (Farm Bill Funded)			
Duration	Total Acres	Cost	Number of Tentative Agreements
Permanent RGR	150	\$534,590	1
Permanent	322	\$1,714,800	2
30 Year RGR	100	\$389,222	1
30 Year Conversion	49	\$79,212	1
Total	621	\$2,717,824	5

Projected FY2024 ALE Agreements			
Fund Pool	Total Acres	Cost	Number of Tentative Agreements
Parcel Selection Funded Through IRA (Funds reserved, obligation pending)	6,724	\$2,877,750	2
Parcel Selection Funded Through Farm Bill (projected)	923	\$562,500	1

SOUTH DAKOTA HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND DETERMINATIONS (as of Mar.21st,2024)



HEL Total



Current Total Outstanding: 148 Highly Erodible Land Determinations

USDA NRCS SD Conservation Collaboration Cooperative Agreements (CCCA)



**Fiscal Year (FY) 2024
USDA NRCS SD Conservation Collaboration Cooperative Agreements
(CCCA)
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO)
No. USDA-NRCS-SD-MULTI-24-NOFO0001327**



NEWS

USDA Seeks Partnerships to Expand Conservation on Grazing Lands

TOPICS: [GRASSES](/CONSERVATION-BASICS/NATURAL-RESOURCE-CONCERNS/PLANTS/GRASSES) | [RANGE & PASTURE](/CONSERVATION-BASICS/NATURAL-RESOURCE-CONCERNS/LAND/RANGE-PASTURE) | [GRAZING LANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE](/PROGRAMS-INITIATIVES/GLCI-GRAZING-LANDS-CONSERVATION-INITIATIVE)

PUBLISH DATE: March 27, 2024



[Home](#) [News](#) (/news) [USDA Seeks Partnerships to Expand Conservation on Grazing Lands](#)

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting proposals through its Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) until Sunday, May 26, 2024.

WASHINGTON, March 27, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing up to \$22 million in partnerships that expand access to conservation technical assistance for livestock producers and increase the use of conservation practices on grazing lands. USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting proposals through its Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) until Sunday, May 26, 2024.

“Privately owned grazing lands cover nearly 30 percent of the national landscape, which means we have a tremendous opportunity to address climate change and conserve natural resources through voluntary, private lands conservation,” said NRCS Chief Terry Cosby. “NRCS enlists a wide variety of conservation practices to help livestock producers. These partnerships will also help us expand the footprint of conservation on grazing lands and could help better reach underserved producers.”

Project proposals for GLCI Cooperative Agreements will identify and address barriers to accessing grazing assistance for producers. These partnerships are encouraged to include outreach and support for reaching underserved producers. Projects must address one or more of the following priorities:

- Local natural resource concerns.
- Climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices and principles.
- Encourage existing and new partnerships through emphasizing equity in advancing the resource needs of underserved communities.
- Identify and implement strategies to quantify, monitor, report on and verify conservation benefits associated with grazing management systems.
- Utilize Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge, where applicable.

Through GLCI, NRCS will use partnerships to increase technical assistance for farmers and ranchers engaged in grazing activities. This will increase knowledge and expertise in working with underserved producers to increase their participation in new and existing grazing coalitions. GLCI aims to expand and establish new peer-to-peer networks for grazers and direct financial support for mentors working with new, beginning or transitioning grazers.

Eligibility is limited to single individuals or the following entity types based in any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and the Pacific Islands Area (Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands):

- Nonprofit organizations having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) (other than institutions of higher education)
- Farmer or rancher organizations
- State and local conservation governmental agencies
- Agricultural Extension Services
- Native American Tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Native American Tribal organizations (other than federally recognized Tribal governments)

- Land grant universities including 1890 or 1994 land grant institution (7 U.S.C. 3222 et seq.), Hispanic-serving institution (20 U.S.C. 1101a), or other minority-serving institution, such as a historically Black college or university (20 U.S.C. 1061), a Tribally controlled college or university (25 U.S.C. 1801), or Asian American and Pacific Islander-serving institution (20 U.S.C. 1059g)

For more information and to apply, visit the funding opportunity on [grants.gov](https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/353214) (<https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/353214>). Applications are being accepted now through Sunday, May 26, 2024.

More Information

GLCI was developed as a coordinated effort to identify priority issues, find solutions and effect change on private grazing land, enhancing existing conservation programs. GLCI also supports the National Grazing Lands Coalition to help state grazing coalitions boost participation from underserved producers; host a Triennial National Grazing Lands Conference; and to act as navigators for grazers seeking additional resources.

USDA is reviving and revitalizing GLCI to leverage partner capacity, expertise and technical assistance to expand the footprint of well-managed grazing systems across the country. While some states have been able to use annual funds to support similar agreements, this new structure and additional funding provides a more strategic and comprehensive approach to support grazing systems, reach new and underserved producers and address climate change.

For more information about NRCS's grazing lands efforts, visit the [NRCS website](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/) (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov/) (<https://www.usda.gov/>).

#

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Goals & Next Steps

March 19, 2024



South Dakota
GRASSLANDS INITIATIVE

GOALS

1

Grassland Funding:
Connect producers & programs available for conservation.

2

Partner Engagement:
Increasing partners communication, coordination and collaboration

3

Marketing & Education of grasslands and grassland education

4

Use **research** to support the grasslands

5

Educate decision-makers and **support programs** that sustain grasslands

PROPOSED ACTION TEAMS

Grassland Funding- Summer '24

Grassland Marketing- Summer '24

Grassland Program Implementation- Summer '24

Grassland Education- Fall '24

Woody Encroachment

Awareness- Fall '24

Now What?

Share your feedback!

<https://forms.gle/Bp2Kn5YjwHdP58aF6>

Watch for committee application information



Get involved- share information, learn about your partners and promote the work that everyone is doing for the grasslands



Big Sioux River CRP Buffer Incentive Fact Sheet



Use of Riparian Buffer Initiative HB1256 funds to buffer waterbodies are intended to improve water quality in the Big Sioux River by using riparian buffers in the floodplain. The CRP buffer incentive will be used as an extra incentive on both CRP and CREP. Payments will vary depending on the three predominant soils on the specific land. These rates may increase or decrease based on the soil productivity of the land offered. Rules for enrollment into the practice are as follows.

Requirements for pastureland:

1. Waterbody must be listed in ARSD 74:51:03:07 or ARSD 74:51:02:04 and be within the Big Sioux River Watershed, or locally designated by the local board county commissioners as outlined in SDCL 10-6-116 or designated by DANR.
2. Minimum buffer width of 50 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
3. Max average buffer width of 120 feet.
4. Vegetation may not be harvested or mowed between May 1 through August 1st.
5. Vegetation may not be grazed between May 1 and September 30.
6. If cattle are present from October 1 through April 30, alternative water shall be available away from the stream.
7. A minimum vegetative stand of 4 - 6 inches shall be maintained.
8. Will follow emergency haying policy of CRP.
9. Must agree to enroll ground for length of CRP contract.

Project payments to Producers:

Payment rates are to be based on the most current FSA continuous CRP rates. The rate will be 120% of the federal weighted average soil rental rate to make a consistent payment across the Project.

Requirements for cropland:

1. Waterbody must be listed in ARSD 74:51:03:07 or ARSD 74:51:02:04 and be within the Big Sioux River Watershed, or locally designated by the local board county commissioners as outlined in SDCL 10-6-116 or designated by DANR.
2. Ground must be converted to perennial vegetation.
3. Minimum buffer width of 50 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
4. Max average buffer width of 120 feet.
5. Vegetation may not be harvested or mowed between May 1 through August 1.
6. Vegetation may not be grazed between May 1 and September 30.
7. If cattle are present from October 1 through April 30, alternative water shall be available away from the stream.
8. A minimum vegetative stand of 4 - 6 inches shall be maintained.
9. Will follow emergency haying policy of CRP.
10. Must agree to enroll ground for length of CRP contract.

Project payments to Producers:

Payment rates are to be based on the most current FSA continuous CRP rates. The rate will be 120% of the federal weighted average soil rental rate to make a consistent payment across the Project.

Big Sioux River Watershed CREP + CRP Buffer Incentive Payment Example 100-acre field with 1-acre of riparian buffer enrolled for ten years

Example Rental Payment and Incentive Brookings County:

Federal Weighted Average Soil Rental Rate (WASRR)	<u>\$176.00 (per acre)</u>
Federal 25% increase to the WASRR (20% Water Quality Rental Rate Incentive & the 5% Climate Smart Rental Rate Incentive)	<u>+\$44.00</u> = (\$220 per acre)
Total Federal CRP Rental Payment	\$220.00 per acre
South Dakota GFP Rental Payment (34% of WASRR)	<u>+\$59.84</u> Combined
Total Annual Rent	\$279.84 per acre
Final Combined Annual Rental Payment = \$279.84 per acre x 100 acres = \$27,984.00	
Federal Signing Incentive Payment (32.5% of WASRR) for new CRP enrollments only (upfront)	<u>\$220 x 32.5% x 100 acres = \$7,150</u>
CRP Buffer Incentive Rental Payment (120% of WASRR) (upfront)	<u>\$176 x 120% x 1 ac x 10 yr = \$2,112</u> + \$9,262.00 (upfront)



Statewide Riparian Buffer Initiative (RBI) Fact Sheet



Use of Riparian Buffer Initiative American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to buffer waterbodies are intended to improve water quality in South Dakota by using riparian buffers in the floodplain. Rules for enrollment into the practice are as follows.

Requirements for pastureland:

1. Waterbody must be listed in ARSD 74:51:03 or ARSD 74:51:02:04 or locally designated by the local board county commissioners as outlined in SDCL 10-6-116 or designated by DANR.
2. Minimum buffer width of 50 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
3. Max average buffer width of 120 feet.
4. Vegetation may not be harvested or mowed between May 1 through August 1.
5. Vegetation may not be grazed between May 1 and September 30.
6. If cattle are present from October 1 through April 30, alternative water shall be available away from the stream.
7. A minimum vegetative stand of 4 - 6 inches shall be maintained.
8. Must agree to enroll ground for ten years.

Project payments to Producers:

1. Payment rates are based on the most current USDA "Pasture Cash Rent Paid Per Acre for South Dakota" publications. The rate will be 250% of the county rate to make a consistent payment across the Project. A link to the current county rates is at:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/South_Dakota/Publications/County_Estimates/23SDcashrents.pdf
2. A onetime upfront payment will be determined per acre for eligible acres. Cost-share of alternative water from enrolled pasture would be available at 75% maximum cost share. Fence materials excluding cattle from enrolled pasture would be available at 100%. Grass seed would be available at 100%. Payment would be completed upon installation of materials and seeding.

Requirements for cropland:

1. Waterbody must be listed in ARSD 74:51:03 or ARSD 74:51:02:04 or locally designated by the local board county commissioners as outlined in SDCL 10-6-116 or designated by DANR.
2. Ground must be converted to grass.
3. Minimum buffer width of 50 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
4. Max average buffer width of 120 feet.
5. Vegetation may not be harvested or mowed between May 1 through August 1.
6. Vegetation may not be grazed between May 1 and September 30.
7. If cattle are present from October 1 through April 30, alternative water shall be available away from the stream.
8. A minimum vegetative stand of 4 - 6 inches shall be maintained.
9. Must agree to enroll ground for ten years.

Project payments to Producers:

1. Payment rates are based on the most current USDA "Non-Irrigated Cropland Cash Rent Paid Per Acre for South Dakota" publications. The rate is 250% of the county rate to make a consistent payment across the Project. A link to the current county rates is at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/South_Dakota/Publications/County_Estimates/index.php
2. A onetime upfront payment will be determined per acre for eligible acres. Cost-share of alternative water from enrolled pasture would be available at 75% maximum cost share. Fence materials excluding cattle during the recreation season from the enrolled buffer would be available at 100%. Grass seed would be available at 100%. Payment would be completed upon installation of materials and seeding.



Big Sioux River Riparian Buffer Initiative (RBI) Fact Sheet



Use of Riparian Buffer Initiative HB1256 funds to buffer waterbodies is intended to improve water quality in the Big Sioux River by using riparian buffers in the floodplain. Rules for enrollment into the practice are as follows.

Requirements for pastureland:

1. Waterbody must be listed in ARSD 74:51:03:07 or ARSD 74:51:02:04 and be within the Big Sioux River Watershed, or locally designated by the local board county commissioners as outlined in SDCL 10-6-116 or designated by DANR.
2. Minimum buffer width of 50 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
3. Max average buffer width of 120 feet.
4. Vegetation may not be harvested or mowed between May 1 through August 1.
5. Vegetation may not be grazed between May 1 and September 30.
6. If cattle are present from October 1 through April 30, alternative water shall be available away from the stream.
7. A minimum vegetative stand of 4 - 6 inches shall be maintained.
8. Must agree to enroll ground for ten years.

Project payments to Producers:

1. Payment rates are based on the most current USDA "Pasture Cash Rent Paid Per Acre for South Dakota" publications. The rate will be 250% of the county rate to make a consistent payment across the Project. A link to the current county rates is at:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/South_Dakota/Publications/County_Estimates/23SDcashrents.pdf
2. A one-time upfront payment will be determined per acre for eligible acres. Cost-share of alternative water from enrolled pasture is available at 75% maximum cost-share. Fence materials excluding cattle from enrolled pasture is available at 100%. Grass seed is available at 100%. Payment is completed upon installation of materials and seeding.

Rates for Pastureland at 250%:

Roberts: \$105.00 x 10yr = \$1,050

Day: \$117.50 x 10yr = \$1,175

Grant: \$133.75 x 10yr = \$1,337.50

Clark: \$128.75 x 10yr = \$1,287.50

Codington: \$145.00 x 10yr = \$1,450

Hamlin: \$165.00 x 10yr = \$1,650

Deuel: \$145.00 x 10yr = \$1,450

Kingsbury: \$156.25 x 10yr = \$1,562.50

Brookings: \$160.00 x 10yr = \$1,600

Lake: \$168.75 x 10yr = \$1,687.50

Moody: \$165.00 x 10yr = \$1,650

Minnehaha: \$157.50 x 10yr = \$1,575

Lincoln: \$163.75 x 10yr = \$1,637.50

Union: \$148.75 x 10yr = \$1,487.50

Requirements for cropland:

1. Waterbody must be listed in ARSD 74:51:03:07 or ARSD 74:51:02:04 and be within the Big Sioux River Watershed or locally designated by the local board county commissioners as outlined in SDCL 10-6-116 or designated by DANR.
2. Ground must be converted to grass.
3. Minimum buffer width of 50 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
4. Max average buffer width of 120 feet.
5. Vegetation may not be harvested or mowed between May 1 through August 1.
6. Vegetation may not be grazed between May 1 and September 30.
7. If cattle are present from October 1 through April 30, alternative water shall be available away from the stream.
8. A minimum vegetative stand of 4 - 6 inches shall be maintained.
9. Must agree to enroll ground for ten years.

Project payments to Producers:

1. Payment rates are based on the most current USDA "Non-Irrigated Cropland Cash Rent Paid Per Acre for South Dakota" publications. The rate is 250% of the county rate to make a consistent payment across the Project. A link to the current county rates is at:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/South_Dakota/Publications/County_Estimates/index.php
2. A one-time upfront payment will be determined per acre for eligible acres. Cost-share of alternative water from enrolled pasture is available at 75% maximum cost share. Fence materials excluding cattle during the recreation season from the enrolled buffer is available at 100%. Grass seed is available at 100%. Payment is completed upon installation of materials and seeding.

County Rates for Cropland at 250%:

Roberts: \$407.50 x 10yr = \$4,075

Day: \$350.00 x 10yr = \$3,500

Grant: \$372.50 x 10yr = \$3,725

Clark: \$387.50 x 10yr = \$3,875

Codington: \$427.50 x 10yr = \$4,275

Hamlin: \$485.00 x 10yr = \$4,850

Deuel: \$457.50 x 10yr = \$4,575

Kingsbury: \$395.00 x 10yr = \$3,950

Brookings: \$482.50 x 10yr = \$4,825

Lake: \$490.00 x 10yr = \$4,900

Moody: \$597.50 x 10yr = \$5,975

Minnehaha: \$512.50 x 10yr = \$5,125

Lincoln: \$542.50 x 10yr = \$5,425

Union: \$550.00 x 10yr = \$5,550

Dakota Conservation Network



www.conserved.org



Dakota Conservation Network (DCN) serves as a hub of conservation information and resources for community members, farmers, ranchers, and landowners in South Dakota. Whether you're passionate about sustainable practices, wildlife preservation, or simply curious about how to make a positive impact, this website is here to guide you.

Discover Programs, Grants, and Services

DCN provides a wide range of programs, grants, and services to help improve soil health, conserve water, promote clean air, support biodiversity, and boost crop productivity. From small-scale gardens to large agricultural operations, DCN has a wide range of resources and support to meet your needs.

Search By County

Finding help in your area is easy with our county-based search feature. Just select your county, and you'll find a list of programs and services available near you, making it simple to access the support you need.

How We Can Help

DCN compiles a range of solutions to address your specific challenges. Whether you need financial support, expert specialists, planning guidance, workshops, or educational resources, we've got you covered. Start by identifying your conservation goal, and then explore our website to find the right assistance for you.



Get In Touch

Blaine Brakke, Locally Led Project Coordinator
(605) 280-4813
blaine.brakke@sdconservation.net

Caitlin Uthe, Communications & Design
(605) 799-6885
caitlin.uth@sdconservation.net

Dakota Conservation Network: Connecting Conservation in South Dakota

Request for Proposals: Testing Different Event Frames to Successfully Reach Beyond the Choir

National Wildlife Federation seeks proposals to test the ability of innovative events to reach farmers not currently using conservation practices. Outreach communication strategies are a critically underexplored component of conservation efforts, in particular their effectiveness at reaching new audiences.

Framing is among the most powerful communication tools available to us. Framing refers to the concepts and ideas we use to present a topic. Frames help to bring certain emotions, attitudes, and experiences to the front of mind. By being intentional with the frames we use in our outreach efforts, we can match our information to the motivations of our intended audience. We can reset preconceived notions, present conservation as a solution to existing problems, and connect with deeply held values that support new approaches to agriculture.

We seek outreach teams that can develop outreach messages that address one or more of these communication frames in a real-world setting, such as at field days, workshops, demonstration events, or virtual meetings. NWF is interested in outreach that incorporate one or more of the frames below.



Event Frames:

- Risk management for weather (drought or flood)
- Solving problems
- Overlap of recreation and farming (ex. Fishing and farming)
- Religious values of sustainable farming
- Sustainability metrics in supply chain
- Legacy planning (leaving the farm better for your children)
- Community responsibility (contributing to the health and wellbeing of your community)
- Other frames expected to reach non-conservation adopting farmers or landowners

Application instructions continue on next page.



Outreach should include at least one event with one of the above frames. Events must take place in the **Mississippi River Basin**. Groups must be willing to work with NWF on evaluation for the event (such as assisting with pre-post surveys of participants, providing contact information for participants for follow up interviews).

Proposals should include brief descriptions of:

1. your target audience.
2. the shared values, attitudes, and motivations of the target audience.
3. the frame to be used for your event, as well as why it was chosen.
4. the event (include potential setting, partners, and other relevant details)

Budget: Proposals shall not exceed \$3,000 per event. Example budget items may include, but are not limited to advertising, materials, time, food, etc.

Groups may submit multiple proposals if interested. Please include a full project budget with the proposal.

Timeline: All events must be completed by December 31st, 2024.

All proposals and questions should be submitted to Cassidy Dellorto-Blackwell by **April 15, 2024**.
dellortoblackwellc@nwf.org | 734-887-7150



**NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

**GRW
MORE**



Funds for innovative outreach efforts

[National Wildlife Federation](#) (NWF) is offering mini grants of up to **\$3,000** to host agricultural conservation outreach events that prioritize messages and events that test different [behavioral frames](#) (how information presented with either positive or negative aspects). Events must take place in the Mississippi River Basin (all of South Dakota except Marshall County area). Example budget items may include advertising, materials, time, food, etc. This may be a great opportunity for Conservation Districts to host innovative outreach events aligned with the District's long-range plan. Relatively simple proposals are due **April 15**. Contact Darrel DuVall for discussion or refer to the NWF contact on the flyer below/attached.

Potential Event Frames:

- Risk management for weather (drought or flood)
- Solving problems
- Overlap of recreation and farming (ex. Fishing and farming)
- Religious values of sustainable farming
- Sustainability metrics in supply chain
- Legacy planning (leaving the farm better for your children)
- Community responsibility (contributing to the health and wellbeing of your community)
- Other frames expected to reach non-conservation adopting farmers or landowners



COVER CROPS

MANY PRODUCERS HAVE DISCOVERED THE BENEFITS OF COVER CROPS.

A cover crop is a crop generally grown at times of the year when cash crops are not actively growing. Covers are planted primarily to reduce soil erosion, improve water infiltration, improve soil fertility, break up pest and disease cycles, sequester carbon, and improve overall soil health.

Cover crops are also used to manage excess water, improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, and extend the grazing season. With a wide range of available species and characteristics, farmers can use covers to manage a broad spectrum of resource concerns.

Cover Crop Characteristics:

	Full seeding rate, lbs/acre	Seeding Depth (in)	Reduce Erosion	Increase Soil Organic Matter	Scavenge Nutrients	Promote Biological Nitrogen Fixation	Suppress Weeds	Provide Supplemental Hay	Provide Supplemental Grazing	Booth/Death/Plant Water Use	Reduce Surface Soil Compaction	Reduce Subsoil Compaction	Seed Size (Large or Fine)	Crop Type	Winter Survival	Salinity Tolerance	C:N Ratio	Mycorrhizal Fungi Association	Seeds/Lb.	Shade Tolerance
COOL SEASON BROADLEAF																				
Alfalfa	6.5	.25 - .75	G	G	G	Y	G	G	F	DH	G	G	F	CB	Y	P	L	M	210,000	F
Brassica hybrids	7	.25 - .5	F	F	G	N	G	F	G	MM	G	G	F	CB	N	G	L	N	180,000	P
Cabbage, African	5	.25 - .75	F	F	G	N	F	F	F	MM	G	G	F	CB	N	G	L	N	180,000	F
Camelina, Winter	3	.25 - .5	F	F	F	N	P	P	P	ML	P	F	F	CB	S	P	L	N	400,000	P
Canola	5	.25 - .75	F	F	G	N	G	F	F	MM	G	G	F	CB	S	G	L	N	140,000	F
Clover, Balansa	5	.25 - .75	F	P	F	Y	P	P	F	SL	P	P	F	CB	N	P	L	M	500,000	F
Clover, Crimson	15	.25 - .75	F	F	F	Y	P	F	F	SM	P	P	F	CB	S	P	L	M	150,000	F
Clover, Red	5	.25 - .75	G	F	F	Y	F	F	F	SL	F	F	F	CB	Y	P	L	M	275,000	G
Clover, Sweet	4	.25 - 1.0	G	G	F	Y	G	F	F	MM	G	G	F	CB	Y	F	L	M	260,000	G
Collards or Kale	5	.25 - .5	F	F	G	N	G	F	G	MM	G	G	F	CB	N	G	L	N	175,000	F
Fava beans	75	1 - 1.5	F	F	F	Y	F	G	G	DM	F	F	L	CB	N	F	L	P	2,500	P
Flax	30	.25 - .75	F	F	F	N	P	P	P	SM	F	P	F	CB	N	P	H	H	80,000	P
Lentils	30	1 - 1.5	P	P	P	Y	P	P	P	SL	P	P	F	CB	N	P	L	M	20,000	P
Mustard	6	.25 - .75	F	F	F	N	G	F	P	MH	G	F	F	CB	N	P	L	N	140,000	P
Peas	70	1.5 - 3.0	F	P	P	Y	F	G	G	SL	F	F	L	CB	N	P	L	M	3,500	F
Phacelia	4	.25 - .5	F	F	F	N	P	P	P	DH	F	P	F	CB	N	P	L	M	225,000	F
Radishes	8	.25 - .75	F	F	G	N	G	P	G	DH	G	G	F	CB	N	P	L	N	25,000	P
Rapeseed	5	.25 - .75	F	F	G	N	G	F	G	MM	G	G	F	CB	S	G	L	N	140,000	F
Sugar beets	4	.25 - .5	F	P	G	N	F	P	G	DH	G	G	F	CB	N	G	L	N	22,000	P
Turnips	4	.25 - .5	F	P	G	N	G	P	G	DH	G	G	F	CB	S	P	L	N	175,000	P
Vetch, Chickling	50	.5 - 1.5	F	F	F	Y	F	F	P	SL	F	F	L	CB	N	P	L	M	2,500	F
Vetch, Common	25	.5 - 1.5	F	F	F	Y	F	F	F	SM	F	F	L	CB	N	P	L	M	8,000	F
Vetch, Hairy	15	.5 - 1.5	G	F	F	Y	F	F	F	SM	G	F	L	CB	Y	P	L	M	14,000	G
COOL SEASON GRASS																				
Barley	50	.75 - 2.0	G	G	G	N	G	G	G	MM	G	F	L	CG	N	G	M	M	14,000	F
Oats	70	.5 - 1.5	G	G	G	N	G	G	G	MH	G	G	L	CG	Y	G	H	M	16,000	G
Rye, Cereal planted after Oct. 1	60	.75 - 2.0	G	G	G	N	G	G	G	MH	G	G	L	CG	Y	G	H	M	18,000	G
Rye, Cereal planted on or before Oct. 1	40	.5 - 1.5	G	G	G	N	G	G	G	MH	G	F	L	CG	Y	G	M	M	15,000	F
Ryegrass, Annual	15	.5 - 1.5	G	G	G	N	F	G	G	MM	G	F	F	CG	S	F	M	M	190,000	G
Triticale	60	.5 - 1.5	G	G	G	N	G	G	G	MH	G	F	L	CG	N	G	M	M	15,000	F
Wheat, Spring	60	.5 - 1.5	G	G	G	N	G	G	G	MH	G	F	L	CG	N	G	M	M	15,000	F
Wheat, Winter	60	.75 - 2.0	G	G	G	N	G	G	G	MH	G	F	L	CG	Y	F	M	H	15,000	F
WARM SEASON BROADLEAF																				
Buckwheat	50	.5 - 1.5	P	P	F	N	F	P	P	SL	F	P	L	WB	N	P	L	N	19,000	G
Cowpeas or Dry Beans	30	1 - 1.5	P	F	F	Y	P	P	F	SL	F	F	L	WB	N	P	L	M	4,000	F
Safflowers	30	.5 - 1.0	F	F	G	N	F	P	P	DM	F	G	L	WB	N	F	M	M	15,000	P
Soybeans	35	1 - 1.5	F	P	F	Y	F	F	F	SM	F	F	L	WB	N	P	L	M	3,000	F
Sunflowers	7	.5 - 1.0	F	F	G	N	F	P	G	DM	F	G	L	WB	N	F	M	M	8,000	P
Sunn hemp	15	1.5 - 2.0	F	F	F	Y	F	P	F	DM	F	F	L	WB	N	P	L	M	15,000	P
WARM SEASON GRASS																				
Corn	12	1 - 1.5	G	G	G	N	G	F	G	DH	G	G	L	WG	N	P	H	H	2,500	F
Millet, hay	15	.5 - 1.0	G	G	G	N	G	G	G	SL	G	F	F	WG	N	P	M	H	180,000	P
Millet, proso	25	.5 - 1.0	G	G	G	N	G	G	G	SL	G	F	F	WG	N	P	M	H	80,000	P
Sorghum, Forage and Sudan Hybrids	15	.5 - 1.5	G	G	G	N	G	G	G	MM	G	G	L	WG	N	F	M	H	17,000	P
Sorghum, Grain	5	.5 - 1.5	G	G	G	N	G	G	G	MM	G	G	L	WG	N	F	M	H	17,000	P
Sudangrass	20	.5 - 1.5	G	G	G	N	G	G	G	MM	G	G	L	WG	N	F	M	H	25,000	P
Teff grass	5	.13 - .25	G	G	F	N	F	G	G	SM	G	F	F	WG	N	P	M	H	1,000,000	N

SEEDING DATES:

May 1 through August 5:
Predominantly warm-season winter kill species

Early Spring & After August 5:
Predominantly cool-season winter kill species

August 1 through winter:
Species that do not winter kill

Seeding dates fluctuate annually:
Seeding dates may be adjusted up to 15 days by the District Conservationist based on local weather and site conditions. Be cognizant of potential green bridge that could happen if cool-season grass cover crop species such as wheat, oats, barley, or rye are planted near commercially grown cereal grain crops.

KEY TO RATING DESCRIPTIONS:

- SL** = Shallow rooted/Low water use
- SM** = Shallow rooted/Medium water use
- SH** = Shallow rooted/High water use
- ML** = Medium rooted/Low water use
- MM** = Medium rooted/Medium water use
- MH** = Medium rooted/High water use
- DL** = Deep rooted/Low water use
- DM** = Deep rooted/Medium water use
- DH** = Deep rooted/ High water use
- CG** = Cool season grass
- CB** = Cool season broadleaf
- WG** = Warm season grass
- WB** = Warm season broadleaf
- G** = Good
- F** = Fair
- P** = Poor
- L** = Low
- M** = Medium
- H** = High
- Y** = Yes
- N** = No
- S** = Sporadic
- N/A** = Not Applicable
- Shallow** = 6-18 inches
- Medium** = 18-24 inches
- Deep** = 24+ inches

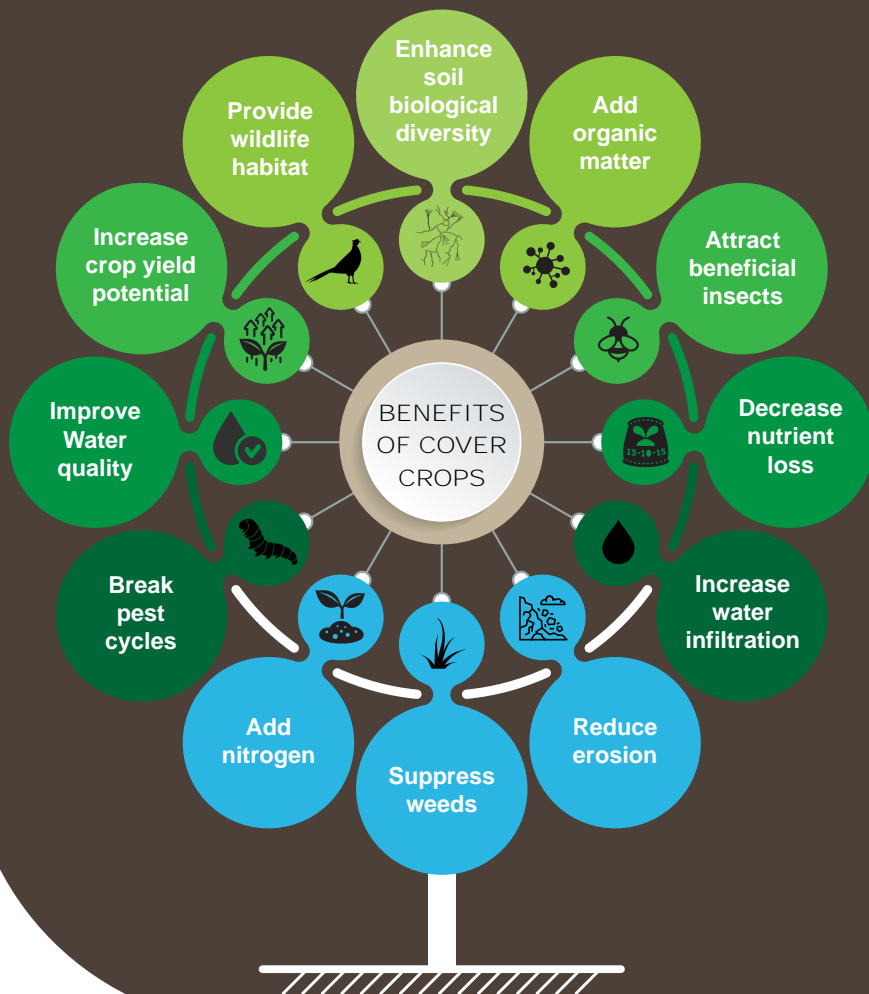
CONSIDERATIONS:

- Alternate cash and cover crop type to maximize plant diversity.
- Do you include warm season species or not?
- Would you like any species to overwinter?
- Review the "half-life" of previously applied herbicides.
- Seeding timing options



SCAN FOR MORE COVER CROP INFO!

HIDDEN BENEFITS: What lies beneath our feet





Get Started!

A Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers:

- Minority,
- Women,
- Veteran,
- Beginning, and
- Limited Resource Producers

JULY 2022

farmers.gov/

Multi-agency (FSA, NRCS, RMA) publication providing information on assistance to ALL while including targeted opportunities available to historically underserved customer groups, including **beginning farmer/ranchers**, *and* those **newer to USDA** assistance.

- Resource to supplement NRCS planning and program conversations especially for sharing decision making process with family and business partners.
- Describes natural resource conservation concerns, lists common practices, and terms starting at page 16.
- Includes summary of NRCS planning process and financial assistance programs on page 18 - 23.
- Includes updates to USDA's Urban Agriculture assistance, glossary of terms and worksheet preparing for first visit to USDA Service Center.
- [View online](#) or request hardcopy from Randi Papka at 605-352-1240.