

2013 Winter Cereal Grains Initiative Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

SD-FS-73
February 2013

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has funding available in the Winter Cereal Grains Initiative through the EQIP in partnership with South Dakota (SD) Wheat Inc., Ducks Unlimited (DU), and SD State University (SDSU). The Winter Cereal Grains Initiative will promote the growth of winter wheat to create habitat for bird species.

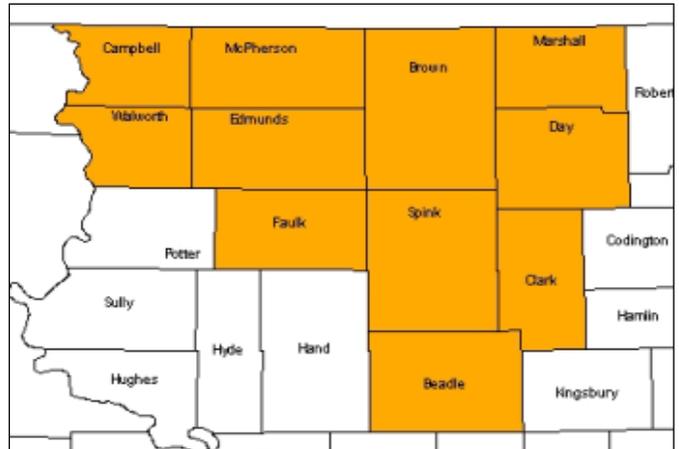


Photo courtesy of Marty Visto, Ducks Unlimited.

Nesting studies by DU, Canada, indicate that up to 24 times more duck nests are hatched in winter cereal fields than in fields of spring seeded crops. Fall-seeded crops such as winter wheat eliminate spring disturbance from tillage and seeding operations contributing to greater nesting success. The North Missouri and Coteau regions of SD have some of the highest wetland and breeding duck densities in the world. Evidence also shows improved nesting success for grassland songbirds, Long-billed Curlews, Marbled Godwits, Willets, and Ring-necked Pheasants in winter cereals.

This initiative is to encourage a change in the grower's crop rotation through the planting of winter wheat and offered to growers located in those counties highlighted in Figure 1. Technical assistance will be provided by agronomists, biologists, conservationists, and educators with the NRCS, DU, SDSU, Pheasants Forever, SD Game, Fish and Parks, and SD Association of Conservation Districts. Growers will be encouraged to plant high quality, adapted winter wheat varieties based on the cropping techniques recommended by SDSU.

Figure 1



Map courtesy of USDA NRCS South Dakota State Office.

Financial Assistance for Planting Winter Cereal Grains

The grower must not have grown winter wheat during the previous four years (2009-2012). Only winter wheat is eligible, rye is not. The practice payment is for a maximum of three years at a rate of \$34.20 per acre with a practice payment cap per year of \$3,840.



Photo courtesy of Jason Riope, Ducks Unlimited.

For More Information

Please contact NRCS staff at your local USDA Service Center at <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>, or a DU Agronomist, at www.wintercereals.us.