**Dakota Farm Talk – Proper Vegetative Seeding for CRP**

**Pam Geppert**

Establishing vegetative cover through conservation seedings is a popular tactic of many USDA programs, including the Conservation Reserve Program. But landowners must adhere to South Dakota's seed laws and the requirements of the conservation program to ensure the seedlings are successful and adapted to the region. Area. Resource conservationist Ryan Forbes with the Natural Resources Conservation Service explains Landowners are free to work with seed suppliers of their choice, using the seeding recipe developed for the USDA program.

**Ryan Forbes**

When the planter is out with producer planting the grass mixture or the flower mixture, whatever their plan, they're planning for a purpose for things like wildlife, soil erosion or whatever. So there's different resource concerned that this seeding is going to address both the producer or seed dealer changes that seeding mix a little bit and that might not meet the resource concern out there.

**Pam Geppert**

Forbes encourages landowners and their seed suppliers to stay in communication with USDA to ensure changes to the seed mix are approved. He explains all vegetative plantings approved for cost share must have current purity and germ tests completed. Grass species, if the name is listed as common, must originate in South Dakota or a contiguous state.

**Ryan Forbes**

North Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota and Iowa.

**Pam Geppert**

Named grass species may originate from a wider geographic origin, as can forbes and legumes. Bottom line Forbes states conservation seeding mixes must adhere to approved NRCS varieties and laws for South Dakota to be eligible for cost share benefits. Contact any USDA service center for greater details. I'm Pam Geppert reporting for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Helping People Help the land.