**Dakota Farm Talk – Welcome NRCS New State Conservationist Tony Suneri**

**Pam Geppert**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service in South Dakota welcomes a new captain to the team. Earlier this month, Tony Sunseri began his role as an NRCS state conservationist for South Dakota. Sunseri is a native of Oregon and holds degrees in rangeland ecology as well as crop management. His work with NRCS as began in Oregon, advancing through Hawaii, California, Washington State, Idaho and Wyoming.

Sunseri believes his diverse career lends him a solid understanding of resource management in a variety of fields.

**Tony Sunseri**

Working with so many different partners in so many different landscapes, it really has given me experience in being very flexible and adaptable and finding ways to carve paths forward.

**Pam Geppert**

Sunseri states. The NRCS seeks partnerships with producers and private organizations investing farm bill funding to address resource concerns.

**Tony Sunseri**

We really stand behind the idea of locally led conservation and what locally led is, as is working with our partners and our landowners, to find innovative ways to get conservation on the ground. And conservation is not preservation conservation being the wisest use of resources.

**Pam Geppert**

Since areas already reaching out to stakeholders in South Dakota's egg industry and intends to connect with local field staff as well as farmers and ranchers.

**Tony Sunseri**

They have just a couple of questions for them. One is what's working, what's not, and how can we do better? And I want to hear from the staff, but I also want to get out in the field and see the projects that we've been working on across the state. And I'm hoping to get the opportunity while I'm out to visit with our producers also.

**Pam Geppert**

That's Tony Sunseri. NRCS state conservationist for South Dakota. I'm Pam Geppert reporting for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Helping people Help the land.