

Conservation Implementation Strategy Project

# Clear Lake and Hidewood Creek Water Quality Project



## This Project At-A-Glance

### Partners:

- Deuel County Conservation District
- Hamlin County Conservation District

**Funding** for this project is provided by the EQIP Program and partners with financial and in-kind contributions.

The Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) is a new phased-in approach to deliver conservation programs to farmers and ranchers across South Dakota. Funding for CIS comes through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Funding and support from other agencies and groups can be leveraged and coordinated to focus on mutual issues of the highest priority.

## Background

Clear Lake has a long history of water quality issues. As the headwaters for Hidewood Creek, the deteriorating condition of Clear Lake has added to water quality issues downstream. Both Hidewood Creek and Clear Lake are considered impaired water bodies.

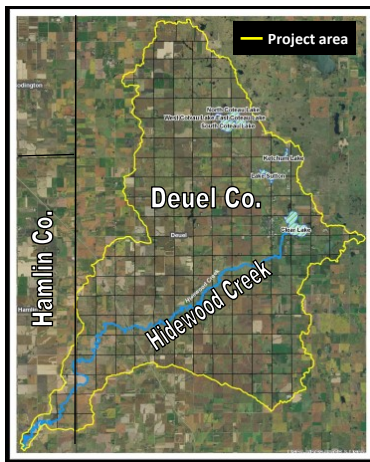
The goal of the Clear Lake and Hidewood Creek Water Quality Project is to work with producers within the watershed to improve water quality for use by livestock, wildlife, and for recreation.

## Desired Outcomes

**Rangeland** – The long-term desired rangeland condition consists of a healthy, diverse ecosystem. Although changes to the plant community will take many years to achieve, changes in range health and proper grass management will be evident and visible to the producer by the end of the proposed project.

**Cropland** – Cropland acres with healthy soils are desired long term. To get cropland soils to a healthy state takes a long-term commitment of improved cropping practices. At the end of the project, the desired cropland condition is a reduction in tillage throughout the watershed and an increase in diversity of crop rotations.

Water Quality Project Area



## Contact(s):

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## Goals

Objective #1: Improve grazing management to increase range health and productivity

Objective #2: Reduce soil loss due to erosion and movement of sediment into lakes and streams.

Objective #3: Improve soil structure and health, reducing runoff of nutrients and increasing crop productivity.

South Dakota  
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### Application Process:

To apply for funding, please contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. Applications for 2022 funding must be received by NRCS no later than December 3rd, 2021. Applicants must:

- Agree to allow follow-up monitoring of range and/or soil health on the operation.
- Agree to complete soil tests for organic matter on crop fields over a 10-year period.
- Apply a core conservation practice

Core Practices	Supporting Practices
Conservation Cover (327)	Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315)
Residue and Tillage Management (No-Till) (329)	Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
Residue and Tillage Management (Reduced-Till) (345)	Cover Crops (340)
Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)	Critical Area Planting (342)
Prescribed Grazing (528)	Fence (382)
	Filter Strip (393)
	Grassed Waterway (412)
	Access Control (472)
	Livestock Pipeline (516)
	Pumping Plant (533)
	Range Planting (550)
	Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
	Stream Crossing (578)
	Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
	Nutrient Management (590)
	Watering Facility (614)
	Underground Outlet (620)
	Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
	Water Well (642)

### Time Table of Project

Cropland:

Rangeland:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Crop Rotation: 160 ac.	An additional:	An additional:
Cover Crops: 320 ac.	Crop Rotation: 160 ac.	Crop Rotation: 160 ac.
Residue Mgmt.: 320 ac.	Cover Crops: 320 ac.	Cover Crops: 320 ac.
Gully Erosion: address 1 area of concern	Residue Mgmt.: 640 ac.	Residue Mgmt.: 640 ac.
	Gully Erosion: address 1 area of concern	Gully Erosion: address 1 area of concern

Years 1 & 2	Year 3
Improve infrastructure	Prescribed Grazing: 3600 ac.
Bank Erosion: address 2 areas of concern per year	Bank Erosion: address 2 additional areas of concern.

