



February 1, 2022

Dear Conservation Partner:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will hold their regularly scheduled session of the State Technical Committee (STC) **on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, which will be held virtually**. The meeting will start at 10 a.m. CDT and those participating virtually will be joined by a Teams Meeting (video and audio available). Attached please find a copy of the meeting instructions on how you connect and join the meeting virtually. Based on the tentative agenda items, we anticipate the meeting may run approximately one to two hours. The link for the Teams Meeting will be sent out to each of you a few days prior to the meeting.

The tentative agenda items for the February 16, 2022, meeting will include:

- Welcome and Introduction
- Congressional Staff Updates
- Farm Service Agency Updates
 - Conservation Reserve Program
- Soil Health Update
- Conservation Innovation Grants
- Conservation Collaboration Cooperative Agreements
- Conservation Implementation Strategy
- Woody Species Encroachment DRAFT Strategic Plan
- Program Updates
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - Regional Conservation Partnership Program
 - Conservation Stewardship Program
 - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- South Dakota Wetland/HEL Compliance Update
- Partnership Topics - We have updated our agenda to include time for Partner Updates. If you want to share success stories, new programs or need feedback, please let Kathy Irving know and we will include your name in the agenda.
- Reports
- Other

If you have any additional topics you would like to see included, please contact Kathy Irving, Secretary, Huron State Office, at (605) 352-1200, or via e-mail at kathy.irving@usda.gov.

For more information regarding the meeting, please call our office; or leave a message on our 24-hour Voicemail messaging service by dialing 1-800-872-7502, Extension 1205, or visit the NRCS Web site at www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov.

Persons needing special accommodations should contact Kathy Irving at least one week in advance of the meeting date.

Sincerely,

ROBERT LAWSON
Acting State Conservationist

Attachment

STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual Meeting Only - Held by Teams Meeting
February 16, 2022
10 a.m.

Agenda

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Welcome and Opening Comments | Tony Sunseri |
| 2. Congressional Representatives | |
| 3. Farm Service Agency Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation Reserve Program | Joe Schultz, FSA
Owen Fagerhaug, FSA |
| 4. Soil Health Update | Tanse Herrmann |
| 5. Conservation Innovation Grants | Colette Kessler |
| 6. Conservation Collaboration Grants and Cooperative Agreements Update | Colette Kessler |
| 7. Conservation Implementation Strategy | Jeff Vander Wilt |
| 8. Woody Species Encroachment Draft Strategic Plan | Jeff Vander Wilt |
| 9. Program Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental Quality Incentives Program• Regional Conservation Partnership Program• Conservation Stewardship Program• Agricultural Conservation Easement Program | Jennifer Wurtz
Jennifer Wurtz
Joyce Trevithick
Brandon Kottke |
| 9. South Dakota Wetland/HEL Compliance Update | Deke Hobbick |
| 10. Partnership Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northern Great Plains Joint Venture | |
| 11. Other | |

Remember the R's for Resilient Ranches

Natural Resources Conservation Service
South Dakota • January 2022



Remember the R's

for Healthier, Resilient Soils and Grazinglands

More than half of South Dakota ranchers practice at least a simple rotational grazing system, according to a 2018 rancher survey by South Dakota State University. Moving livestock to allow pastures to rest and recover is an important first step in sound grazing systems that produce more forage and productive grasslands.

Those who have been using sound grazing practices for years have discovered that using those practices also results in healthier grassland soils. Basic soil health principles used for croplands such as a diversity of plants and keeping roots growing are modeled after healthy grasslands development.

Rotational grazing, for instance, keeps pastures from being overgrazed, leaving enough grass cover to keep the soil armored. Just as importantly, live roots keep growing in the soil to feed microbes as pastures are rested and allowed to recover after grazing. The shorter term, more intense grazing encourages more even use of forages, resulting in more diversity of plant species—another important principle to follow in building healthy soils.

The bottom line: you can't build healthy grassland soils without applying sound grazing principles, nor can you get the most production from your grasses without applying the principles of soil health.

Remember the R's! Easy to remember grazing principles

One simple way to keep the best of the grazing principles in mind is to remember the r's. That includes **Rotate**, **Rest**, and **Recover**, along with proper stocking **Rates** and maintaining healthy **Root** systems.

Rotating pastures is the grazing management technique that enables pastures to be rested. This period of Rest after grazing, in turn,

allows time for both plants and their roots to Recover. This recovery time promotes regrowth and natural diversity in grasslands.

Optimum stocking Rate matches the amount of expected forage to numbers of livestock, helping ensure grasses will not be overgrazed. Giving plant Roots time to recover after grazing is critical to long-term plant health, as well as to feeding soil microbes that build healthy soils able to infiltrate and hold rainfall.

*Keep the R's in mind to set the framework
for resilient soils, grasslands, and ranches!*



A key to rotational grazing is leaving a healthy amount of grass—at least four inches, generally—after grazing to allow plants and roots to rest and recover, and feed microbes. This builds healthy soils with more organic matter, pore space, and water holding capacity, and more storage of carbon in the soil.



"We don't need to take all that grass off. One of our goals is to leave a minimum of a thousand pounds of grass per acre behind after grazing—leave that ground covered, leave that armor on the ground. We try to save every drop of rain we get. If you can cover your ground in a drought and leave it covered, as soon as it rains, within 30 to 45 days it's ready to go again. But if you bare the ground it may be three to five years before it recovers. Leaving enough forage after grazing to feed soil microbes is a big thing—that and letting our land rest. We might be grazing on a piece of land a week or sometimes only a day, but then we don't touch it for a full year so it has a lot of time to recover. Rest is important, but rest alone isn't the answer. You have to have enough moisture during that rest so the grass and roots can recover—there's no set or magic timeframe for how long it takes a pasture to recover."

—Pat Guptill
Quinn, SD

Rotate

Rotate pastures, time of year, and livestock type

If you want higher grassland production for years to come, more resilience in a drought, and diverse grasslands that infiltrate and store rainfall to build healthy soils, think rotation. It's the pathway to the rest and recovery both plants and their roots need to build both healthy grasslands and healthy soils.

The problem with season long grazing is the likelihood of overgrazing the plants livestock like most. Long-standing research shows 50 percent (%) of root growth stops when 60% of the leaf volume of plants are grazed, and all root growth stops when 80% of the plant is grazed. If a plant gets knocked down again and again in one season, it will eventually die, and other, less palatable plants move in. What you want instead is to offer plants the chance to rest and recover, pumping sugar downward to the roots, to feed the soil biology.



Most people think about rotating livestock through pastures, but rotating livestock types and season of use from one year to the next also deliver dividends. Goats and sheep like to browse; goats will eat the pigweeds, lambsquarter, and other broadleaf weeds that cattle don't like. Shifting the season of use is another crucial part of rotation.



Steps to Rotation

- 1) Complete an inventory of resources, and get help in developing a grazing plan.
- 2) Reach out to those with experience—NRCS, certified range managers, other producers.
- 3) Look for cost-sharing for developing the infrastructure you'll need—fences, water supplies, etc.
- 4) A combination of temporary and permanent fencing may be best.
- 5) A combination of temporary and permanent water supplies may work best.
- 6) Be realistic in setting goals for stocking rates, length of time for forage improvement, etc.
- 7) Aim to reduce duration of grazing and increase duration of rest.
- 8) Observe, observe, observe, and be ready to make changes to your plan.

Take Half, Leave Half

The widely used "take half, leave half" grazing rule of thumb's intent is to stop grazing before root growth is affected. It's based on grass weight, not height. It's the weight of the grass leaves from the ground surface to the top of the plant. "Take half" equals the top two-thirds of the plant leaf growth, which often correlates to leaving 4"-5" residual plant height above ground. This photosynthesizes and drives plant growth.

"I was brought up with no other way of thinking but to rotate pastures and just learning how to read the grass. We try to rotate every two to six days, depending on pasture size and herd sizes. We watch how much is being grazed; we have a take half/leave half mentality, and that guides us on when it's time to move on. Those cows love to get to that fresh pasture and they get pretty used to rotating. If you're wondering if you should move them, they'll usually tell you because they'll be waiting for you at the gate."

— Britton Blair
Sturgis, SD



Britton Blair and his dad and uncle have seen significant changes in forage diversity, rainfall infiltration, and grassland resilience over the past 20 years by using more intense rotational grazing.

Rest

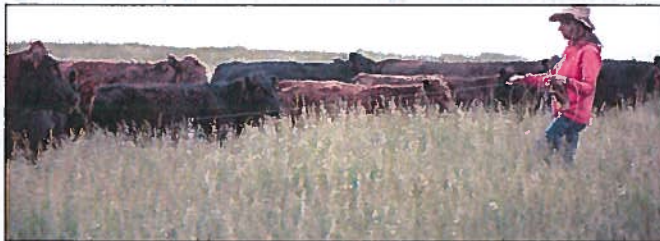
Aim to rest pastures much longer than you graze them



"We've got some very rough, marginal ground. We used to graze in 120-acre pastures, but we dropped that down to 40- and 20-acre paddocks to control the grazing more. I'm out in a pasture every day checking grasses to see when we should move—we try to leave anywhere from four to six inches of grass standing in the pasture every year. We graze a pasture once a year and then it rests for another year.

With the pastures resting all the time, in our last drought here, we had grass two to three feet tall where other pastures were six to eight inches tall around us. It's a lot of hard work and a lot of dedication, but in the long run it pays off big time because you'll have grass when you need it."

— Gene Ausland
Day County, SD



Think of your grasslands as your children. Both are ever changing and developing, and both need rest. Just as young children take naps to stay healthy, grasslands need rest after grazing to stay healthy. But their rest period is longer—a minimal 45 days, often 365 days or more. The goal is to allow all plants in the pasture to regrow and fully complete their growth cycle.

Think about elite athletes

Another way to think about resting your grasslands is to compare the rest they need to elite athletes. A marathon runner isn't going to run a race two days in a row. Race horse owners wouldn't think about running horses that soon, either.

Another analogy is with the boxer who keeps getting knocked down. If that boxer gets knocked down repeatedly, and gets up in an

Babies, children, athletes — all of us — need rest to recover from activity or injury. Think of grasslands in the same way.

injured or weaker state each time, there comes a point he or she doesn't get up at all. Grasses react the same way—if they are grazed into the ground and then the new growth is nipped off again and again without a rest period, there aren't enough leaves to feed roots; roots stop growing and the plant doesn't survive, let alone thrive.

Rest requirements vary

The most common rest period is a year—once-through grazing followed by rest until the next year. Some systems are twice-through, where livestock graze only the top one-third to one-half of forage the first time through. Then comes a longer rest. In a twice-through management system, the second grazing event must be carefully



monitored to ensure enough plant material is left after grazing to ensure roots and leaves continue to grow.

Consideration should be given to delaying turn in dates the year after a drought. Even with normal rainfall, full production wouldn't be expected the year following a drought, unless those pastures are very well managed.

Well managed pastures likely have healthy soils that promote rainwater infiltration and hold moisture. That's a direct contrast with continually grazed pastures. Pastures grazed all season long could take three to four years to get back to full production after a drought. The bottom line is it takes even more rest in a continually grazed pasture to recover from drought years.

Recover

Both plant leaves and roots need time to recover after grazing

There's a natural need for rest and recovery, whether it involves what people do to stay healthy or the steps grazing managers take for healthy grasslands and soils.

When you undergo a surgical procedure, your doctor will prescribe rest to help you recover. If you get too active too quickly, you're likely to aggravate your injury, have a setback and extend the recovery time. The same thing happens with plants that are

Recovered, Graze Ready

Ranchers and farmers with experience in rotational grazing learn to recognize when plants are fully recovered and ready to graze again. In general, that's when your desired grass species are at the 4½ leaf stage, and about 8 inches tall. How long that recovery takes depends on soils, soil moisture, time of year, species, how short it was grazed, and other factors.



It's just as important to allow roots time to recover after grazing, especially during a drought, as it is to give plant leaves time to regrow and recover.

grazed before they have time to fully recover.

When pastures are repeatedly grazed without time to fully recover, roots don't get the nutrients they need from photosynthesis, and they begin to shrink. As the roots are weakened, the plant is weakened. It's a downward spiral that results in eventual plant death or the plant being overtaken by less desirable species.

Expect well-managed grasslands with healthy soils to recover more quickly than season-long grazed units with degraded soil structure.

Breaking a rule

In the spring, when plants are just beginning to grow, they're extremely susceptible to overgrazing. Grazing too hard, too short early in the year can set back growth for the entire season. So in most cases, you really want to avoid grazing hard in the spring. On the other hand, you can intentionally overgraze if you have unwanted species you want to try to push out while you encourage desirable species.

You may want to graze brome grass and Kentucky bluegrass pastures hard early in the spring—they green up earlier than native cool season grasses. Then, rotate livestock out. The more open canopy and reduced competition can allow more desirable native, warm season species to grow and mature before they are grazed.

Recovery after a drought

Grasslands—the plants and the soils and biology below them—can be severely challenged with drought. They need more rest and recovery time than normal—don't expect full performance or production the year after a drought. It's more important than ever to rest pastures after a drought so you can keep plants taller, to develop deeper roots, and continue to recover.



"Rotational grazing has worked great for us. We've been doing daily moves, just trying to better manage what the cows are eating and manage the grass, give it an opportunity to recover. You see how the more you move the cows, the better the cows stay in condition, the better the grass and the ground stays in condition. It's enhanced our profitability.

— John Shubeck
Centerville, SD



Electric fences make daily cattle moves quick and easy on John Shubeck's farm.

Rate

Match livestock numbers to available forage for higher profits

One of the basics—some would argue the most important basic for a profitable grazing operation—is using a livestock stocking rate that matches the available forage in a pasture. Stocking rate—animals per acre or animal liveweight per acre—is the number of animals on the entire grazing unit for a certain period of time.

Figuring stocking rates doesn't have to be complex. You just need to recognize the capacity of the landscape to provide forage for the length of time you plan to graze, and how many animals will be grazing. It's also important to be ready to adapt with weather conditions. As you plan stocking rates, recognize all animals are not equal, nor are all landscapes.

Estimate the landscape's capacity

Go online to the NRCS Web Soil Survey, and in just a few clicks you can outline your land area, find the soil types, and get a rating for the pounds per acre that soil type could be expected to produce in a normal, favorable, or unfavorable (dry) year. Talk with NRCS. They can explain the differences in stocking rates, stock density, carrying capacity, and the other grazing concepts, and they'll help you develop an entire grazing management plan, if you request it, at no cost.

Calculate the stocking rate

Once you have an idea of your particular pasture's ability to produce forage, you can calculate the stocking rate that pasture can support. Stocking rate is generally calculated in animal unit months per acre. An animal unit month is the amount of forage required for a 1,000-pound cow with calf-up to weaning weight for one month. That cow and calf is an animal unit—a 1500-pound cow would be 1.5 animal units, 600-pound stockers are 0.6 animal units, and a sheep is about 0.2 animal units.

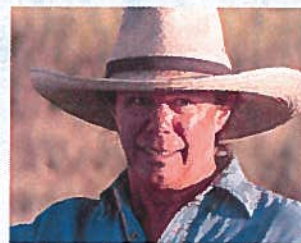
To calculate stocking rates, multiply total animal units by the length of your grazing season, and divide your acres of pasture by that figure. Example: You have 200 head of 1,000 lb. cows (200 animal units) x 6 months grazing season = 1,200 AUMs forage demand. 3,000 acres to meet that demand suggests that your land's carrying capacity should be at least 0.4 AUMs/acre to supply adequate forage for the 6-month grazing season. Depending on your location and climate, that scenario may or may not be workable—an NRCS conservation planner or rangeland specialist can help determine if you are working with realistic figures. If 0.4 AUMs per acre cannot be reasonably expected (from actual forage measurements or Web Soil Survey estimates), adjustments to planned

animal numbers and/or planned duration of grazing should be made to safeguard the grassland resource.

Boost stocking rates and soil health with rotations

Ranchers have long known that season-long continuous grazing on a pasture can degrade the pasture, especially in a drought. A livestock performance simulation by South Dakota State University in 2018 showed, though, that multi-paddock grazing allows for much higher stocking rates without such serious degradation, because grazing on any one pasture is for a short time and adequate rest time is allowed for recovery before re-grazing.

The study shows that as stocking rates are increased, profitability of multiple paddock grazing in rotation—even with high costs to develop those systems—is significantly higher than from continuous grazing. Some ranchers have doubled stocking rates in 10 to 15 years by using temporary fencing and water with 2 to 3 day moves. They get a better look at their cows, the cows have new feed every few days, and their high density, low duration rotation offers more even grazing of all the plants in the pasture. In addition, that management approach develops plant diversity and feeds soil microbes, resulting in healthier soils that infiltrate rainfall, with more resiliency in a drought.



"We've gone from the original 15 pastures to 30 pastures ranging from 25 to 40 acres. When we're finished we'll have over 60 pastures. We'll have 50 miles of electric fence when we're all set up.

We've learned the optimum grazing time for us is three to five days, followed by 750 days of rest. We don't go back in the rest of that grazing season, or the next year, and then that third year, we try to shift the season of use.

It's worked for us. An NRCS inventory in 2007 showed our upland fields were producing 400 to 600 pounds per acre per year. Now, those same fields are producing 2,100 to 2,800 pounds per acre per year."

—Simone Wind
Newell, SD

Roots

There's a grazing line you shouldn't cross to keep roots healthy

There's a reason soil health specialists recommend you take a spade with you when you examine your pastures. Importantly, you need to see whether your soil has pore spaces that rapidly infiltrate and store rainwaters, or if it's compacted with a platy structure that slows water infiltration.

But you can also learn a lot by taking a close look at the root systems. That's because the grass you see—or don't see—above ground is directly reflected in the supporting root system below ground. Generally speaking, in healthy grasslands, the amount of biomass below ground is much greater than that above ground.

An important grazing fact many people don't know is that in most years, about one-half of a grass plant's roots die naturally. They have to be replaced by new roots; the speed and amount of new root growth is directly affected by how much of the plant's leaf volume has been removed. Go too far—graze too close and remove too much top growth—and the roots aren't replaced at all and the plant will eventually die.

The line you don't want to cross

If you move livestock out to leave about half the grass volume in a pasture—that usually means leaving at least 4 inches of grass height after grazing—root growth is largely unaffected and plants regrow fairly rapidly. Research shows when

you leave 50% by weight (4 inches or more residual grass), less than 5% of the roots stop growing. But if you go just a little beyond that, and remove 60% of the top growth, you stop 50% of root growth. And if you remove 70% of the plant, you stop nearly 80% of root growth.

The line you don't want to cross—unless you intentionally want to reduce a grass like bluegrass in a pasture, is that 50% mark. That's where the take half, leave half saying comes from.

Roots key to water availability, soil health

Capturing and holding sunlight and water, and delivering nutrients to

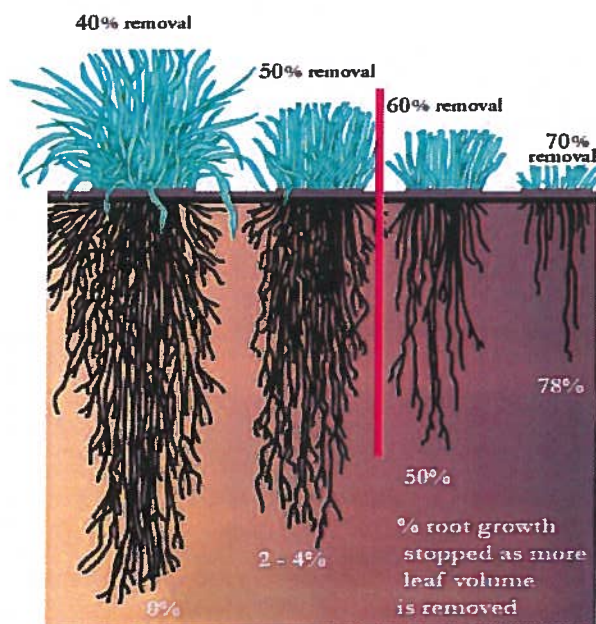
plants are arguably the most important things you can do to get productive grasslands. Healthy plant root systems make that happen. When you rotate pastures to allow enough leaf surface to capture sunlight and pump energy to the plant roots, those actively growing roots put out sugars and other root exudates that feed microbes in the soil. Those microbes and other soil biology make the glue that binds the soil together, forming soil aggregates with pore space that promotes infiltration and water holding capacity. Growing roots are crucial to developing healthy soils that absorb and hold water."



"We've really intensified our rotational grazing and use of cover crops. We get anywhere from 15 to 17 inches of rainfall a year on average. What we're striving for is to insulate ourselves and capture and hold as much of that moisture as possible. We're just trying to drought-proof the farm, improving the water infiltration and the holding capacity."

—Candice Olson-Mizera
McLaughlin, SD

Grazing's Red Line for Root Health



The "take half, leave half" concept in grazing comes from research that shows root regrowth is curtailed as more than 50% of the plant leaf is removed by grazing.

Want more production and profit from your grasslands, with long-term resilience to drought? See your local conservation district or NRCS office for planning and financial assistance. The NRCS has local planners as well as regional rangeland management specialists with years of

experience in developing sound grazing management plans. They can also point you to successful ranchers who have volunteered to mentor ranchers who want to do more to develop resilient soils and productive grasslands.

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Find your USDA Service Center at <http://offices.usda.gov>



Good grassland management, with rotations, rest, recovery, proper stocking rates and attention to roots— builds pore space in soils that enhances water infiltration and water-holding capacity. That leads to higher forage production, higher soil organic matter, and more carbon stored in the soil. All good things!

February 16, 2022, South Dakota State Technical Committee

USDA NRCS National News

- Feb. 7, 2022 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is delivering on its promise to expand markets by investing \$1 billion in partnerships to support America's climate-smart farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners.

The new [Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities](#) opportunity will finance pilot projects that create market opportunities for U.S. agricultural and forestry products that use climate-smart practices and include innovative, cost-effective ways to measure and verify greenhouse gas benefits. The USDA is now accepting project applications for fiscal year 2022.

Funding will be provided in two funding pools, and applicants must submit their applications via [Grants.gov](#) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on: April 8, 2022, for the first funding pool (proposals from \$5 million to \$100 million), and May 27, 2022, for the second funding pool (proposals from \$250,000 to \$4,999,999).

USDA NRCS serving South Dakota

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

The NRCS SD is pausing the state-level CIG for one year. There will not be a FY22 CIG for South Dakota. There are national CIG opportunities posted on [www.grants.gov](#), key word search "CIG" "NRCS".

Conservation Collaboration Cooperative Agreements (CCCA)

The NRCS SD will have a Fiscal Year 2022 Conservation Collaboration Cooperative Agreements Notice of Funding (NFO). It will be announced soon. Notice of Funding Opportunities (NFO) are posted on [www.grants.gov](#), key word search "NRCS South Dakota" or contact Colette Kessler, Assistant State Conservationist (Partnerships), at (605) 220-1765 or colette.kessler@usda.gov.

News from Partners:

- Soil Health Awareness Week February 13-19, 2022
- Soil South Dakota Leopold Conservation Award Nominations

Nominations and applications are now being accepted for the 2022 South Dakota Leopold Conservation Award®. The \$10,000 award honors ranchers, farmers, and forestland owners who go above and beyond in their management of soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitat on working land. Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner, or landowners may nominate themselves. The application can be found at sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA

- 2022 Grassland Planners

Additional copies of the 2022 Grassland Planner can be requested from SD Grassland Coalition Judge Jessop or the NRCS by contacting Tami Burmeister at tami.burmeister@usda.gov or (605) 352-1224.

- Soil health, sound grazing promoted on South Dakota radio



Through an agreement with the University of South Carolina, Dr. Buz Kloot and his team have been working with State Rangeland Management Specialist Emily Helms with the field RMS and partners for developing messages and educational materials for helping people better understand soil health on grasslands and conservation management practices. Below is an update of their work through the "Growing Resilience Through Our Soils" project.

You can hear fellow South Dakota producers and grazing specialists talk about grazing operations, with short soil health and grazing pointers, every week on South Dakota radio stations. Each week for all this year, a "mentor's minute" will feature a different South Dakota producer or advisor. The one-minute spots are sponsored by the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, and the South Dakota Office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[Home | Growingresiliencesd](#)

<https://www.growingresiliencesd.com>

Some stations vary the day and time. Others have designated a time and day for these Mentor Minutes. Listen on these radio stations:

- KOTA 1380 AM, Rapid City Mid-week, about 10:30, near the Dakota Farm and Ranch Report
- KZZI 95.9 FM, Rapid City Midweek, about 10:30, near the Dakota Farm and Ranch Report
- KGFX 1060 AM, Pierre Monday, 10 a.m. after the Livestock Report and 2:05 pm after Agritalk
- KWAT 950 AM, Watertown Weekly, adjacent to Ag Hour with Chuck Langner
- KDLO 96.9 FM, Watertown Weekly, adjacent to Chuck Langner report
- WNAX 570 AM, Yankton Weekly, during the Farm Forum 1:30-2 pm and a second time variable
- KWYR 1260 AM, Winner Weekly, as part of Farmland Review at 3:30
- KBHB 810 AM, Sturgis Tuesday, 11 am hour



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PARTNERSHIPS FOR CLIMATE-SMART COMMODITIES



\$1 Billion Funding Opportunity to Pilot New Revenue Streams for America's Climate-Smart Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Landowners

USDA's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities will provide grants for pilot projects that create market opportunities for U.S. agricultural and forest products produced using climate-smart practices and include innovative, cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring and verification of greenhouse gas and carbon sequestration benefits. USDA will support the production and marketing of climate-smart commodities through a set of pilot projects that provide voluntary incentives through partners to producers and landowners, including early adopters, to:

- Implement climate-smart production practices, activities, and systems on working lands,
- Measure/quantify, monitor and verify the carbon and greenhouse gas (GHG) benefits associated with those practices, and
- Develop markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities.

Proposals must provide plans to:

- Pilot implementation of climate-smart agriculture and/or forestry production practices on a large-scale, including meaningful involvement of small and/or historically underserved producers;
- Quantify, monitor, report and verify climate results; and
- Develop markets and promote climate-smart commodities generated as a result of project activities

Pilot Projects and Climate-Smart Production Practices

Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities pilot projects must focus on the on-farm, on-ranch or forest production of climate-smart commodities and associated reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and/or carbon sequestration. For the purposes of this funding opportunity, a climate-smart commodity is defined as an agricultural commodity that is produced using farming, ranching or forestry practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon.

Highly competitive projects will include agricultural and forestry practices or combinations of practices, and/or practice enhancements that provide GHG benefits and/or carbon sequestration, including but not limited to:

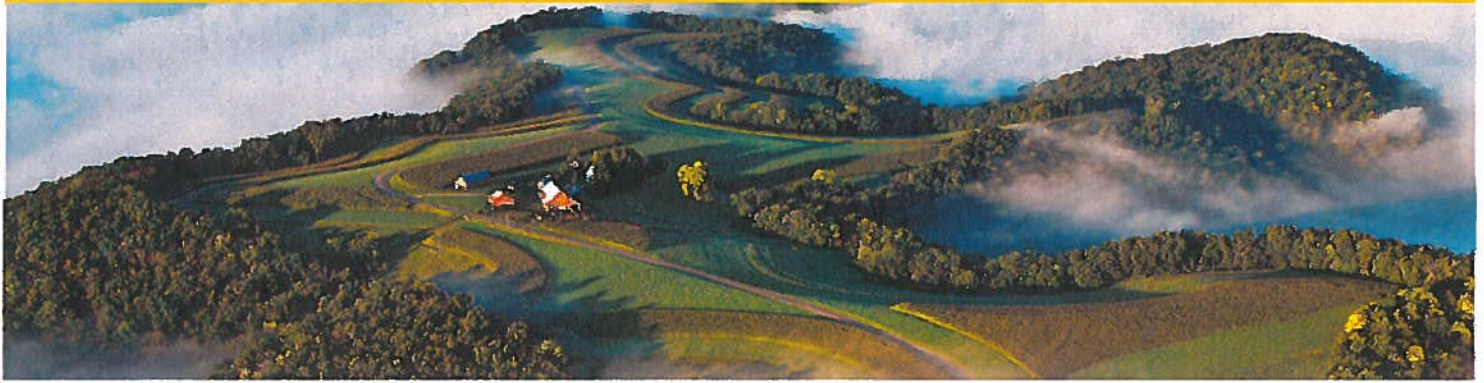
- Cover crops
- Low-till or no-till
- Nutrient management
- Enhanced efficiency fertilizers
- Manure management
- Feed management to reduce enteric emissions
- Buffers, wetland and grassland management, and tree planting on working lands
- Agroforestry and afforestation on working lands
- Afforestation/reforestation and sustainable forest management
- Planting for high carbon sequestration rate
- Maintaining and improving forest soil quality
- Increase on-site carbon storage through forest stand management
- Alternate wetting and drying on rice fields
- Climate-smart pasture practices, such as prescribed grazing or legume interseeding
- Soil amendments, like biochar

Who Can Apply

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting project applications for fiscal year 2022.

A wide range of public and private entities may apply, including:

- County, city or township governments
- Special district governments
- State governments
- Small businesses
- For profit organizations other than small businesses
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) (other than institutions of higher education)
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) (other than institutions of higher education)
- Private institutions of higher education
- Public and State-controlled institutions of higher education



How to Apply

The opportunity is available to partners who serve producers of all sizes and all methods and all locations and all types of production. Primary applicant/recipient must be an entity, not an individual.

Applicants must submit their applications via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on:

April 8, 2022 – First Funding pool

Proposals are from \$5 million to \$100 million are in the first funding pool and should include large-scale pilot projects that emphasize the greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart commodity production and include direct, meaningful benefits to a representative cross-section of production agriculture, including small and/or historically underserved producers

May 27, 2022 – Second Funding Pool

Proposals are from \$250,000 to \$4,999,999 are in the second funding pool and are limited to particularly innovative pilot projects. These projects should place an emphasis on:

- Enrollment of small and/or underserved producers, and/or
- Monitoring, reporting and verification activities developed at minority-serving institutions.

There is no specific match requirement for this funding opportunity. Applications will be evaluated, in part, on the relative contribution of non-Federal resources to the project when appropriate. This will be taken into consideration through an equity lens to ensure that the ability to secure a non-federal match is not a barrier to participation.

USDA is committed to equity in program delivery and is specifically seeking proposals from entities serving all types of producers, including small or historically underserved producers. In addition, sufficient incentives to encourage producer participation, as well as, generation of verifiable greenhouse gas reductions and carbon sequestration are critical to project success and will be considered in the evaluation criteria.

For more information and resources to support your application, visit usda.gov/climate-smart-commodities.



**Governor Kristi Noem has proclaimed
the week of Feb. 17 as Soil Health Awareness Week!
Join us and our partners in raising awareness about this
extremely important resource!**

- Agriculture is the economic driver of South Dakota, contributing 129,753 jobs, 11.7 billion dollars in total value added, and 32.1 billion dollars in total output.
- Farmers and ranchers have seen a need to increase awareness of the importance of our soils as a state resource, promoting management practices that increase its health and productivity.
- Healthy soil can create many advantages including improving water infiltration and retention to better manage the effects of flood or drought, filtering and cleaning water that moves through it, decreasing soil loss due to erosion by wind or water.

**Interested in materials to promote the day? Contact us or visit our website
www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org**



Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, agriculture is the economic driver of South Dakota, contributing 129,753 jobs and 32.1 billion dollars in total output. With farmers and ranchers creating this impact through the management of cropland, forests, grasslands, and livestock; and,

Whereas, soil is the basis for all life, the foundation and means by which plants and animals can be grown and products produced; and,

Whereas, farmers and ranchers have seen a need to increase awareness of the importance of our soils as a state resource as well as promote management practices that increase its health and productivity for sustainability; and,

Whereas, building organic matter which retains and cycles nitrogen and sequesters carbon reducing production costs and enhancing habitat while balancing the biological community; and,

Whereas, healthy soil can improve the nutrient density of the food it produces, reiterating healthy soil, healthy food and healthy people; and,

Whereas, a collective effort to increase sustainable agricultural production, improving the profitability of our farms and ranches, improving our water quality, and safeguards the ability of future generations to produce the food, fuel and fiber we require:

Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the week of February 17, 2022, as

SOIL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this second day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.


Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:


Steven J. Barnett, Secretary of State

Irving, Kathy - NRCS, Huron, SD

From: Cindy Zenk <cindy.soilhealth@sdconservation.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 8:19 AM
To: Cindy Zenk
Subject: [External Email]Soil Health Awareness Week: Join Us!
Attachments: Soil Health Awareness Week Media Kit2022.pdf; Soil Health Awareness Week Flyer2022.pdf

Importance: High

[External Email]

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**;
Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.
Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov



For More Information Contact Us:
sdsoilhealth@gmail.com or (605)

Join us in Promoting Soil Health Awareness Week!



In order to help promote Soil Health Awareness Week, which has been officially proclaimed by Governor Kristi Noem as the week of February 17th, we wanted to provide you with materials to share on your various media platforms.

In the attached media kit and flyer, you will find information, logos, commercials, photos, and sample posts ready to download, distribute and promote. Together we can spread the message that Soil Health, It Matters!

You can use the ten different logos to show the different ways that soil health benefits you, your organization, and your family.

Thank you for your time and assistance!



Click [here](#) to access file

For More Information Contact Our Team:

Cindy Zenk, Coordinator

sdsoilhealth@gmail.com, (605) 280-4190

Stan Wise, Communications Coordinator

stan.soilhealth@sdconservation.net, (605) 368-4091

Soil Health Awareness Week Media Kit:

Thank you for your interest in promoting Soil Health Awareness Week, which has been officially proclaimed, by South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem, as February 13-19, 2022! Included below are several sets of logos, photos, video, and social media resources we hope you find helpful while promoting this important state resource.

Logos & Customizable Photos

Click on the following logo and photo options to download the original files from Box or contact us to arrange for file access and sharing. A variety of themed logos have been created to highlight how soil health affects everyone. Feel free to add your logo and use these on social media, in print materials such as newsletters, or however you would like to spread the word!

Click [here](#) to access logos





Click [here](#) to access file



Click [here](#) to access file



Click [here](#) to access file

Video Resources

Interested in including a video in one of your social media posts or educating a group of members or individuals on the basic soil health principles and practices being used across the state? The videos listed below are extremely educational and great resources to share!



[“Soil Health Is” Video](#) Featuring producers from across South Dakota



[Soil Health Awareness Week Commercials](#) 30-sec commercials for the week



[“Profiles In Soil Health”](#) Profiles of producers using soil health practices

Example Social Media Posts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)

- #1** February 13-19, 2022, is Soil Health Awareness Week in South Dakota! Join us in raising awareness about this extremely important state resource! #SoilWeek2022 #SoilHealth
- #2** Did you know that agriculture contributes over 129,000 jobs and 32.1 billion dollars in total output to the SD economy? Healthy soil increases profitability & sustainability for producers! #SoilHealth #SoilWeek2022
- #3** Healthy soil improves water infiltration & retention to better manage the effects of flood or drought, filters water that moves through it, and decreases soil loss due to erosion by wind or water! #SoilHealth #SoilWeek2022

Please be sure to check the SD Soil Health Coalition social media accounts regularly. We will be posting quite frequently about Soil Health Awareness Week. Be sure to share, re-post and use the hashtag #SoilWeek2022!



@SouthDakotaSoilHealthCoalition



@SDSHCoalition



sdsoilhealthcoalition

**Conservation Stewardship Program Report
State Technical Committee
February 16, 2022
Joyce Trevithick, CSP Coordinator
joyce.trevithick@usda.gov
(605) 220-4920**

CSP 2022 Renewals

- Application deadline was April 7, 2021
- 357 Applications received
- Allocation of \$6,628,000
- South Dakota Obligation deadline was December 17, 2021
- 44 Contracts for 131834.1 acres and \$6,540,206.80

CSP GCI 2022

- Letters sent to eligible owners and operators from NRCS National Headquarters August 6, 2021
- Obligation deadline was December 31, 2021, for CSP-GCI 2022 applications
- 17 contracts included 1,838 acres for \$165,461.00

CSP Classic 2022

- Application deadline was January 21, 2022
- 523 applications received
- South Dakota has an initial allocation of \$8,640,000.00 (see below)
- Organic allocation of \$200,000
- Ranking deadline is March 18, 2022
- Obligation deadline is April 29, 2022

Classic Allocation 2022		\$8,640,000.00
Beginning Farmer		\$864,000.00
Socially Disadvantaged		\$864,000.00
NIPF		\$100,000.00
Big Sioux		\$397,139.60
Coteau		\$677,112.80
Glacial Lakes		\$426,431.20
Upper James		\$729,565.20
Vermillion		\$388,284.00
Central Plains		\$320,164.00
Lower James		\$378,747.20
Lower Missouri		\$364,442.00
Mid Missouri		\$415,532.00
North Missouri		\$333,788.00
River Hills		\$441,417.60
Hills		\$482,970.80
Northwest		\$392,371.20
Prairie		\$313,352.00
Southwest		\$295,640.80
Three Rivers		\$455,041.60
Organic		\$200,000.00

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)-
Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)
Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Application Summary

FY2022 WRE Applications		
Status	Total Acres	Number of Applications
Cancelled	100	1
30-year	-	1
Permanent	-	
Ineligible	500	1
30-year	-	0
Permanent	-	1
Eligible	10,508	66
30-year	1,423	13
30-year RGR	650	5
30-year conversion	80	1
Permanent	6792	38
Permanent RGR	1,563	9
Total	11,108	68

Projected FY2022 WRE Agreements			
Fund Code	Total Acres		Number of Tentative Agreements
Permanent RGR	176.93	\$375,748	2
Permanent	435.13	\$2,996,521	8
Total	612.06	\$3,372,269	10
FY2022 ALE Applications			
Status	Total Acres		Number of Applications
Program Agreement-	1,300		6
Grand Total	1,300		6

****RGR- Reserved Grazing Rights**

Wetland Workload in South Dakota as of February 1, 2022

FSA-569 data from October 1, 2021: (includes carryover from FY2021)

-14 in Progress

-6 Completed

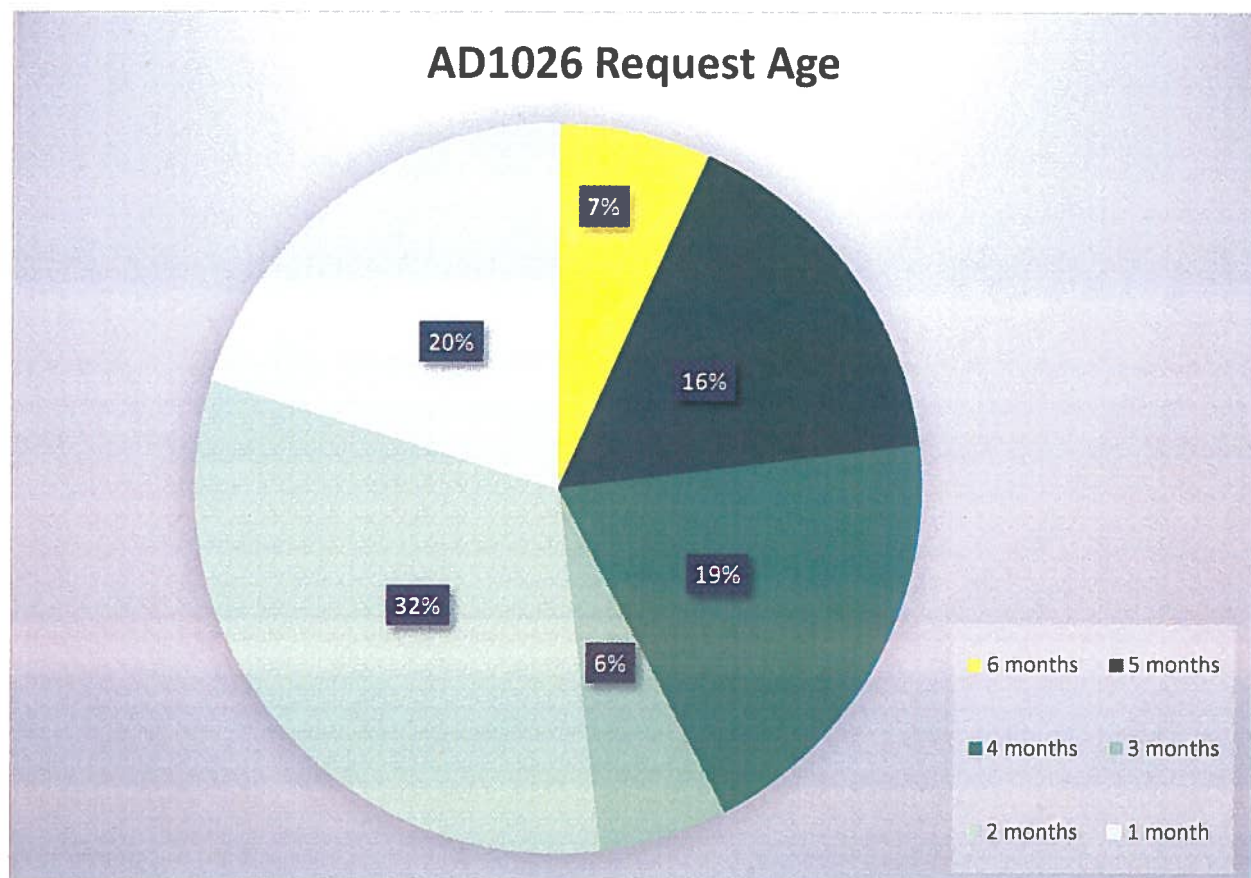
-14 Received

AD-1026 data from Oct 1, 2021: (Includes Carry over from FY2021)

-142 In Progress

-350 Completed

-229 Received



Highly Erodible Land Workload in South Dakota as of February 10, 2022

HEL AD-1026 data from October 1, 2021:

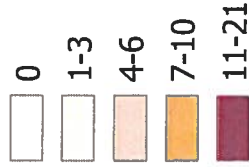
- 759 Completed**
- 19 Outstanding**
- 383 New Breakings**
- 71 Determined HEL**

(Through February 1, 2022)



Backlog

Feb1Back(2022)



**Certified Wetland
Determination Requests In
Progress
(Through February 1, 2022)**

State Totals
SD - 142

Prairie Pothole Region
SD - 142

Created by:
Jordan Hopper
USDA-NRCS
Huron State Office
Huron, South Dakota

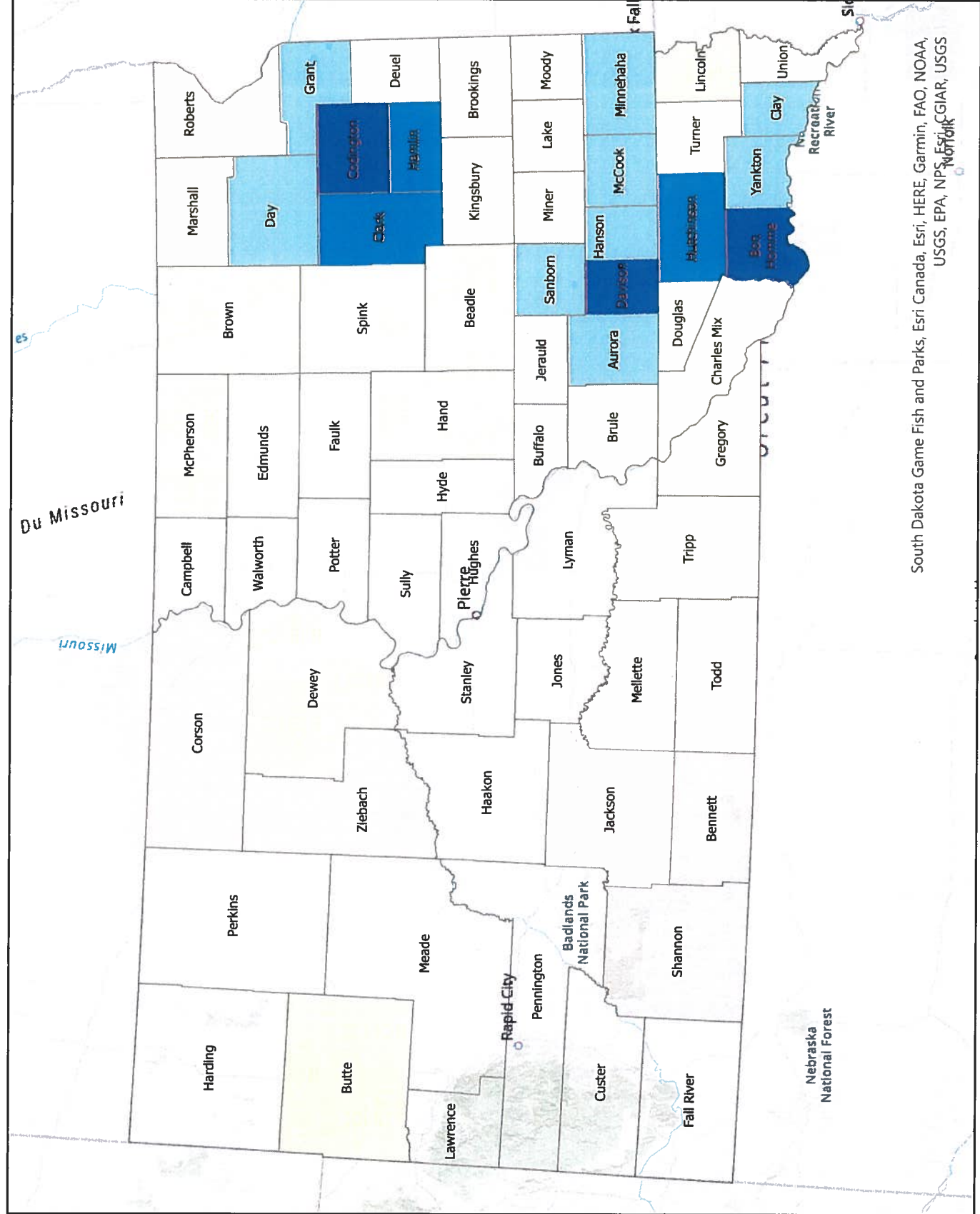
State	569s Received	569s Completed	569s In Progress
SD	14	6	14

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, NOAA, USGS

Sand Hills

Certified Wetland Determination Requests Received

(Through February 1, 2022)



Received

Feb1Rec(2022)

- 0
- 1-6
- 7-10
- 11-12
- 13-16

Certified Wetland
Determination Requests
Received
(Through February 1, 2022)

State Totals
SD - 229

Prairie Pothole Region
SD - 225

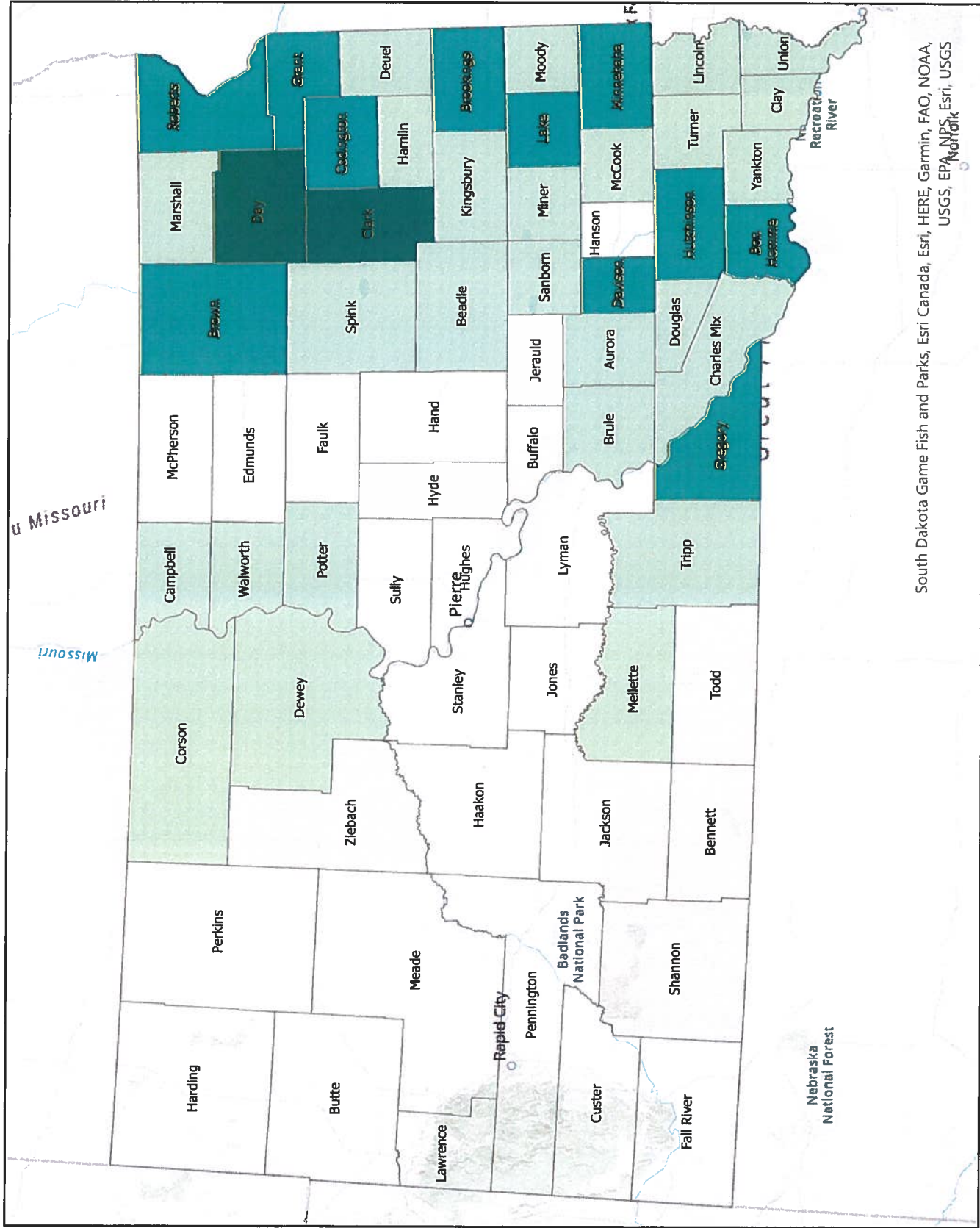
Created by:

Jordan Hopper
USDA-NRCS
Huron State Office
Huron, South Dakota

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS

Prairie Pothole Region
Certified Wetland Determination Requests Completed

(Through February 1, 2022)



Completed

Feb1Comp(2022)

0

1-11

12-19

20-27

Certified Wetland
Determination Requests
Completed)
(Through February 1, 2022)

State Totals
SD - 350

Prairie Pothole Region
SD - 321

Created by:

Jordan Hopper

USDA-NRCS

Huron State Office

Huron, South Dakota

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, USGS, NOAA

State Technical Committee (STC) Meeting

February 16, 2022

Welcome and Openings Comments – Jeff Vander Wilt, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs (ASTC(P)), introduced Tony Sunseri as South Dakota's new State Conservationist effective February 14, 2022. Tony Sunseri introduced himself and provided a brief background. Tony stated that this week was declared Soil Health Awareness Week and he encouraged everyone to view the South Dakota (SD) Soil Health Coalition Web site for more information. He also stated that he appreciated everyone for participating in this meeting.

Congressional Representatives – Ryan Donnelly, Senator Thune's Office, Washington, D.C., reported that they are currently on the kick-off for the next Farm Bill. Conservation is a high priority. Looking to address the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) related to haying and grazing dates and grazing infrastructure. Any ideas are welcome.

Jim Selchert, Senator Rounds Office, Rapid City, SD, stated that ag is number one in the state and what we do to support conservation efforts is what we are working on. He also welcomed Tony aboard.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Updates – Joseph Schultz, Acting State Executive Director, FSA, stated that they are hoping that an actual executive director will be selected soon.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – Owen Fagerhaug, Program Manager, FSA, reported that the USDA Announces the CRP Sign-ups for 2022. The General CRP Sign-up will run from January 31 to March 11 and the Grassland CRP Sign-up will run from April 4 through May 13. The county offices are currently accepting applications. A total of 139,000 acres will be expiring this year and would like to get these acres re-enrolled. A News Release was issued and a link to access this information is posted below.

[USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program Signups for 2022.pdf](#)

Soil Health Update – Tanse Herrmann, Grazing Land Soil Health Specialist, stated that back in May 2021 he accepted this new position. Prior to accepting this position, he served as the District Conservationist in the Sturgis Field Office. Tanse provided some background on his career and also provided the three main functions of his new position. They are:

Primary Functions

1. Soil Health: outreach, education, and training
 - landowner/operator and staff focus points, youth
2. Support and grow the partnership effort in South Dakota
3. Rangeland NRI (National Resources Inventory)
 - coordinate access requests
 - audit data collection in-field
 - review data accuracy

Members of the Committee: please reach out to Tanse to receive occasional updates with event flyers and written commentary related to soil health topics and strategies via e-mail. I included the Soil Health Awareness Week social media attachments that the Partners are using throughout the week. He also invited members to contact him to discuss the potential of including soil health demonstrations and talks at any field days, meetings, etc.

2 16 22 STC SOIL HEALTH UPDATE AND INTRO

Colette Kessler, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, provided updates on the USDA NRCS National News. They are as follows:

- February 7, 2022 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is delivering on its promise to expand markets by investing \$1 billion in partnerships to support America's climate-smart farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners.

The new Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities opportunity will finance pilot projects that create market opportunities for U.S. agricultural and forestry products that use climate-smart practices and include innovative, cost-effective ways to measure and verify greenhouse gas benefits. The USDA is now accepting project applications for fiscal year (FY) 2022.

Funding will be provided in two funding pools, and applicants must submit their applications via Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on:

April 8, 2022, for the first funding pool (proposals from \$5 million to \$100 million), and May 27, 2022, for the second funding pool (proposals from \$250,000 to \$4,999,999).

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) – Colette Kessler reported that SD NRCS is pausing the state-level CIG for one year. There will not be a FY22 CIG for SD. There are national CIG opportunities posted on www.grants.gov, key word search “CIG” “NRCS.”

Conservation Collaboration Cooperative Agreements (CCCA) - Colette Kessler also reported that the SD NRCS will have a FY22 Conservation Collaboration Cooperative Agreements Notice of Funding (NFO). It will be announced soon. Notice of Funding Opportunities (NFO) are posted on www.grants.gov, key word search “NRCS South Dakota” or contact Colette Kessler, Assistant State Conservationist (Partnerships), at (605) 220-1765 or colette.kessler@usda.gov. This will be open for 60 days.

Colette provided additional updates which are included below:

- SD Leopold Award nominations call for proposals are being accepted.
- Grassland and soil planners are also available. If interested, please contact our office.
- Growing Resilience – Currently working with farmers and ranchers with interviews and will be aired on all radio stations.

Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) – Jeff Vander Wilt, ASTC(P), reminded the group that March 4 is the deadline to submit their pre-proposals. We changed the process a little by changing the size of the proposals being submitted. We are requesting not more than a two-page write-up for the project. Once it reviewed and tentatively selected, we will request a copy of the full proposal if needed. These proposals can be e-mailed to Jeff Vander Wilt

(jeffrey.vanderwilt@usda.gov) and Jennifer Wurtz, EQIP Coordinator, at jennifer.wurtz@usda.gov.

Woody Species Encroachment Draft Strategic Plan – Jeff Vander Wilt stated that an update on woody species encroachment and how it affects our rangelands was presented by Dr. Dirac Twidwell at the November STC Meeting. Jessica Michalski, State Resource Conservationist, and Jeff Vander Wilt are trying to develop a strategic plan for SD. We want to make the best effort on how to reduce the woody encroachment outreach component to the plan on the specific practices and also see in developing program funding to assist in developing these conservation plans. We already met with South Dakota State University Extension to determine some areas in the state to focus on. We picked out seven areas to consider focusing on. Knowing these areas where we have local interest and based on Dr. Twidwell's research, where we will have the best outcome before it gets to be an issue. The seven areas are listed below:

- White River Area
- Mid-Missouri Area
- Two areas in the James River Valley
- Northeast Corner Coteau Area
- North of Pierre to Cheyenne River
- Lower Brule Grasslands south of Pierre

Our strategic plan is to develop a grassland summit this fall or winter. Partner with producers to finalize the plan on how to deal with the issue in SD. In FY2023, roll out some programs to assist producers with this issue. We are working on a three-tier approach – network with as many people as we can, build-up our technical guidance, and educating our employees. We have provided a link below to access the recording of Dr. Twidwell on the issue for your information and reference.

Conservation to Address Woody Species Encroachment in SD with Dr. Dirac Twidwell - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuF8VTmGjPw>

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Jennifer Wurtz, EQIP Coordinator, reported that she did not have any handouts showing the number of applications and funding breakdown this time. We are moving forward with the pre-approvals. Jennifer reported that we are moving forward with the Cover Crop Initiative in 11 states. South Dakota is one of them. We received approximately 200 applications. We are moving forward with a few Conservation Implementation Strategy projects some new and some from last year. Approved five projects and more are getting ranked. March 4 is the General EQIP ranking deadline.

Jeff also mentioned that there is a potential threat that could affect the poultry operations in the state. We are continuing to monitor this and if it comes to SD, we will then offer something for those producers. We are trying to be prepared. The Mycoplasma Bovis disease is also affecting our bison in the state. Please know that this is on our radar, and we will keep you updated.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Jeff Vander Wilt reported that we have nine funded projects in SD all in different stages and getting agreements in place. Two

are holding sign-ups for producers to enroll. We have a few sign-ups on hold at this time. We have two proposals funded under the Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA). The RCPP proposals are open right now to submit to the national level. Jeff stated that the Classic and AFA announcement are together this year. You can apply for them both, but you will have to submit two proposals if interested. Any questions, please contact Jeff Vander Wilt for any input and/or assistance.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – Joyce Trevithick, CSP Coordinator, provided an update on this program.

CSP 2022 Renewals

- Application deadline was April 7, 2021
- 357 Applications received
- Allocation of \$6,628,000
- South Dakota Obligation deadline was December 17, 2021
- 44 Contracts for 131,834.1 acres and \$6,540,206.80

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Prairie		\$313,352.00
Southwest		\$295,640.80
Three Rivers		\$455,041.60
Organic		\$200,000.00

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) – Brandon Kottke, Easement Coordinator, provided an summary on the program. We are about three months ahead of previous years. Overall, a little down on the number of applications. We currently have 68 applications and working on making the tentative offers. In this phase of the WRE, we have two easements with reserved grazing rights and eight permanent easements for a total of 612 acres. Brandon all mentioned that other states may have slippage in funds that we can utilize. We have an increase in the Agricultural Land easement numbers. We are currently going through the offers. We hope to have more of an update by the next STC Meeting. We are hoping to receive additional funding because of the interest in the program.

FY2022 WRE Applications		
Status	Total Acres	Number of Applications
Cancelled	100	1
30-year	-	1
Permanent	-	

Ineligible	500	1
30-year	-	0
Permanent	-	1
Eligible	10,508	66
30-year	1423	13
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Permanent RGR	176.93	\$375,748	2
Permanent	435.13	\$2,996,521	8
Total	612.06	\$3,372,269	10
FY2022 ALE Applications			
Status		Total Acres	Number of Applications
Program Agreement-		1300	6
Grand Total		1300	6

****RGR- Reserved Grazing Rights**

New Policy for Easements – Jeff Vander Wilt stated that we are not going to spend a lot of time today on this topic; however, there has been a change in policy that we wanted you to be aware of. History – last year in 2021 with the drought they were a lot of interest in primary nesting dates and allowing haying and grazing. There were discrepancies in these dates. This

issue was raised. What is going to happen if we make our dates align when we will be allowed for haying and grazing. The discussion was to move the dates to August 1 to match CRP instead of the July 15 date. Those who would like to discuss this topic in more detail, please let me know. Jeff's plan is to schedule a meeting for interested individuals to discuss this topic. Jeff also stated that he does not expect the policy when it comes out will have the correct wording; however, Jeff will schedule this meeting then for further discussion. He will also share copy of specific policy with the participants in our STC mailing list.

Individuals interested in participating in the discussion at the present time are listed below:

- Pete Bauman
- Jim Selchert

SD Wetland/HEL Compliance Update – Deke Hobbick, Assistant State Conservationist or Compliance, was not available for the meeting; therefore, Jeff Vander Wilt just referenced the handout for the Wetland/HEL Compliance summary. If you have any questions, please contact Deke via e-mail at deke.hobbick@usda.gov.

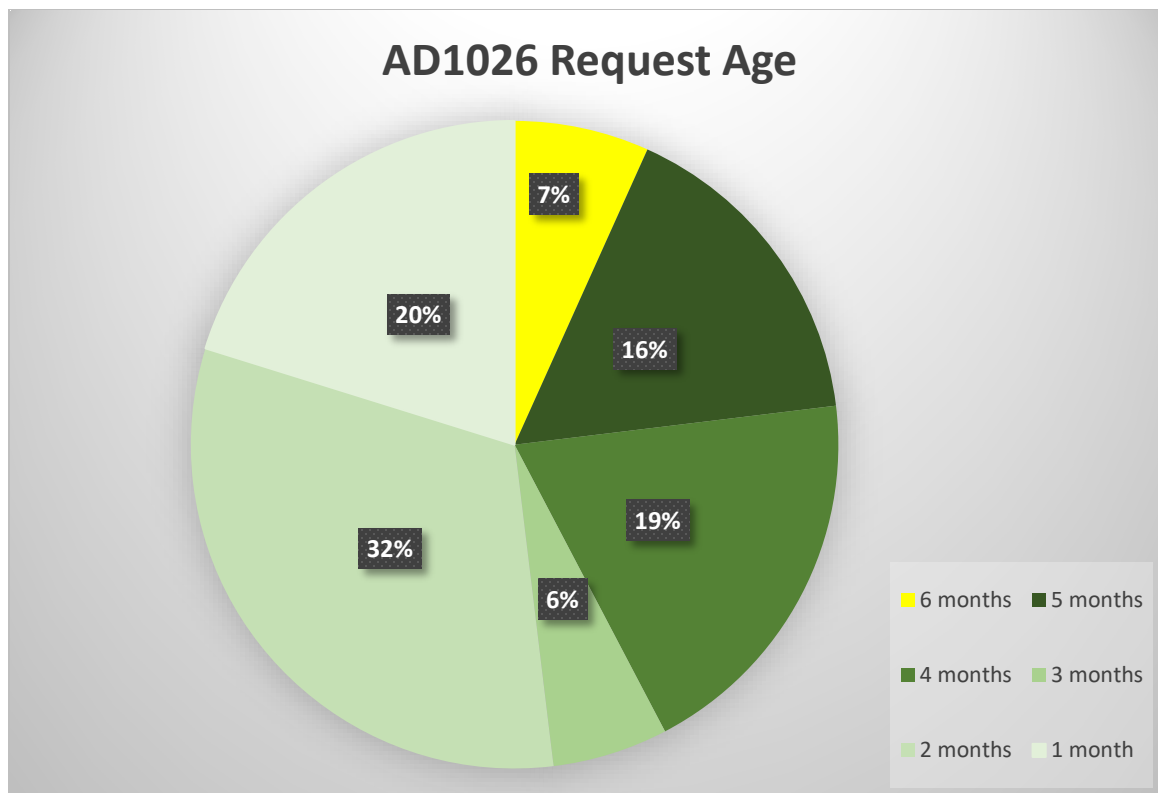
Wetland Workload in SD as of February 1, 2022

FSA-569 data from October 1, 2021: (includes carryover from FY2021)

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- 142 In Progress
- 350 Completed
- 229 Received



Highly Erodible Land Workload in SD as of February 10, 2022

HEL AD-1026 data from October 1, 2021:

- 759 Completed
- 19 Outstanding
- 383 New Breakings
- 71 Determined HEL

Partnership Reports – Steve Riley, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture, stated that they entered into an agreement with the CCA process to embark in a three-year agreement with NRCS. We are very excited about this partnership. Krista Erdmann, Science Integration Specialist, was hired in Rapid City. Thank you to SD NRCS.

Krista provided the group an update on her background. She stated that adapting science products for the practical use of those who need to apply them on the ground is challenging and is often a missed step that leads to missed opportunities. To that end, the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV) has partnered with SD NRCS to implement our new Science Integration Partnership.

Krista has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Augustana University and Master's degrees in Environmental Management and Forestry from Duke University. In her previous position with the SD Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry, she worked closely with Black Hills NRCS staff on CSP, EQIP, and CIS projects.

In her new position, Krista's goal is to accelerate and amplify conservation action across SD. There are four main objectives that she'll be focusing on including:

- (1) increasing access by partners to conservation science tools, data, and research to inform conservation decisions.
- (2) identifying and reducing barriers to conservation programs.
- (3) co-producing science to address locally relevant information needs, and
- (4) bridging the gap in science and evaluations with the outcomes and measures that are needed to inform partner programs.

There is a lot of science available to us, with more being published every day. Even though the science is meant to help people working on the ground, sometimes it's just not making it there – whether it be too complex or not locally relevant. Essentially, Krista's job will be (in collaboration with NRCS staff and other conservation partners) to figure out how to bridge that divide and make science work for practitioners and producers across the state. Krista can be reached via e-mail at kerman@ducks.org.

Thank you again for joining us today. The meeting was adjourned.

Kathy Irving

KATHY IRVING
Recorder