



United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service

South Dakota Strategic Plan 2018-2022



HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND

Simply put—the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps American farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners make conservation work for them. Through the system of more than 300 practices we promote, conservation planning helps people to improve production, reduce input costs, and conserve natural resources for the future. We also provide financial resources through the Farm Bill to help with the cost of getting conservation on the ground.



NRCS VISION: PRODUCTIVE LANDS IN HARMONY WITH A QUALITY ENVIRONMENT



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

GIVING ADVICE AND SOLUTIONS

We provide free, **one-on-one, personalized advice** on the best solutions to meet the unique conservation and business goals of those who grow our nation's food and fiber.

South Dakota



The NRCS has local and regional technical staff in 62 field and area offices serving 66 South Dakota (SD) counties and 9 reservations.



Our Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program enables every acre of conservation applied through every Farm Bill program NRCS administers. It is the foundation of our financial and technical assistance delivery system. Specifically, the CTA program funds conservation planning and provides producers with the decision support and proven technology needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive landscape.

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE USDA NRCS SERVING SOUTH DAKOTA

The NRCS SD State Leadership Team with employees statewide developed a framework with a vision to ensure sustainability of our natural resources for all people.



The overarching goals of this Strategic Plan are:

1. Optimize the health of South Dakota soils.
2. Improve and provide an effective supply of quality water.
3. Enhance habitat for healthy and balanced populations of non-game and game wildlife species.
4. Develop local food efforts that provide healthy food and economic opportunities.
5. Continue to build a high performing organization.
6. Strengthen and expand partnerships.

PROVIDING SUPPORT BACKED BY SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

We generate, manage, and share the data, the research and the proven standards that enable partners and policymakers to make decisions informed by objective, reliable science.



KEEPING WORKING LANDS WORKING

Farmers are the backbone of America. We help people to make investments in their operations and local communities, boost rural economies, increase competitiveness of American agriculture, and improve the health of our air, water, and soil.





The NRCS Serving SD 2018-2022 Strategic Plan Overarching Objectives:

1. Optimize the health of SD soils.

- Increase Organic Matter content of SD soils by 25 percent by 2022.
- Increase the acres of saline/sodic soils planted to perennial vegetation by 6,000 acres by 2022.
- Increase the use of Soil Health Systems by 150,000 acres annually from 2020-2022.

2. Improve and provide an effective supply of quality water.

- By 2022, reduce the agricultural impact on an impaired water body within a target 12-digit impaired water body where it is no longer on the impaired list.
- Improve the overall irrigation efficiencies in the state by 10 percent by 2021.
- Provide and improve the quantity and quality of livestock water for better livestock management on over 4 million acres by 2022.
- By 2022, assist over 200 producers or evaluate over 10,000 acres assessing the economic costs and benefits of tiling and other water management practices.
- Ensure SD has an active Wetland Mitigation process.

3. Enhance habitat for healthy and balanced populations of non-game and game wildlife species.

- By 2022, improve working lands habitats for the benefit of key species of concern.
- Demonstrate effectiveness of working agricultural lands for the benefit of wildlife.
- Help ensure the Roadside Pheasant Survey maintains a steady or increasing pheasant population in the next five years.

4. Develop local food efforts that provide healthy food and economic opportunities.

- Increase by 20 the number of local enterprises with soil health systems capable of direct marketing to supermarkets, farmer's markets, cooperatives, or restaurants by 2022.
- Publicize the value of 12 South Dakota non-traditional agricultural operations between 2019 and 2022.

5. Continue to build a high performing organization.

- Improve the state's Federal Employee Viewpoint Performance Culture score by 3 percent by 2020.
- Build technical skills of employees and partners to maintain a high level of expertise to include emerging agricultural technologies.

6. Strengthen and expand partnerships.

- Develop closer partnerships with 20 partners by 2022.
- Engage with 10 new partners by 2022.





Feedback and participation with this Strategic Planning effort for South Dakota is encouraged.

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