The Northern Plains: Conservation In Action

A Snapshot of 1999 Priorities & Resources

Northern Plains Region
Lincoln, Nebraska

March 1999
The following programs provide NRCS the ability to pursue the locally-led conservation priorities of the Region. These funds provide landowners both assistance in technical decision making, as well as voluntary, incentive-based cost-share assistance.

1999 Technical Assistance by Fund (millions)

Total = $124.4

1999 Financial Assistance by Fund (millions)

Total = $48.4

$4.89 : $1.00
In 1998, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation Partners completed the most comprehensive workload analysis in their history. The information will help analyze conservation staffing needs for 1999 and into the future. NRCS provides conservation planning assistance to farmers and ranchers as well as servicing congressionally-mandated cost-share programs. Current staffing capacity falls short of that needed to adequately administer mandated conservation programs, and it would require nearly 75 percent additional staff years to adequately address natural resource needs in the Northern Plains states.
Accomplishments

The added accomplishments that could be gained by fully staffing NRCS in the Northern Plains would have a meaningful effect on the landscape of the Region.

1999 Percentage Increase in Treatment Under a Fully Staffed Scenario

Volunteers, Leverage, & Return

The Earth Team Volunteer program provides an opportunity for citizens to contribute to the NRCS mission. In 1997 and 1998, over 5000 volunteers contributed 130,000 hours in 57 percent of all NRCS offices in the Northern Plains. In addition, federal funds in the Northern Plains have been nearly matched at the state and local level.

Conservation Contributions by NRCS and State & Local Partners

by NRCS and Earth Team volunteers and the people of the Northern Plains.
Conservation Priorities

Fattened Cattle Sold by County: 1992

Source: 1992 Census of Agriculture

- Significant portion of U.S. animal agriculture and nutrients

SOIL ORGANIC CARBON CONTENT OF CROPLANDS IN THE NORTHERN PLAINS REGION

LEGEND

The total soil organic carbon content of croplands in the Northern Plains Region was estimated to range from 0.4 to 12.1 kg C/m². This estimate of soil organic carbon content was derived from the earlier work of Lamb et al. (1997) and was based on the USDA Soil Survey Database (SAS and AGI, Soil Survey Staff, 1994).

- Significant potential for carbon storage on croplands

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Conservation Priorities

The Northern Plains region consists of 420 million acres of diverse resources, which are genuinely valued by its people.

Agricultural Diversity of the Northern Plains Region

Legend
- Corn–Soybeans–FORAGE
- Poultry
- Dairy
- Cattle–Peanut–Sorghum
- Part–time Cattle
- Other Crops
- Vegetables–Nursery Products
- Wheat–Oats–Other Grains
- Sheep–Cattle–Other Livestock
- Insufficient Agricultural Data for Characterization
- Agricultural Experiment Stations and Research Farms

Diverse agriculture

High farm dependence

FARM DEPENDENT COUNTIES, 1992
NORTHERN PLAINS REGION

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, 1992

Significant portion of U.S. agricultural economy