



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service South Dakota State Technical Committee Meeting

May 22, 2024 | 10 a.m. Central Daylight Time

AmericInn Lodge & Suites Conference Center, 312 Island Drive, Fort Pierre, SD 57532

Join the STC meeting via Microsoft Teams on your computer, mobile app or room device:

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 224 511 127 343 Passcode: nzaiHH

Dial-in by phone [+1 202-650-0123,,554478050#](#) Phone conference ID: 554 478 050#

AGENDA

1. Welcome

Moderator, Colette Kessler, Assistant State Conservationist Partnerships

Subscribe to updates for the USDA NRCS SD State Technical Committee, please visit www.farmers.gov, then scroll down to "Subscribe to Updates"—follow the menus and look for "State Technical Committee" in the topic list. Also, opportunity to topics down to the county level.

State Technical Committee (STC) meeting notifications have been distributed via a shared mailbox: sm.fpac.nrcs.sd.partnerships@usda.gov.

Notifications via U.S. Postal Service may be requested by contacting the NRCS State Office Randi Papka randi.papka@usda.gov or calling (605) 352-1200.

2. Opening Remarks

Tony Sunseri, State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

3. Congressional Delegates Updates

4. Natural Resources Conservation Service South Dakota Updates

Tony Sunseri, State Conservationist

Staffing and Personnel Updates

-> NRCS South Dakota Web Page: Personnel Directory can be found under Contact Us
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/state-office-contacts/south-dakota-state-office>

5. Ecological Sciences Update, Conservation Planning and Conservation Practices Update

Jessica Michalski, State Resource Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

- FY 2024 Conservation Efforts
- Planning for the Future (FY 2025 Conservation Efforts)

6. Farm Service Agency Conservation Program Update

Owen Fagerhaug, Agricultural Program Specialist, Farm Service Agency

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

7. NRCS Conservation Programs of the Farm Bill Updates

Val Dupraz, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, NRCS

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP)

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – *Matt Morlock, RCPP Coordinator*

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Posted on www.grants.gov Due July 2, 2024
 - RCPP Classic for FY24 - [USDA-NRCS-NHQ-RCPP-24-NOFO0001354](https://www.usda.gov/nrcs/nhq/rcpp/24-nofo0001354)
 - RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA) for FY24 - [USDA-NRCS-NHQ-RCPPAFA-24-NOFO0001355](https://www.usda.gov/nrcs/nhq/rcppafa/24-nofo0001355)

8. Partnerships and USDA NRCS Agreements Update

Colette Kessler, Assistant State Conservationist Partnerships, NRCS

- Conservation Technical Assistance: Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) Cooperative Agreements Notice of Funding USDA NRCS
Apply via www.grants.gov by May 26, 2024 [USDA-NRCS-NHQ-ST-24-NOFO0001313](https://www.usda.gov/nrcs/nhq/st/24-nofo0001313)

9. General Discussion, Questions, Round Robin of Conservation Partners Updates:

Due to meeting agenda time constraints, the topics and length of time allocated may be limited.

- Conservation Partners Program (CPP) 2024 Request for Proposals
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Todd Hogrefe, Greg Pilchak
- SD Soybean
- SD Soil Health Coalition – Van Mansheim, Member, Board of Directors
- SD Association of Conservation Districts – Angela Ehlers, Executive Director
- SD Grassland Coalition – Judge Jessop, Director
- SD Specialty Producers – Jewel Bork, Member, Board of Directors
- South Central RC&D – Jewel Bork, Director
- SD DANR – event announcement - Governor's Ag Summit, June 12-13, 2024 at Huron, SD

10. Upcoming State Technical Committee Meeting Dates

August 27, 2024 – Huron

November 2024 – TBD

Find individual STC Meeting archived information at the USDA NRCS SD web page for <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/events/south-dakota-state-technical-committee-meeting>.

Shortened URL: <https://bit.ly/StateTechnicalCommittee>

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Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



South Dakota
May 22, 2024



State Tech Meeting



South Dakota State Tech Meeting
May 22, 2024

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

CRP overview

- CRP options
 - Continuous CRP
 - General CRP
 - Grassland CRP
 - CREP
 - James River
 - Big Sioux
 - CRST Tribal CREP
 - RST Tribal CREP
 - OST Tribal CREP

CRP overview



CRP ACTIVE CONTRACTS DASHBOARD | Contracts Overview

Data from the FSA CCMS
as of 5/20/2024 12:19:32 PM



CONTRACT ACREAGE

2,390,916

CONTRACT COUNT

31,406

ANNUAL RENT PAYMENT

\$137,315,096

AVG. ACRE RENTAL RATE

\$57

CONTRACTS IN REVISION

Coming Soon

Graph Values | View bar graphs
below & map by:

CONTRACT ACREAGE

Signup Types | Click on signup color to filter view.
(Note: SAFE is included in Continuous)

CLEAR30

Continuous

CRP

FWP

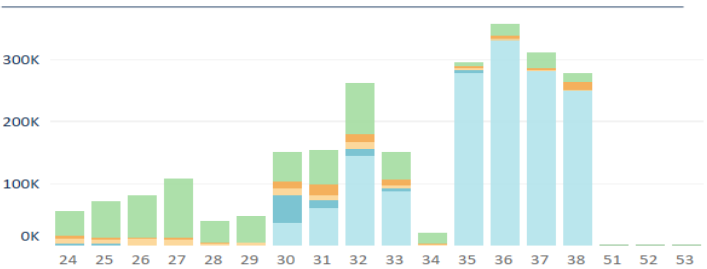
General

Grasslands

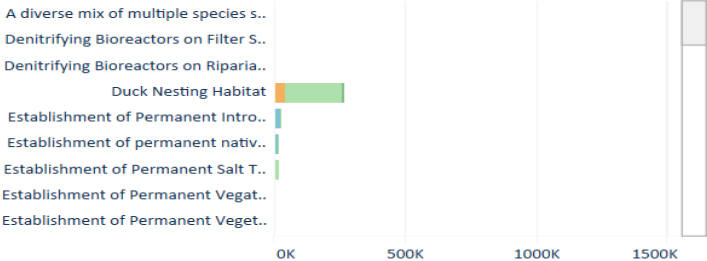
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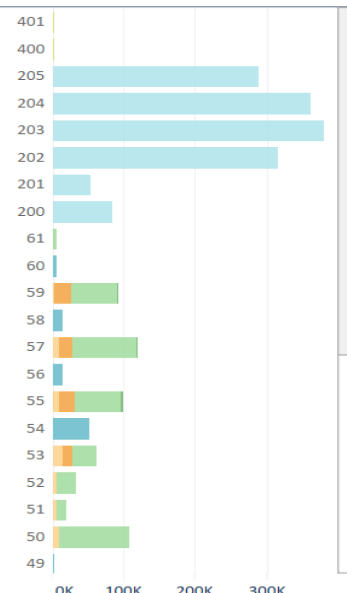
CONTRACT ACREAGE BY EXPIRATION YEAR



CONTRACT ACREAGE BY PRACTICE AND SIGNUP TYPE

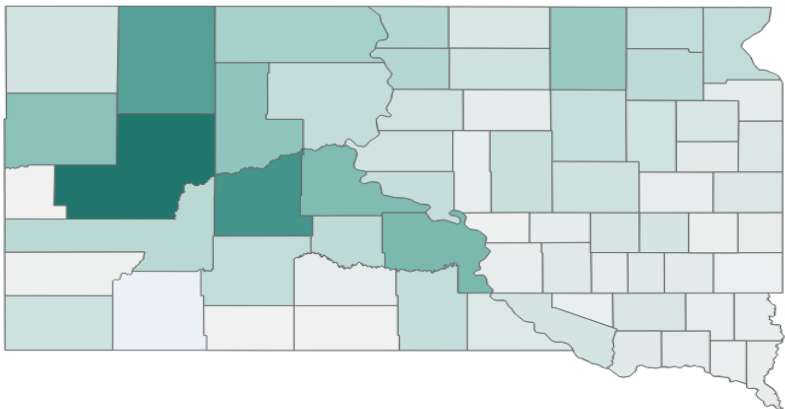


CONTRACT ACREAGE BY SIGNUP



CONTRACT ACREAGE BY PHYSICAL STATE/COUNTY

View map by: ☐ State ☒ County



593 249,545

CRP overview Continuous



CRP ACTIVE CONTRACTS DASHBOARD | Contracts Overview

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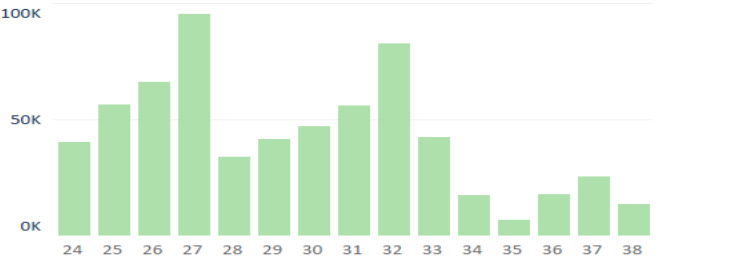
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643,750	21,043	\$81,053,651	\$126	Coming Soon

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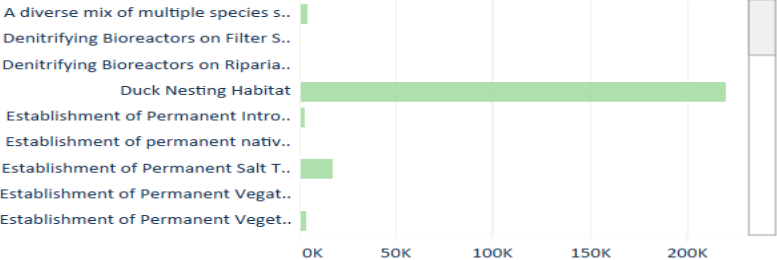
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(Note: SAFE is included in Continuous)

Continuous

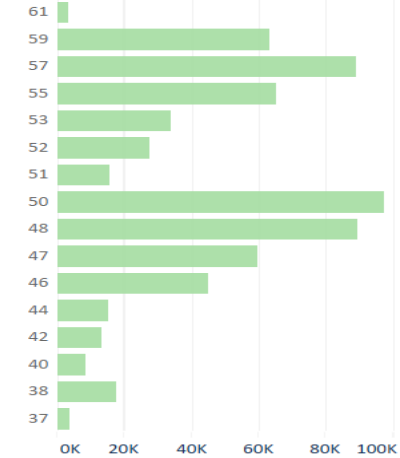
CONTRACT ACREAGE BY EXPIRATION YEAR



CONTRACT ACREAGE BY PRACTICE AND SIGNUP TYPE

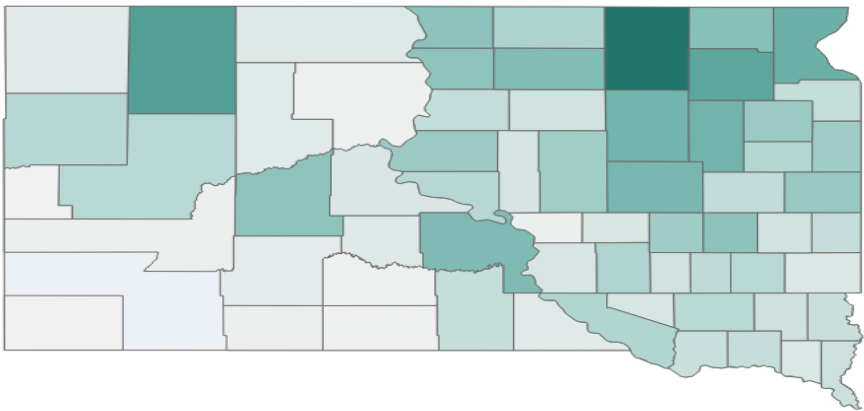


CONTRACT ACREAGE BY SIGNUP



CONTRACT ACREAGE BY PHYSICAL STATE/COUNTY

View map by: ☐ State ☒ County



10 46,010

CRP overview General



CRP ACTIVE CONTRACTS DASHBOARD | Contracts Overview

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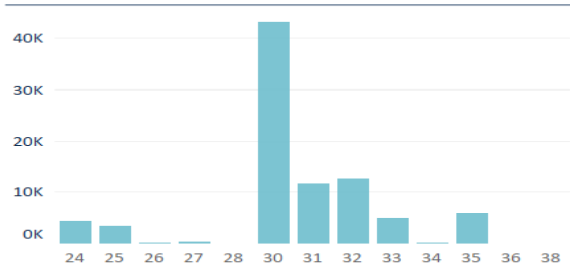
CONTRACT ACREAGE	CONTRACT COUNT	ANNUAL RENT PAYMENT	AVG. ACRE RENTAL RATE	CONTRACTS IN REVISION
87,902	1,480	\$5,903,923	\$67	Coming Soon

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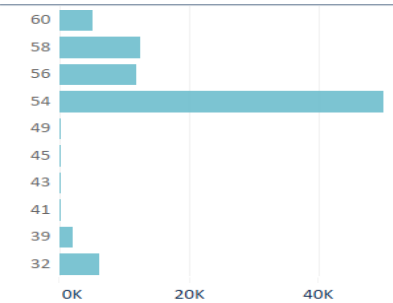
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(Note: SAFE is included in Continuous)

General

CONTRACT ACREAGE BY EXPIRATION YEAR

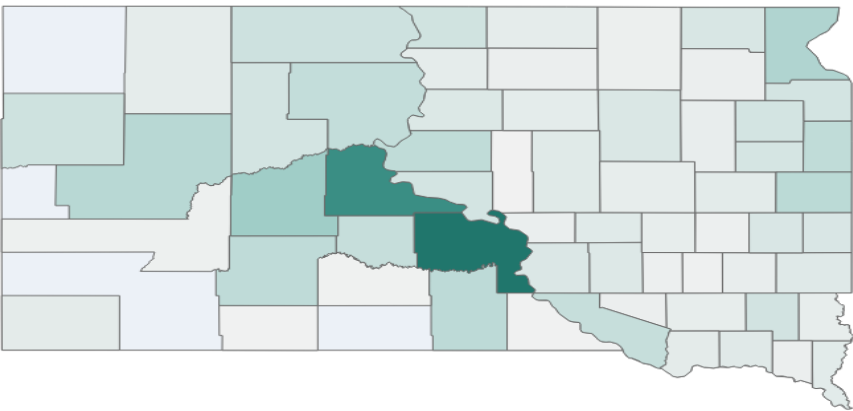


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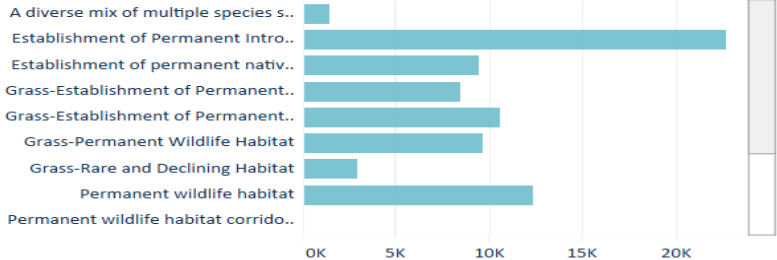


CONTRACT ACREAGE BY PHYSICAL STATE/COUNTY

View map by: ☐ State ☒ County



CONTRACT ACREAGE BY PRACTICE AND SIGNUP TYPE



CRP overview Grassland



CRP ACTIVE CONTRACTS DASHBOARD | Contracts Overview

Data from the FSA CCMS
as of 5/20/2024 12:19:32 PM



CONTRACT ACREAGE

1,476,751

CONTRACT COUNT

4,342

ANNUAL RENT PAYMENT

\$23,657,522

AVG. ACRE RENTAL RATE

\$16

CONTRACTS IN REVISION

Coming Soon

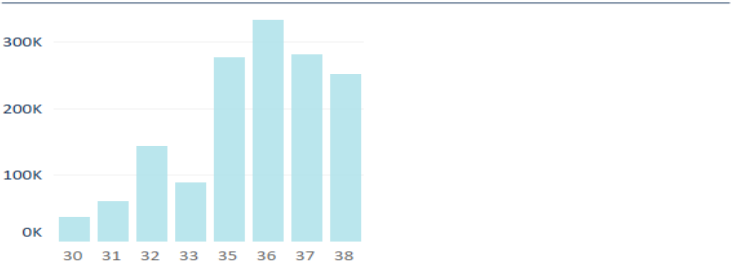
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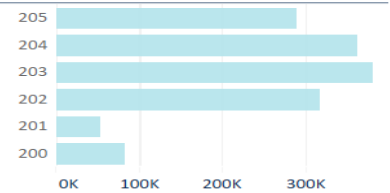
Signup Types | Click on signup color to filter view.
(Note: SAFE is included in Continuous)

Grasslands

CONTRACT ACREAGE BY EXPIRATION YEAR

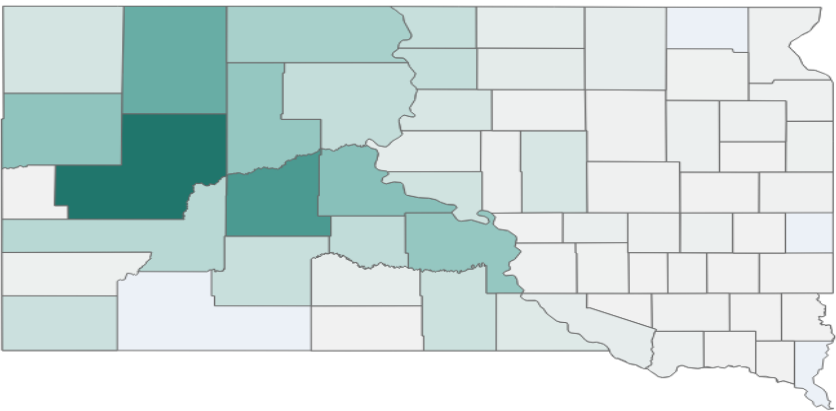


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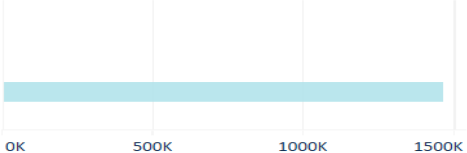
CONTRACT ACREAGE BY PHYSICAL STATE/COUNTY

View map by: ☐ State ☒ County



CONTRACT ACREAGE BY PRACTICE AND SIGNUP TYPE

A diverse mix of multiple species s..
Permanent Introduced Grasses an..
Permanent Introduced Grasses an..
Permanent Native Grasses and Leg..
Permanent Native Grasses and Leg..



CRP overview CREP



CRP ACTIVE CONTRACTS DASHBOARD | Contracts Overview

Data from the FSA CCMS
as of 5/20/2024 12:19:32 PM



CONTRACT ACREAGE

94,097

CONTRACT COUNT

1,113

ANNUAL RENT PAYMENT

\$13,027,712

AVG. ACRE RENTAL RATE

\$138

CONTRACTS IN REVISION

Coming Soon

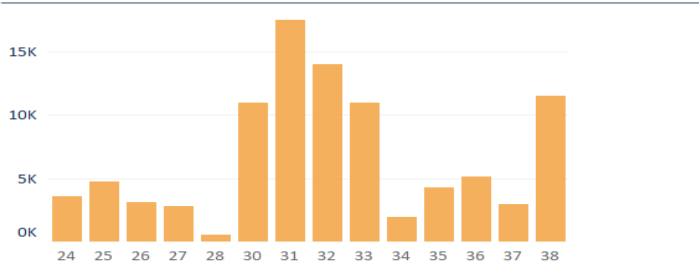
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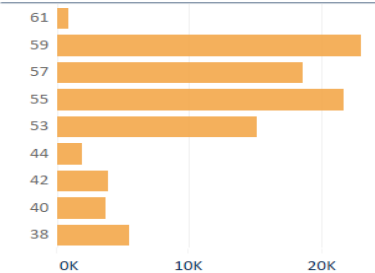
Signup Types | Click on signup color to filter view.
(Note: SAFE is included in Continuous)

CREP

CONTRACT ACREAGE BY EXPIRATION YEAR

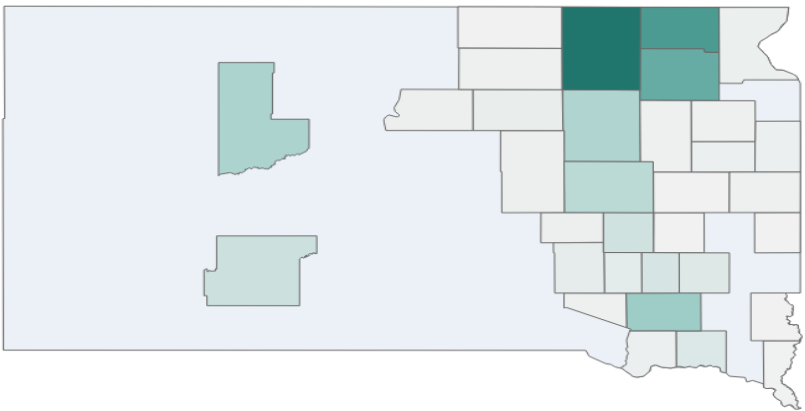


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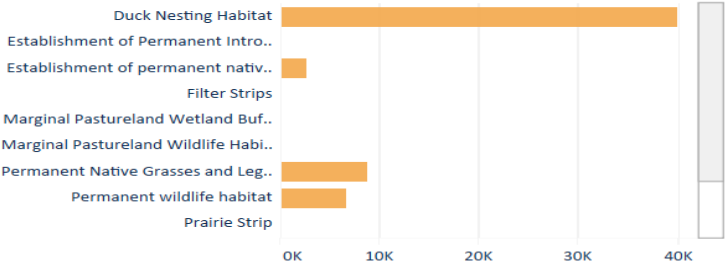


CONTRACT ACREAGE BY PHYSICAL STATE/COUNTY

View map by: ☐ State ☒ County



CONTRACT ACREAGE BY PRACTICE AND SIGNUP TYPE





South Dakota Grasslands Initiative

South Dakota Grasslands Initiative envisions a future where grasslands are elevated in their value as an integral part of South Dakota's social, ecological, and agricultural fabric.

Who we are

The South Dakota Grasslands Initiative is a collaborative network of diverse organizations, agencies, and individuals who support grasslands as a means of retaining prairie ecosystems, both native and restored while sustaining rural economies and healthy communities.

South Dakota Grasslands Initiative welcomes partners from all facets of South Dakota, including those with a focus on our agricultural, environmental, economic, and social components.

Through coordinated efforts focused on our grasslands, we can amplify our impact to support both the ecological communities and rural communities that depend on an ecosystem that once made up 95% of our state.

Mission

The South Dakota Grasslands Initiative seeks to promote South Dakota grasslands, through elevating public awareness and supporting those who want to make an impact, for the benefit of current and future generations.

Our Core Values

- Retention of South Dakota's native prairie ecosystems
- Science-based education and decision-making
- Acknowledgment of traditional knowledge
- Discussion that honors opposing viewpoints and perspectives
- Support for producers & landowners who want to improve grasslands
- Recognition that diversified income streams are essential to sustainable agricultural operations for the benefit of all South Dakotans

Regional Conservation
Partnership Program FY
2024 National Funding
Opportunity

FY 2024 National Funding Opportunity

Application Deadline

July 2, 2024

Funding Available

\$1,500,000,000

Project Size

\$250,000 -
\$25,000,000

Categories

RCPP Classic

RCPP Alternative
Funding
Arrangement

FY 2024 National Funding Opportunity

Eligible Activities

- Land Management Activities
 - EQIP/CSP like
- Land Rental Payments
 - In support of Land Management activities
- Easements
 - Entity Held
 - US Held

Webinars

- Weekly Webinars on Thursday's through June 27, 2024 from 1-2 CST.
 - Previous Webinars are recorded
 - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program/how-to-apply>



Questions?

Contact: Matt Morlock – RCPP Coordinator

matthew.morlock@usda.gov

Cell: (605)570-0015



*Conserving South Dakota's
agricultural heritage and
working landscapes for
the benefit of future
generations.*



South Dakota Agricultural Land Trust



**SOUTH DAKOTA
AG LAND TRUST**

*Registered as a Domestic
Nonprofit Corporation in
South Dakota and a
Charitable Organization
under Internal Revenue
Code 501(c)(3)*

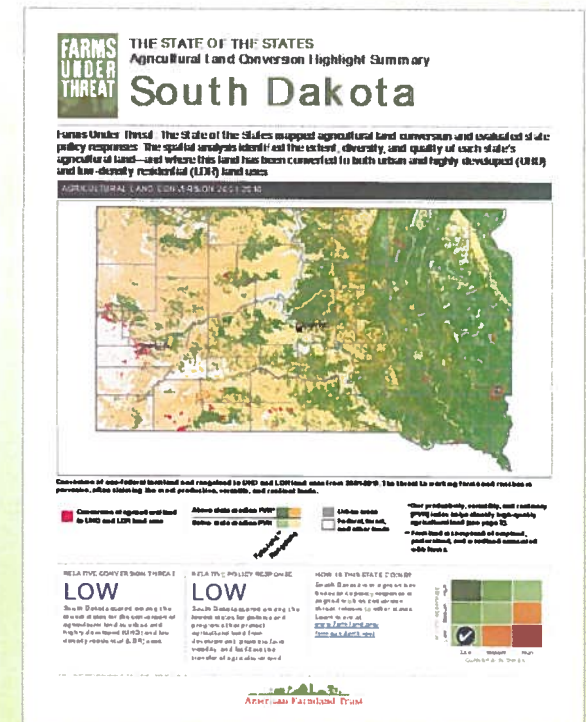
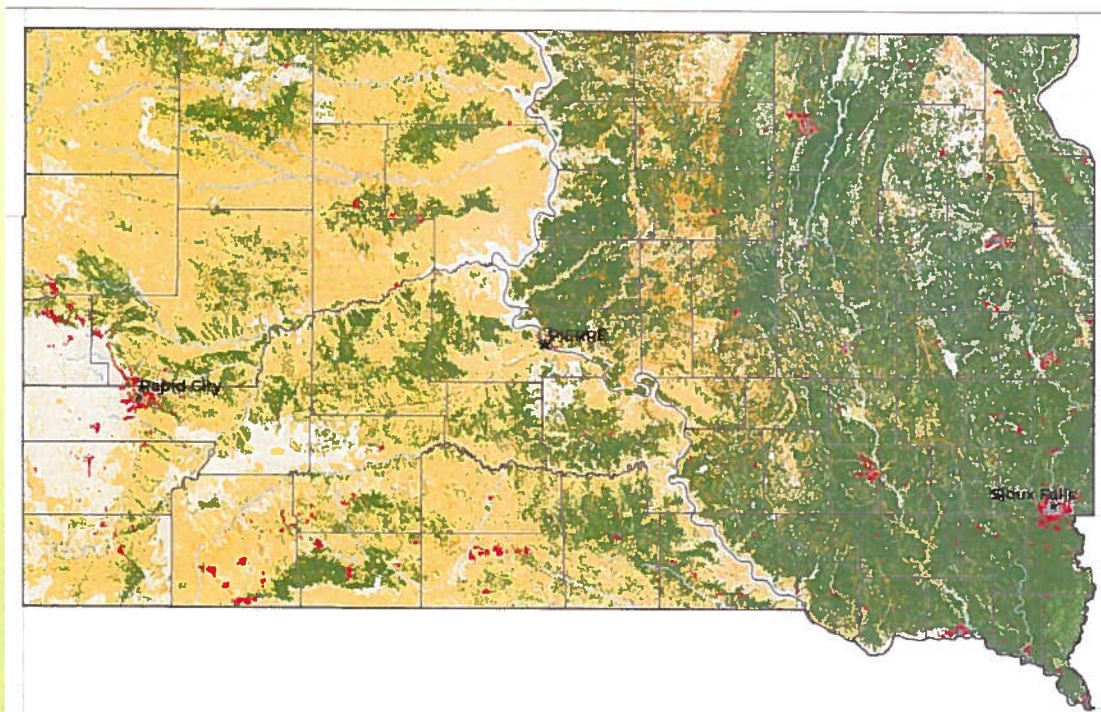


Founding Member Organizations

- SD Cattlemen's Association
- SD Association of Conservation Districts
- SD Farm Bureau Federation
- SD Grasslands Coalition



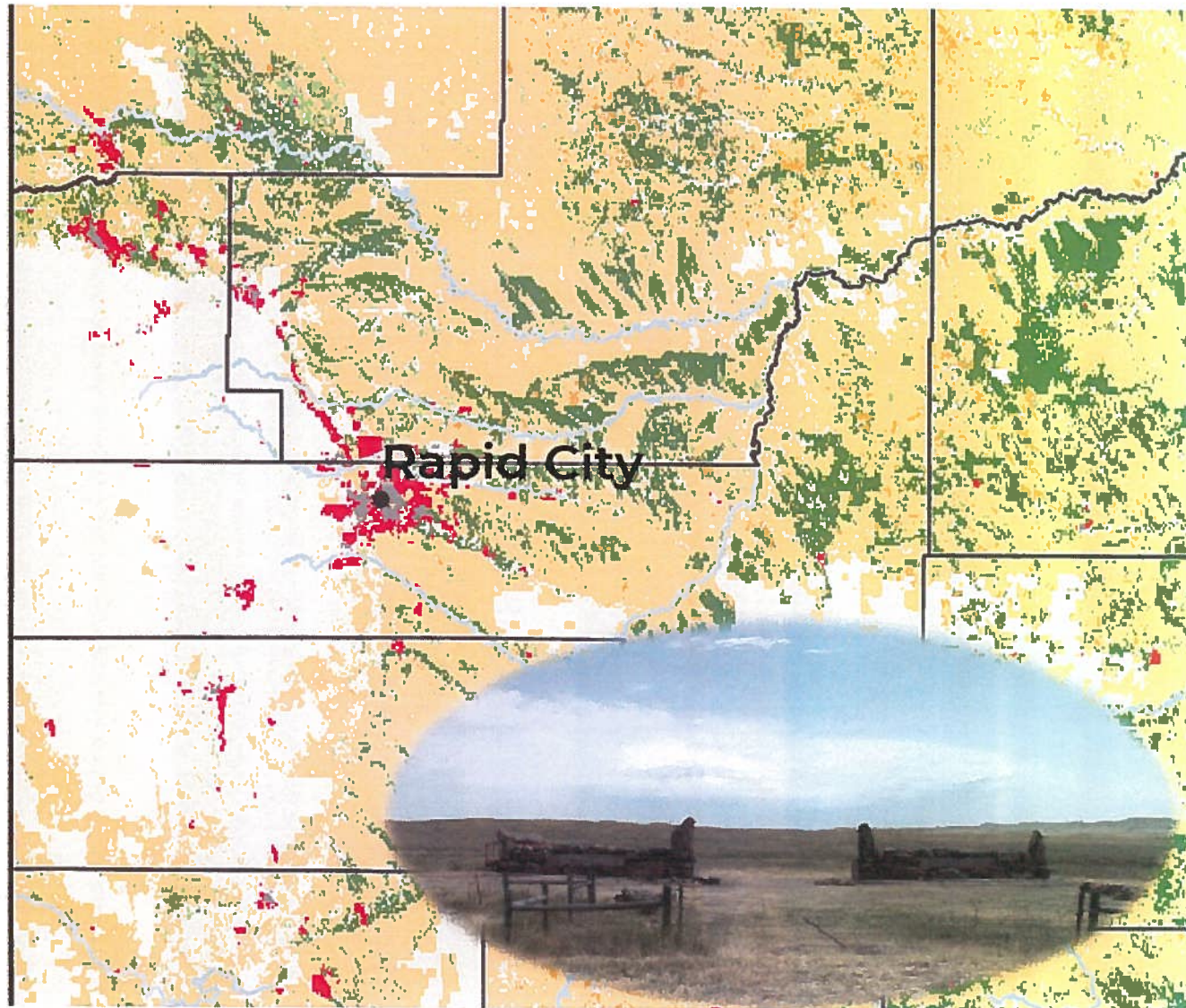
American Farmland Trust





SOUTH DAKOTA
AG LAND TRUST

*American
Farmland
Trust*



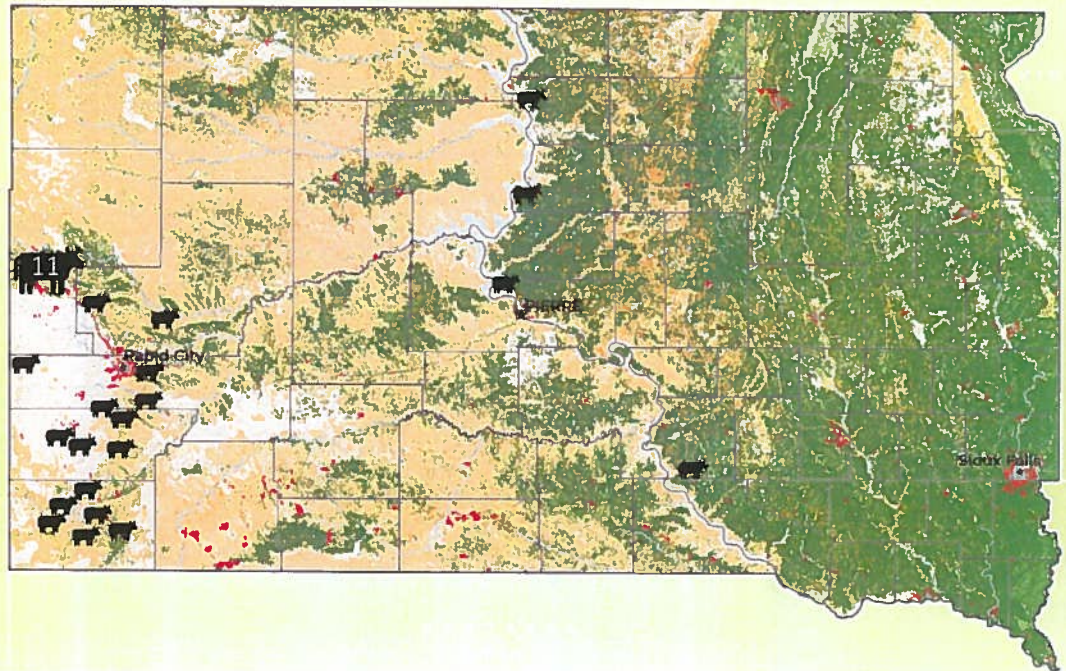


Potential Conservation Easements



Potential Easement Projects

1. Landowner inquiries – 70
2. Potential Project Properties – 31
 - 76,000 acres; easement value: over \$100 million
3. Primary Project Funding – NRCS: ACEP-ALE, RCPP



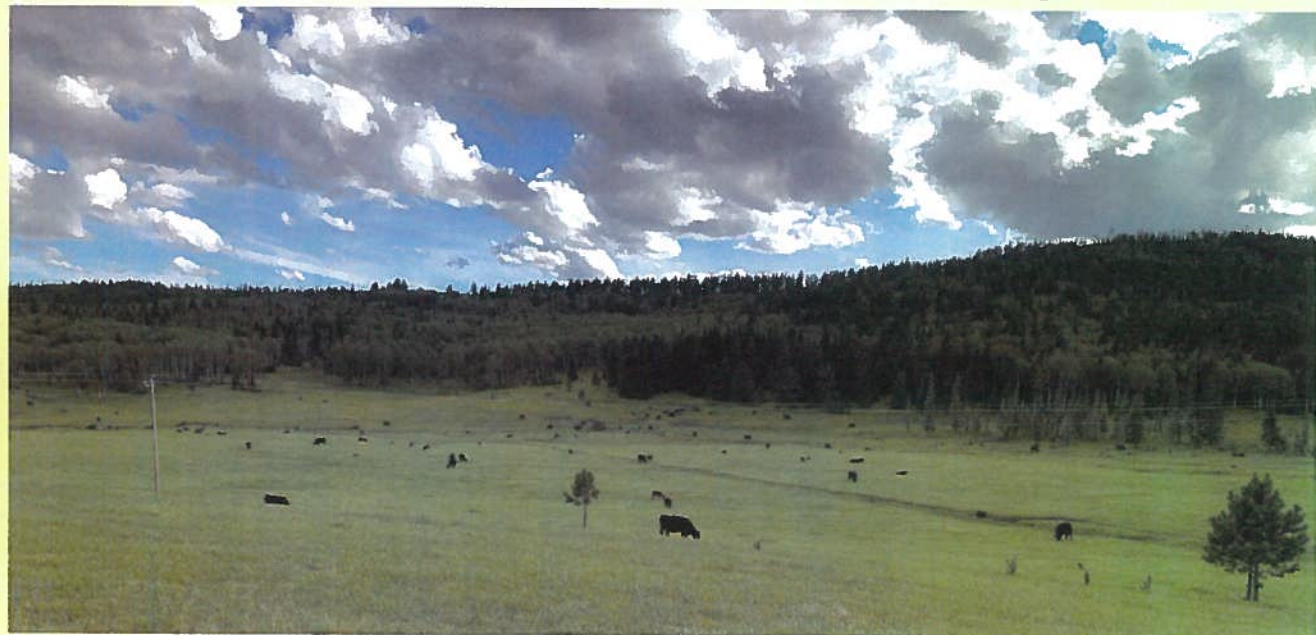


*Partnership
of SDALT
and NRCS*



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

1. \$4,245,454 for easements in the Black Hills
2. Accelerated rate of exurban growth
3. Multiple agricultural and environmental benefits
 - Protect soil and water on forest/grassland ecosystems
 - Retain these working lands in private ownership
4. Protect recreational opportunities & agriculture





*Partnership
of SDALT
and NRCS*



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

1. \$18,292,683 for easements – Black Hills periphery
2. Also, an accelerated rate of exurban growth
3. Multiple agricultural and environmental benefits
 - Climate-smart agriculture – sequestered carbon
 - Unfragmented grassland landscapes
 - Retain these working lands in private ownership





*Partnership
of SDALT
and NRCS*



Transaction Cost Assistance

- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- The Nature Conservancy
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation





By South Dakota
farmers and ranchers...



...for South Dakota
farmers and ranchers



Our Goals

The partners of the South Dakota Grasslands Initiative collectively determined areas of focus that will allow the grasslands to benefit from collaborative efforts. These include:

- 1) Connect producers & programs available for conservation
- 2) Increase partner's communication, coordination, and collaboration
- 3) Increasing awareness and understanding of the grasslands in South Dakota
- 4) Use research to support the grasslands
- 5) Educate decision-makers and support programs that sustain grasslands

Who can be involved, and how?

SDGI Partners are organizations, agencies, businesses, associations, and individuals who want to 1) increase their knowledge 2) gain support for work they are doing that relates to SDGI's mission and 3) find ways they can collaborate with others for a greater impact.

An organization, agency, business, or association that wishes to be listed as a **formal partner** is asked to submit a form to assure SDGI has accurate contact information and logo graphics.

As a partner, you are encouraged to **participate in the quarterly partner meetings and contribute to the quarterly newsletter**. Share about your work, & learn from others, allowing partners to promote what each other is doing, reduce duplication of efforts, and support grasslands education & conservation through collaboration.



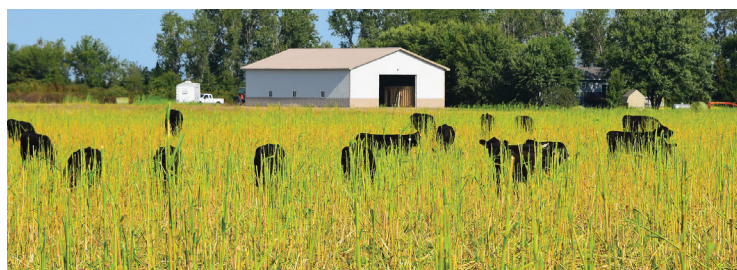
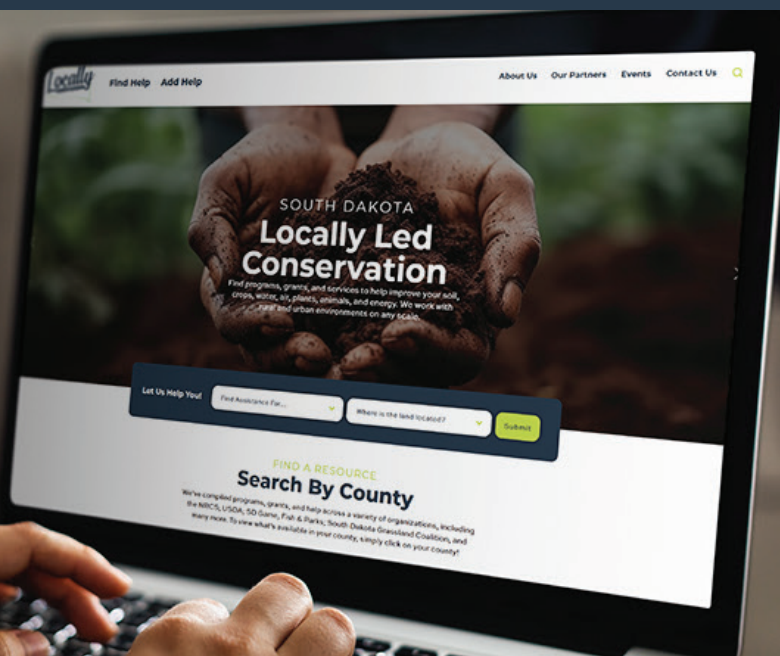
Want to learn more?

Visit our website, www.SDGrassInitiative.org to listen to podcasts highlighting our partners, read our newsletters, and **sign up for our email list** to ensure we keep you updated on opportunities.

Dakota Conservation Network



www.conserveds.org



Dakota Conservation Network (DCN) serves as a hub of conservation information and resources for community members, farmers, ranchers, and landowners in South Dakota. Whether you're passionate about sustainable practices, wildlife preservation, or simply curious about how to make a positive impact, this website is here to guide you.

Discover Programs, Grants, and Services

DCN provides a wide range of programs, grants, and services to help improve soil health, conserve water, promote clean air, support biodiversity, and boost crop productivity. From small-scale gardens to large agricultural operations, DCN has a wide range of resources and support to meet your needs.

Search By County

Finding help in your area is easy with our county-based search feature. Just select your county, and you'll find a list of programs and services available near you, making it simple to access the support you need.

How We Can Help

DCN compiles a range of solutions to address your specific challenges. Whether you need financial support, expert specialists, planning guidance, workshops, or educational resources, we've got you covered. Start by identifying your conservation goal, and then explore our website to find the right assistance for you.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Get In Touch

Blaine Brakke, Locally Led Project Coordinator
(605) 280-4813
blaine.brakke@sdconservation.net

Caitlin Uthe, Communications & Design
(605) 799-6885
caitlin.uth@sdconservation.net

Dakota Conservation Network: Connecting Conservation in South Dakota

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities List for FY2024



Highlighted activities have been added to the list in FY2024.

*Noted activities are added to the list as "provisional."^[1]

Mitigation Categories	Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name ^[2] ^[3] (practice unit)	Code	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Enhancement Activities
Soil Health	327	Conservation Cover (acres)	E327A	Conservation cover for pollinators and beneficial insects ^[2]
			E327B	Establish Monarch butterfly habitat
	328	Conservation Crop Rotation (acres)	E328A	Resource conserving crop rotation
			E328B	Improved resource conserving crop rotation
			E328E	Soil health crop rotation
			E328F	Modifications to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
			E328N	Intercropping to improve soil health
			E328O	Perennial grain crop conservation rotation
	329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (acres)	E329A	No till to reduce soil erosion
			E329B	No till to reduce tillage induced particulate matter
			E329C	No till to increase plant-available moisture
			E329D	No till system to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E329E	No till to reduce energy
	332	Contour Buffer Strips (acres)	None Available	
	336	Soil Carbon Amendment (acres)*	None Available	
	340	Cover Crop (acres)	E340A	Cover crop to reduce soil erosion
			E340B	Intensive cover cropping to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E340C	Use of multi-species cover crops to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
			E340D	Intensive orchard/vineyard floor cover cropping to increase soil health
			E340F	Cover crop to minimize soil compaction
			E340G	Cover crop to reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excess soil nutrients
			E340H	Cover crop to suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles
			E340I	Using cover crops for biological strip till
			E340J	Cover crop to improve moisture use efficiency and reduce salts
	345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (acres)	E345A	Reduced tillage to reduce soil erosion
			E345B	Reduced tillage to reduce tillage induced particulate matter
			E345C	Reduced tillage to increase plant-available moisture
			E345D	Reduced tillage to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E345E	Reduced tillage to reduce energy use

Highlighted activities have been added to the list in FY2024.

*Noted activities are added to the list as "provisional."^[1]

Mitigation Categories	Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name ^{[2] [3]} (practice unit)	Code	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Enhancement Activities
Soil Health	386	Field Border (acres)	E386A	Enhanced field borders to reduce soil erosion along the edge(s) of a field
			E386B	Enhanced field borders to increase carbon storage along the edge(s) of the field
			E386C	Enhanced field borders to decrease particulate emissions along the edge(s) of the field
			E386D	Enhanced field borders to increase food for pollinators along the edge(s) of a field
			E386E	Enhanced field borders to increase wildlife food and habitat along the edge(s) of a field
	393	Filter Strips (acres)	E393A	Extend existing filter strip to reduce water quality impacts
	412	Grassed Waterways (acres)	E412A	Enhance a grassed waterway
	484	Mulching (acres)	E484A	Mulching to improve soil health
			E484B	Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch
			E484C	Mulching with natural materials in specialty crops for weed control
			E484D	Lowbush Blueberry Mulching for Moisture Management
585	Stripcropping (acres)	None Available		
601	Vegetative Barriers (feet)	None Available		
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers (feet)	None Available		
Nitrogen Management	590	Nutrient Management (acres)	E590A	Improving nutrient uptake efficiency and reducing risk of nutrient losses
			E590B	Reduce risks of nutrient loss to surface water by utilizing precision agriculture technologies
			E590C	Improving nutrient uptake efficiency and reducing risk of nutrient losses on pasture
			E590D	Reduce risks of nutrient losses to surface and groundwater by increasing setback awareness via precision technology
Livestock Partnership	317	Composting Facility (number)*	None Available	
	313	Waste Storage Facility (number)* Used to implement compost bedded-pack^[4]	None Available	
	366	Anaerobic Digester (number)	None Available	
	367	Roofs and Covers (number)* Used to cover a waste management facility to capture biogas^[4]	None Available	
	592	Feed Management (animal unit)* Used to reduce enteric methane emissions^[4]	None Available	
	632	Waste Separation Facility (number)*	None Available	

Highlighted activities have been added to the list in FY2024.

*Noted activities are added to the list as "provisional."^[1]

Mitigation Categories	Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name ^[2] ^[3] (practice unit)	Code	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Enhancement Activities
Grazing and Pasture	314	Brush Management (acres)* Used to remove woody invasive vegetation and the removed material will be mechanically treated and left onsite ^[4]	E314A	Brush management to improve wildlife habitat*
	315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment (acres)* Used to release desired deep rooted perennial species ^[4]	E315A	Herbaceous weed treatment to create desired plant communities consistent with the ecological site*
	338	Prescribed Burning (acres)*	E338A	Strategically planned, patch burning for grazing distribution and wildlife habitat*
	512	Pasture and Hay Planting (acres)	E512A	Cropland conversion to grass-based agriculture to reduce soil erosion
			E512B	Forage plantings that help increase organic matter in depleted soils
			E512C	Cropland conversion to grass for soil organic matter improvement
			E512D	Forage plantings that help increase organic matter in depleted soils
			E512I	Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect and/or monarch habitat
			E512J	Establish wildlife corridors to provide habitat continuity or access to water
			E512L	Diversifying forage base with interseeding forbs and legumes to increase pasture quality
			E512M	Forage plantings that improve wildlife habitat cover and shelter or structure and composition
	528	Prescribed Grazing (acres)	E528A	Maintaining quantity and quality of forage for animal health and productivity
			E528F	Stockpiling cool season forage to improve structure and composition or plant productivity and health
			E528G	Improved grazing management on pasture for plant productivity and health with monitoring activities
			E528H	Prescribed grazing to improve/maintain riparian and watershed function-elevated water temperature
			E528I	Grazing management that protects sensitive areas -surface or ground water from nutrients
			E528J	Prescribed grazing on pastureland that improves riparian and watershed function
			E528L	Prescribed grazing that improves or maintains riparian and watershed function-erosion
			E528M	Grazing management that protects sensitive areas from gully erosion
			E528N	Improved grazing management through monitoring activities
			E528O	Clipping mature forages to set back vegetative growth for improved forage quality

Highlighted activities have been added to the list in FY2024.

*Noted activities are added to the list as "provisional."^[1]

Mitigation Categories	Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name ^{[2] [3]} (practice unit)	Code	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Enhancement Activities
Grazing and Pasture	528	Prescribed Grazing (acres)	E528P	Implementing Bale or Swath Grazing to increase organic matter and reduce nutrients in surface water
			E528R	Management intensive rotational grazing
			E528S	Soil Health Improvements on Pasture
			E528T	Grazing to Reduce Wildfire Risks on Forests
			E528U	Contingency Planning for Resiliency
	550	Range Planting (acres)	E550A	Range planting for increasing/maintaining organic matter
			E550B	Range planting for improving forage, browse, or cover for wildlife
Agroforestry, Forestry and Wildlife Habitat	311	Alley Cropping (acres)	None Available	
	342	Critical Area Planting (acres)	None Available	
	379	Forest Farming (acres)	None Available	
	380	Windbreaks/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation (feet)	None Available	
	381	Silvopasture (acres)	E381A	Silvopasture to improve wildlife habitat
	383	Fuel Break (acres)*	E383A	Grazing-maintained fuel break to reduce the risk of fire*
	384	Woody Residue Treatment (acres)*	E384A	Biochar production from woody residue*
	390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (acres)	E390A	Increase riparian herbaceous cover width for sediment and nutrient reduction
			E390B	Increase riparian herbaceous cover width to enhance wildlife habitat
	391	Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	E391A	Increase riparian forest buffer width for sediment and nutrient reduction
			E391B	Increase stream shading for stream temperature reduction
			E391C	Increase riparian forest buffer width to enhance wildlife habitat
	420	Wildlife Habitat Planting (acres)*	E420A	Establish pollinator habitat*
			E420B	Establish monarch butterfly habitat*
	422	Hedgerow Planting (feet)	None Available	
	612	Tree-Shrub Establishment (acres)	E612B	Planting for high carbon sequestration rate
			E612C	Establishing tree/shrub species to restore native plant communities
			E612G	Tree/shrub planting for wildlife food
	643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities (ac)* • Used to restore floodplain hydrology ^[4]	E643D	Low-tech process-based restoration to enhance floodplain connectivity*
	666	Forest Stand Improvement (acres)*	E666A	Maintaining and improving forest soil quality*
			E666D	Forest management to enhance understory vegetation*
			E666E	Reduce height of the forest understory to limit wildfire risk*
			E666F	Reduce forest stand density to create open stand structure*

Highlighted activities have been added to the list in FY2024.

*Noted activities are added to the list as "provisional."^[1]

Mitigation Categories	Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name ^[2] ^[3] (practice unit)	Code	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Enhancement Activities
Agroforestry, Forestry and Wildlife Habitat	666	Forest Stand Improvement (acres)*	E666H	Increase on-site carbon storage*
			E666I	Crop tree management for mast production*
			E666J	Facilitating oak forest regeneration*
			E666K	Creating structural diversity with patch openings*
			E666L	Forest Stand Improvement to rehabilitate degraded hardwood stands*
			E666P	Summer roosting habitat for native forest-dwelling bat species*
			E666R	Forest songbird habitat maintenance*
			E666S	Facilitating longleaf pine regeneration and establishment*
Restoration of Disturbed Lands	453	Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment (acres)	None Available	
	543	Land Reclamation, Abandoned Mined Land (acres)	None Available	
Energy, Combustion, & Electricity Efficiency	372	Combustion System Improvement (number) • Used for stationary or mobile engine replacement or repower to electric motor	E372A	Switch to Renewable Power Source
			E372B	Renewable Energy Source for Large Internal Combustion Engines
	374	Energy Efficient Agricultural Operation (number)*	None Available	
	430	Irrigation Pipeline (feet)* • Used to reduce energy use ^[4]	None Available	
	441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation (acres)* • Used to reduce energy use ^[4]	None Available	
	442	Sprinkler System (acres)* • Used to reduce energy use ^[4]	None Available	
	533	Pumping Plant (number)* • Used to reduce energy use ^[4]	E533C	Install VFDs on pumps*
			E533D	Complete pumping plant evaluation for energy savings*
	672	Energy Efficient Building Envelope (number)*	None Available	
	670	Energy Efficient Lighting System (number)*	None Available	
Wetlands	657	Wetland Restoration (acres)*	None Available	
Rice	449	Irrigation Water Management (acres)* • Used as part of an alternated wetting and drying (AWD) system in rice fields	E449B	Alternated Wetting and Drying (AWD) of rice fields*

Notes

In addition to the designated CSAF conservation activities listed, conservation practices that facilitate the management or the function of a CSAF activity but may not achieve the desired effects on their own (and may not have a quantifiable benefit), may be planned as applicable in consultation with your local professional conservation planner. Examples: Tree-Shrub Establishment (612) may need facilitating practices such as Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) or Access Control (472). Conservation Crop Rotation (328) may need facilitating practices such as Pest Management Conservation System (595), Cover Crops (340), or Irrigation Water Management (449). Waste Separation Facility (632) may need facilitating practices such as Waste Transfer (634) or Roofs and Covers (367). Prescribed Grazing (528) may need facilitating practices such as Watering Facility (614), Stream Crossing (578), Brush Management (314), Fence (382), or Livestock Shelter Structure (576).

[1] Provisional activities and their associated enhancements are added under the premise that they may provide benefits, and a quantification methodology will be evaluated during the fiscal year. Practices may be removed from the mitigation practice list in a subsequent fiscal year if quantification is not possible. Unless otherwise noted, listed practices have quantifiable carbon sequestration and/or GHG reduction methodologies described in COMET-Planner (comet-planner.com). New practices will be added as science progresses and scientifically defensible quantification methodologies are identified to accompany existing and new NRCS conservation practice standards.

[2] The included Conservation Practice Standard and Conservation Stewardship Program links provide national information. Please consult the NRCS office at your local USDA Service Center for any local and state level criteria. Visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find contact information for your local office.

[3] The following were removed from the list for FY2024: Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat and Management (Code 645) and Enhancements (E645B) Manage existing shrub thickets to provide adequate shelter for wildlife, (E645C) Edge feathering for wildlife cover, (E328G) Crop rotation on recently converted CRP grass/legume cover for soil organic matter improvement, (E528D) Grazing management for improving quantity and quality of food or cover and shelter for wildlife, and (E528E) Improved grazing management for enhanced plant structure and composition for wildlife. Two enhancements were archived and are no longer available within CSP: (E512E) Forage and biomass planting that produces feedstock for biofuels or energy production and (E512K) Establishing native species into forage base to improve diversity for both livestock and wildlife. Bundles for CSP are no longer listed in this document, refer to program guidance for CSP information on the use of appropriate bundles.

[4] The practice is considered a mitigation activity only when implemented in the specified way. A brief description of the specific implementation is identified and associated narratives for conservation planning purposes are included at the end of the document. When a specific implementation is not specified, any narrative of the practice may be used for planning under the assumption that it will provide mitigation benefits.



NRCS Narrative Crosswalk for Conservation Planners

Code	Conservation Practice Standard	Code	Narrative
313	Waste Storage Structure	01N	Compost Bedded Pack waste storage facility - a livestock agricultural waste storage fabricated structure where manure is composted within the animal housing
314	Brush Management	01N	Remove woody (non-herbaceous and succulent) invasive vegetation to maintain or enhance deep rooted native perennial grass and forb communities, woody material will be mechanically treated/chipped and left onsite to mitigate above ground carbon loss
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	01N	Removal of herbaceous weeds to release desired deep rooted perennial grass and forb species
367	Roofs and Covers	01N	Capture Biogas - Place a rigid, semirigid, or flexible manufactured membrane, composite material, or roof structure placed over a waste management facility to capture biogas and reduce odor
372	Combustion System Improvement	02N	Stationary engine to electric motor replacement or repower - Replace or repower an existing stationary engine with an electric motor
372	Combustion System Improvement	05N	Mobile internal combustion engine to electric motor replacement - Replace an existing on-farm mobile device (i.e., tractor, loader, forklift, etc.) powered by an internal combustion engine with a new mobile device powered by an electric motor
430	Irrigation Pipeline	01N	Replacement of an earthen channel that is supplied by pumping water with a closed conduit, resulting in enhanced conveyance efficiency and reduced energy use
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	01N	Switching from higher to lower pressure irrigation systems without increasing irrigated acres, resulting in enhanced application efficiency and reduced energy use
442	Sprinkler System	01N	Utilization of variable rate irrigation (VRI) technology, switching from higher to lower pressure irrigation systems, and sprinkler head renozzling without increasing irrigated acres, resulting in enhanced application efficiency and reduced energy use
449	Irrigation Water Management	01N	Managing water levels in rice fields to include dry down between full flood conditions prior to re-flooding (alternated wetting and drying) to minimize greenhouse gas production in accordance with an irrigation water management plan
533	Pumping Plant	01N	Replacing existing pumps with high-efficiency pump
592	Feed Management	03N	Reduce enteric methane emissions from animal feeding operations by manipulating the quantity and quality of dietary nutrients, incorporating feed additives and feed ingredients, or adjusting concentrate to forage ratio in livestock and poultry diets to lower methane produced and emitted during digestion
643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	01N	Restoration of streams and associated floodplains using low-tech structures (such as beaver dam analogs or other stick-and-stone structures) to kick-start natural ecological and hydrologic processes required for maintenance of healthy and functioning streams and associated floodplains