



**South Dakota
State Office**

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Room 203
Huron, SD 57350

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South Dakota State Technical Committee Meeting

April 21, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time

Capitol Lake Visitor's Center, 650 East Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501

This meeting can also be accessed via Microsoft Teams at

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 280 369 721 006 Passcode: c3Ms6wE7

Dial-in by phone [+1 202-650-0123,,47696061#](#) Phone conference ID: 476 960 61#

AGENDA

Welcome - Colette Kessler, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, Huron

Opening Remarks - - Jessica Michalski, Acting State Conservationist, Huron

Congressional Delegates Updates

State Technical Committee (STC) Steering Committee Member Updates

- **Farm Service Agency (FSA)**
– Roger Chase, State Executive Director, Huron
- **SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR)**
– Hunter Roberts, Secretary of Agriculture, Pierre
- **SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P)**
– Kevin Robling, Secretary, Pierre
- **SD Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD)**
– Angela Ehlers, Executive Director, Pierre
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**
– Jessica Michalski, Chair, Acting State Conservationist, Huron

Updates from any other agency heads present

Subcommittee Reports

- Programs Subcommittee
- Val Dupraz, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, Huron
Action items from September STC meeting
Current status of FY2026 Programs
- Ecological Sciences Subcommittee
- Ryan Kruse, Acting State Resource Conservationist, Huron
- Engineering Subcommittee
- James Reedy, State Conservation Engineer, Huron
Progress on well standards (Water Well and Controlling Existing Flowing Well)
Update on fabricated windbreaks
- Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (TCAC) – Nate Grueb, State Tribal Liaison
- Local Working Groups – SDACD, DANR, NRCS

Open forum and Public Comment (as time permits)

Partners Reports (as time permits)

The next STC meeting will be held September 9 2026, in Pierre, SD at the Matthews Training Center, Joe Foss Building. Persons needing accommodation should please contact the NRCS State Office one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

Additional information

Subscribe to updates for the USDA NRCS South Dakota State Technical Committee, please visit www.farmers.gov, then scroll down to “Subscribe to Updates”– follow the menus to find “State Technical Committee” in the topic list.

Find **archived individual STC Meeting information** at the USDA NRCS SD web page: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/south%20dakota/technical-committee> (Shortened URL: <https://bit.ly/StateTechnicalCommittee>). Please use this link to find the State Technical Committee meetings recordings on NRCS SD YouTube Channel Playlist.

The meeting notifications of the regularly scheduled State Technical Committee (STC) are also distributed to members 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.

USDA NRCS South Dakota Staffing and Personnel Updates

-> NRCS South Dakota Web Page: find the Personnel Directory under “Contact Us” at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/state-office-contacts/south-dakota-state-office>



NRCS Priorities

Chief Aubrey J.D. Bettencourt

1. Preserve and Protect Agricultural Land

Goal: *Reduce the loss of productive farmland and safeguard the long-term viability of America's agricultural landscapes.*

- Expand targeted conservation easement programs to slow the loss of 5,000 acres of farmland per day.
- Partner with local governments and land trusts to prioritize farmland preservation.
- Advocate for policies that incentivize keeping land in agricultural production.
- Promote regenerative practices that strengthen soil health and ensure long-term productivity and profitability.
- Integrate whole farm planning into conservation efforts to provide comprehensive support to farmers.

2. Modernize NRCS Infrastructure and Technology

Goal: *Transform NRCS into a digitally agile agency that empowers staff and farmers through modern tools and systems.*

- Ensure adequate broadband connectivity in every county office to eliminate digital bottlenecks.
- Integrate core software systems into a unified, cloud-based platform for in-field technical service.
- Implement a "One Farmer, One File" system to streamline data access and reduce duplication.
- Replace paper-heavy workflows with real-time digital conservation planning.

3. Recenter Field Engagement and Technical Assistance

Goal: *Re-establish NRCS's presence in the field to deliver hands-on, personalized support to farmers.*

- Reallocate staff time from administrative tasks to direct, field-based service delivery.
- Train and deploy certified conservation planners quickly and effectively.
- Flip the service model: meet farmers where they are, not just in the office.
- Use mobile tools and digital platforms to co-create conservation plans on-site.

- Build the next robust generation of technical service providers to ensure producers continue receiving expert, on-the-ground support.

4. Strengthen Partnerships by Streamline Processes and Accountability

Goal: *Leverage partnerships as force multipliers while reducing internal friction to accelerate conservation outcomes.*

- Accept third-party certified conservation plans that meet or exceed NRCS standards.
- Strengthen local decision-making while maintaining scientific integrity.
- Increase accountability while simultaneously improving responsiveness and services to producers.
- Align partner strengths to maximize measurable conservation plans for producers.
- Support on-farm partnerships that deliver Farmer First, direct-to-producer, conservation services and payments.

5. Shift to Outcome-Based Conservation and Farmer Empowerment

Goal: *Measure success through outcomes and empower farmers with data, recognition, and market access.*

- Move beyond acres and dollars to track real improvements in water management, soil health, and natural vitality.
- Recognize farmers as the heroes of conservation and highlight their accomplishments through data.
- Support precision agriculture and digital farming tools to enhance productivity and profit.
- Help farmers achieve their goals and receive regulatory and marketplace credit for the voluntary work they have accomplished.



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Draft plan for 2026 SDACD area meetings – please share with

supervisors and partners: The board of directors dissected the area meeting agenda with the goal of improving relevancy, increasing CD supervisor and staff participation and being respectful of everyone's time. They changed several aspects of the 2026 area meetings. Below are the board's agenda items:

Hosting a 30-minute social meet & greet with local political candidates before the meeting; SDACD will provide a handout about conservation districts.

View a video of one of the 2026 speech contest finalists

Instead of written partner reports, each partner will have 2-3 minutes to highlight 1 success story involving 1 or more CDs (timer will be used). Partners may email their written reports if they choose.

Building on the March locally-led training, share first Local Work Group results of selected CDs

Consider tree research proposal to statewide test a tree that potentially could be used in windbreaks instead of ash.

Tools to assist CDs in their operations

*** Area director elections: Hills, Northwest, South James-Missouri, Coteau (all 2-year terms and all are eligible for re-election); Vermillion-Big Sioux (1 year term remaining of 2-year term due to Travis moving outside of Minnehaha CD)

*** Selection of area Endowment honoree

*** Consideration of resolutions and/or by-law amendment proposals

*** Area treasurer report (if area has one)

*Items the Association is required to include on the agenda to comply with our by-laws and policies are marked with a ***.*

WHEN AND WHERE: area meetings are scheduled as follows:

Hills

Monday, June 8 begin at 1:00 pm MT at Rapid City Outdoor Classroom. Snack available.

Northwest

Tuesday, June 9 begin at 10:00 am MT at Red Earth Table in Isabel, SD at 421 Main Street. No catered lunch – restaurant available for lunch on your own

Prairie

Wednesday, June 10 begin at 5:00 pm MT/6:00 pm CT at Presho Jet Lanes, meal available

North Missouri

Monday, June 15 begin at 10:00 am CT at Lebanon American Legion. Lunch available.

South James-Missouri

Tuesday, June 16, beginning at 12:30 pm CT at 4-H Fairgrounds meeting room (3200 W Havens) in Mitchell.

Vermillion-Big Sioux area

Wednesday, June 17 begin at 9:30 am CT in Brookings at Brookings Outdoor Adventure Center (2810 22nd Ave S. Catered lunch \$16 at Backyard BBQ & Grill, 1805 6th St.

Coteau

Thursday, June 18 begin at 8:40 am CT at Ft Sisseton State Park. Snack available.

JOIN US

SBA and USDA Rural Development

AGRICULTURE REGULATORY ROUNDTABLE

with SBA Regional Advocate, Trent Staggs

Producers & Ag-businesses please join us if:

- Federal regulations impact your small business
- Need assistance with federal agencies

THURSDAY • APRIL 30

9:00-11:00 A.M.

Even Farm

Int. of SD HWY 19 & SD HWY 42, 7 miles S of Humboldt, SD

FOR MORE INFORMATION • Bryson.Patterson@SBA.gov



U.S. Small Business
Administration



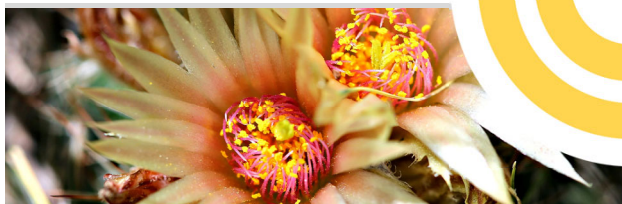
Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE





Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service(NRCS) State Technical Committee Meeting April 21, 2026



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

1



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Starts with the Conservation Planning process
- Addresses single to multiple resource concerns
- Waterway single practice or a suite of practices implemented



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2



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Starts with the Conservation Planning process
- Addresses multiple resource concerns across an entire operation
- Recognizes existing conservation on operations

3

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- Partner led effort to address conservation within a defined project area
- Addresses resource concerns using the Conservation Planning Process
- Leverages funds to reach larger project objectives



4

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

- **Agricultural Land Easement (ALE)**
 - Working land easement
 - Entity held easement
- **Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)**
 - Restores and protects wetland
 - NRCS holds the easement
 - Authorizes activities that will further enhance the ecological values and functions



FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

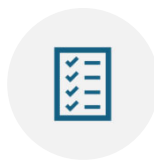
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5

Four Recommendations Were Supported



FUND POOL STRUCTURE



MANAGEMENT PRACTICE
RECOMMENDATIONS



HIGH PRIORITY PRACTICES



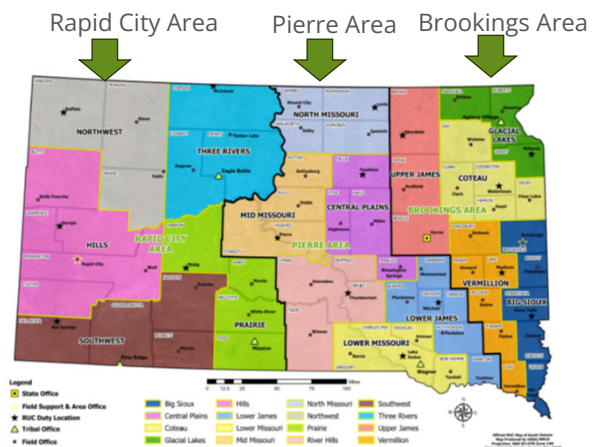
ACEP-WRE
PRIORITIZATION

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

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6

- SD aligned with recommendation to evaluate specialty production applications separate from conventional applications.
- Added Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)
- No other fund pool updates were made



Implemented per NHQ instruction and in alignment with recommendation.

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7

Management Practices- Recommendation to limit to 3 years of payment

- Implementing for nearly all EQIP and RCPP obligations this year
- CSP policy requires activities to be planned in all applicable years once adopted
- Regenerative Pilot Program allows for up to 5 years of management payments

Implemented as recommended



FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

8

High Priority Practices

- State can identify up to 10 practices to be eligible for higher payment rates in priority areas
- Address specific causes of ground or surface water impairments related to excessive nutrients
- Address conservation of water and mitigate drought
- Meet specific concerns within a watershed
- Meet other environmental priorities identified in habitat or other area restoration plans

Practice	Payment Rate	Practice	Payment Rate
Crop Rotation	\$12-\$51/Ac	Prescribed Burning	\$15-\$30/Ac
Cover Crop	\$55-\$75/Ac	Prescribed Grazing	\$7-\$30/Ac
Field Border	\$112-\$582/Ac	Brush Management	\$27-\$800/Ac
Nutrient Management	\$25-\$52/Ac	Salinity and Sodic Management	\$18-\$34/Ac
Pest Management	\$10-\$42/Ac	No Till	\$21-\$27/Ac

Higher payments are only used in targeted areas with directed efforts

Continue with current high priority practices. Implemented as recommended

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) Prioritization

Step Two: Special Ranking Consideration: Prioritization of Offer Type - Circle the Correct Priority

Offer Type	Priority
Any Duration Easement Offer of at Least 20 Acres with 2:1 up to 9:1 upland to wetland ratio, AND 100% Cropland Acres; OR Tribal 30-year Contract	High
Any Duration Easement Offer of at Least 20 Acres with 2:1 up to 9:1 upland to wetland ratio including non-cropland; OR Any Duration Offer with Existing Conservation Easements	Medium
Any Duration Offer with Less Than 2:1 Upland to Wetland Ratio; OR Any Duration Offer with Less Than 20 Acres	Low

- Allows for a 30 year offer to be considered a high priority
- Allowed for 2 offers to be accepted without appraisals (saves time and funds)
- Extended 3 perpetual offers and single 30 year offer with allocation

Implemented as recommended.

SD NRCS Financial Assistance Support to Conservation

■ FY2026 Applications by Program

Program	Applications	Fund Requested	Funds Available
EQIP	1861	\$181.32 Million*	\$31.88 Million
CSP	530	\$79.94 Million*	\$17.70 Million
RCPP (LMR & Easements)	24	\$3.21 Million	\$1.51 Million
ACEP-ALE	18	\$34.96 Million	\$1.81 Million
ACEP-WRE	42	\$35.61 Million	\$3.65 Million

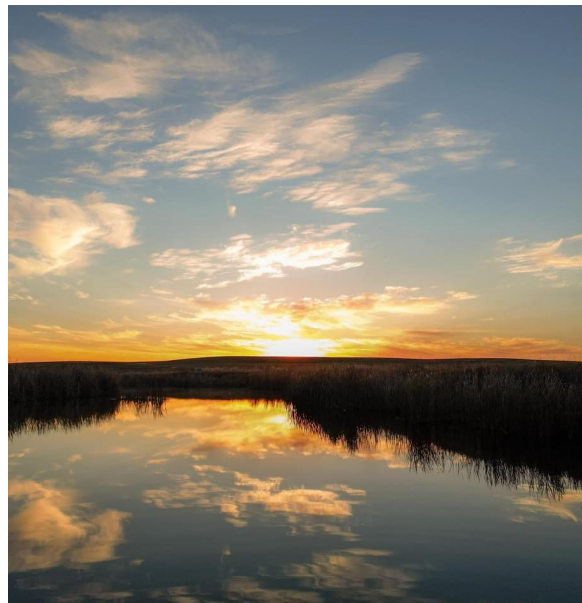
* Based on average contract obligation in FY2025

Snapshot of Progress

- First EQIP contract obligated in the state on April 8th.
- Ranking date for EQIP applications was April 10th
- Ranking date for CSP is May 8
- Easement offers have been extended
- Requested additional funds and will hear in May
- Looking to meet with Programs subcommittee within the next couple of months to plan for FY2027

Questions

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605-690-6724



News Release

Contact

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Prairie Pothole Region to have Water Bank Program

(Huron, S.D., April 15, 2026) – For Fiscal Year 2026, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is granted \$2 million to fund landowner enrollment in the Water Bank Program (WBP) for the Prairie Pothole Region of South Dakota (SD), North Dakota, and Minnesota.

The purposes of WBP include preserving and improving major wetlands as habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife, conserving surface waters, reducing soil and wind erosion, contributing to flood control, improving water quality, improving subsurface moisture, and enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape.

Funded applicants receive an annual per acre payment: \$50/acre on cropland, \$35/acre for pastureland (including non-cropped wetlands), and \$20/acre for forestland. All contracts are nonrenewable 10-year rental agreements based on high, medium, and low priority rankings for each land use:

- High: Cropland impacted by flooding.
- Medium: Pasture, hay, and range lands impacted by flooding.
- Low: Forest and other lands impacted by flooding.

Landowners impacted by flooding on cropland, pastureland, hayland, rangeland, forestland, and other lands are encouraged to apply. Applications in SD will be accepted April 15, 2026, to May 15, 2026. For more information, please [contact your local service center](#).

###

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Detailed Meeting Summary: South Dakota NRCS Practice Standards Review

Participants:

- Ryan Kruse (acting State Resource Conservationist, South Dakota)
- Brandon Walter (State Biologist)
- Emily Rohrer (State Rangeland Management Specialist)
- Marcia Deneke (State Agronomist)
- Laura Bosworth (State Forester)
- Rachel Lawton (Urban Conservationist)
- Angela Jackson (Organic Advisor, South Dakota Specialty Producers Association)
- Katie Christensen (Technical Service Provider, rancher, crop advisor)
- Eric Magedanz (Senior Private Lands Habitat Biologist, Game Fish and Parks)
- Bruce Toay (Manager of Conservation Programs, Products Unlimited)
- Angela SDACD (South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts)

Practices Discussed and Participant Input:

- **Prescribed Grazing (soon to be renamed Grazing Management):**
 - Eric Magedanz questioned whether changing the grazing season by two weeks is enough to impact plant communities. Emily Rohrer welcomed more research and guidance. Suggestions included offering enhancements for longer rest periods and providing more information on the ecological impact of timing changes.
- **Fence:**
 - Katie Christensen raised concerns about the cost and feasibility of meeting specifications, especially in remote areas. Bruce Toay and Brandon Walter discussed challenges with keeping up with new technologies and the strictness of specifications, which can lead to payment delays or rework for minor deviations. There was a call for more common sense in field inspections.
- **Brush Management:**
 - Eric Magedanz noted payment issues for early-stage brush management, which is ecologically preferable. Emily Rohrer agreed and suggested more training for early intervention.
- **Herbaceous Weed Treatment:**
 - No specific feedback was given.
- **Structures for Wildlife (Practice 649):**
 - No specific feedback was given.
- **Wildlife Habitat Planting (Practice 420):**

- Brandon Walter explained the shift from Conservation Cover to Wildlife Habitat Planting for better tracking and discipline ownership. Marcia Deneke raised questions about planning for plugs and pots, as current tools do not support these. Brandon plans to develop technical notes or guidance documents.
- **Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Practice 390):**
 - No specific feedback was given.
- **Soil Carbon Amendment:**
 - Marcia Deneke reported high interest, especially for biochar and compost, but noted challenges in setting minimum application rates and setbacks, and in evaluating compost teas and slurries. Guidance is being developed, and peer-reviewed research is needed.
- **Nutrient Management:**
 - Marcia Deneke highlighted a proposed change requiring soil tests to be no older than one year, which could increase workload for planners.
- **Pest Management:**
 - Marcia Deneke described difficulties with new mitigation strategies, especially for fungicides and insecticides, due to changes in Agronomy Technical Note 5.

Process for Providing Feedback:

- Participants are encouraged to review Word documents for each practice, use track changes, and send comments or suggestions to the relevant lead (Emily Rohrer, Brandon Walter, Marcia Deneke).
- Feedback should include not just problems but also proposed solutions.
- Additional comments can be sent by email after the meeting; all input will be considered in future revisions.

Next Steps:

- Practice standards will be updated based on feedback, with changes expected to be adopted in the next fiscal year.
- Technical notes and guidance documents will be developed for areas lacking clarity (such as plugs and pots in habitat planting, and soil carbon amendment rates).
- Emily Rohrer will circulate the updated Grazing Management standard for review before it is finalized.
- Ryan Kruse will summarize the meeting and present key points at the upcoming State Technical Committee meeting.
- Participants are invited to continue providing feedback and attend future review sessions.

South Dakota NRCS State Technical Committee

Engineering Subcommittee Update

April 21, 2026

The engineering subcommittee included the following individuals:

- Jim Reedy, SCE, NRCS, Huron State Office
- Adam Mathiowetz, Engineer, SD DANR Water Rights Program
- Zack Stuteville, NRCS Area Engineer, Rapid City
- Nathan Benson, NRCS Area Engineer, Pierre
- Brett Pettigrew, NRCS Area Engineer, Brookings

Note: I did not include any well drillers on the subcommittee due to the variability of well control/plugging methods from one corner of the state to the other; far too many opinions to parse.

Controlling Existing Flowing Well (CPS 352): The subcommittee discussed the fact that uncontrolled flowing wells are a concern in the state and providing financial assistance to cap/control is probably a good thing; we must be careful, however, not to get sideways with state laws/rules. Below are a few that apply (not an all-inclusive list).

SD Well Construction Standards (AR74:02:04):

AR74:02:04:76 – Any well that flows or may flow shall be constructed to allow the completed well to be completely shut off or the flow reduced to no more than 5 gallons per minute to prevent freezing when not in use.

AR74:02:04:67 – Requirements for plugging wells or test holes completed into confined aquifers or encountering more than one aquifer... must be plugged with...

SD Codified Laws:

SDCL 46-6-21 – No owner or person in control of a large capacity artesian well may allow it to flow without a proper or sufficient casing or without a valve or contrivance for checking or preventing the flow of water if the Water Management Board determines the installation of a casing, valve, or contrivance is feasible.

SDCL 46-6-27 – If the owner of an existing well drills a replacement well and if the owner has no plan to use the existing well, the existing well is considered abandoned. The well owner shall plug the abandoned well within thirty days after the new well is ready for use. Any well that is being used or is not considered abandoned shall be sealed and capped at the surface.

SDCL 46-6-15 – The owner of an uncontrolled artesian well shall notify the Water Management Board in writing of the location and size of the well. An uncontrolled artesian well is one that cannot be controlled by mechanical means.

The subcommittee recommends that SD NRCS adopt CPS 352, with the condition that a licensed well-driller must perform an evaluation of the flowing well to determine if control is feasible, prior to executing an NRCS contract. This will require training of our field staff and up-front expense on the well-owner's part before contracting. As was stated by one member of the subcommittee, *"the practical issue is that most of the wells that need better well head controls probably aren't in a condition where modifying the well head can be done without risking potential well casing blow out issues"*. Only a professional can make that determination.

Water Well (CPS 642): South Dakota NRCS has incorporated the national variance language that temporarily removes the requirement for aquifer testing of every well we fund.

The national standard is now on the list of practices being presented at the Producer Roundtables taking place around the country.

I received good feedback from Adam on the national standard language and will incorporate the feedback into what we receive from the roundtable and send to the national discipline lead.

Livestock Shelter Structure (CPS 576):

Portable Fabricated Windbreaks – We've received inquiries about whether angle bracing is required. SD NRCS borrowed/adopted a standard drawing from ND NRCS, which includes the angle braces (drawings are attached). When the drawing was developed in ND, they had structural design expertise in-house to perform analysis of the typical portable windbreak, which required the use of the angle braces to meet wind load requirements. So, until I receive a structural design analysis from a supplier that clearly allows for the exclusion of angle bracing, I don't intend to allow the use of any portable windbreaks without it. This was clearly communicated to all engineers and civil engineering technicians when we met in person two weeks ago, I intend to follow up with written communication soon.



Conservation Practice Overview

January, 2025

Controlling Existing Flowing Well (Code 352)

The capping and controlling of an existing flowing artesian well at the wellhead to stop or reduce water discharge from within the well casing.

Practice Information

This practice applies to agricultural land with an existing well intended for agricultural water supply that has uncontrolled water discharge.

A water well evaluation is required before work can begin to control the existing flowing well. The evaluation will determine if the well and water source is adequate for agricultural use. Failure to evaluate the well casing may lead to greater problems than the existing condition. A licensed water well contractor is required onsite during the evaluation to determine if controlling the flow is practical and to recommend methods to control the flow. A licensed water well contractor must perform all work on an existing flowing well.

Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Groundwater Testing (Code 355) and Aquifer Flow Test (CEMA 224) are commonly applied with other NRCS CPSs such as Well Decommissioning (Code 351) and Water Well (Code 642).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
CONTROLLING EXISTING FLOWING WELL
CODE 352

(no)

DEFINITION

The capping and controlling of an existing flowing artesian well at the wellhead to stop or reduce water discharge from within the well casing.

PURPOSE

This practice is used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

- Prevent surface and groundwater depletion.
- Protect shallow ground water resources from organic and inorganic contamination.
- Prevent flooding or ponding.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to:

Agricultural land with an existing well intended for agricultural water supply that has uncontrolled water discharge.

This practice is intended for a site where no unidentified or potentially hazardous waste is observed or expected per Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) National Engineering Manual (NEM) (Title 210), Part 503, Subpart E, "Prohibited Technical Assistance."

This practice standard does not apply to:

- Well decommissioning. See NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS), Well Decommissioning, Code 351.
- A well where the casing is not structurally sound and/or the annulus seal is not adequate.
- Spring developments. See NRCS CPS Spring Development, Code 574.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All

NRCS reviews and periodically updates conservation practice standards. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service State office or visit the Field Office Technical Guide online by going to the NRCS website at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/> and type FOTG in the search field.

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NRCS, NHCP
June 2025

Purposes Laws and Regulations

Planned work must comply with all applicable governmental regulations, laws, permits, licenses, and registrations.

Roles and Responsibilities

NRCS staff with appropriate Job Approval Authority or licensed water well contractor must complete a well evaluation before work can commence to control the existing flowing well.

A licensed water well contractor is required onsite during the evaluation to determine if controlling the flow is practical and which methods could be used to control the flow. A licensed water well contractor must perform all work on an existing flowing well.

Well Evaluation Requirement

Collect and review all available data related to the well, including as-built construction and maintenance records to determine if the well is adequate for agricultural use:

- Evaluate well casing and annulus condition using a downhole camera and/or geophysical logging. Determine if well casing is intact and is installed according to industry standards and state law.
- If the well casing is not defective and replacement, repair, decommissioning, or a new well is not needed, evaluate water quality and quantity.
- Test water quality according to CPS Groundwater Testing, Code 355.
- Evaluate well production. Refer to Title 210, National Engineering Handbook, (NEH) Part 631, Chapter 31, "Groundwater Investigations" Section 631.3112, "Aquifer Testing" for guidance on conducting, recording, and analyzing aquifer tests.
- If the well is necessary but the evaluation shows the well is not suitable, refer to CPS 642 Water Well.

Seal the well according to CPS Water Well Decommissioning, Code 351 if:

- The casing is not structurally sound and repairs are not practical.
- The water quality is unsuitable for the intended purpose and there is no feasible treatment option.
- The well production is inadequate for the intended purpose.
- The well is not needed.

Well Head Design

If there is potential serviceability, install a watertight and frost proof control valve at the top of the well after the well evaluation.

Design wellhead to:

- Contain aquifer pressures at the surface.
- Shut off flow when water is not used.
- Withstand cold temperatures and freezing and prevent frost damage.
- Produce the available water supply when used.
- Accommodate any flammable, toxic, or asphyxiating gas the aquifer may produce.
- Protect from damage by animals and vehicles.

Disinfection

Flowing artesian wells generally do not require disinfection unless a well tests positive for bacteria. To disinfect a flowing artesian well, install a temporary casing extension above the potentiometric level to stop the flow and increase chlorine contact time. Alternatively, secure a tight well or seal and pump the chlorine into the well through the cap.

Disinfect the well with a minimum chlorine solution concentration of 50 mg/L (50 ppm), or the minimum chlorine solution concentration specified by the regulating authority, whichever is greater. After adding the chlorine solution, agitate the well water to distribute the solution, and keep the well undisturbed for a minimum of 12 hours to allow for disinfection.

When the casing extension or cap is removed, discharge will flush chlorine from the well. If discharged chlorinated water has the potential to harm the environment, use a neutralizing agent, such as Vitamin C, to inactivate the chlorine. Add to sump or discharged chlorinated water.

Protection

Divert all surface runoff, precipitation, and drainage away from the wellhead. Compact, mound, and slope earth material away from the wellhead. Protect the wellhead and associated appurtenances from contamination or damage by wildlife, livestock, farm machinery, vehicle parking, or other harmful human activity. When needed, vegetate disturbed areas surrounding the wellhead according to NRCS CPS Critical Area Planting, Code 342.

CONSIDERATIONS

This practice may be part of a groundwater protection system that includes water quality management practices.

Consider rehabilitating costs against well decommissioning and drilling a new well designed to perform the same purpose.

To the extent practicable, rehabilitate the well in a manner that does not impair the current land use near the well or the installation of future land management practices.

Consider all relevant geological, biological, physical, and climatic conditions of the soil, rock, groundwater and topography in determining the best methods to control the discharge of the existing flowing well.

Consider water treatment options. Refer to Title 210, NEH Part 631, Chapter 31, "Groundwater Investigations", Section 631.3108 "Groundwater Quality" for guidance on treatment options.

Consider potential impacts associated with discharging artesian flows, such as erosion and ground instability (e.g., sink holes and subsidence) and hazards (e.g., pooled water or ice).

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Prepare plans and specifications for controlling flows in a well that describes requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose(s). If not already specified in state required documentation, ensure the following information is recorded in the installation record:

- Location of water well by Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates or in a sufficiently detailed narrative description to readily locate the well.

- Date of completion of controlling flowing well.
- Well owner name and address.
- Name and address of water well contractor responsible for the installation of the work.
- Length and inside diameter of all casing and screen set including gage (slot size) of casing screen.
- Type of schedule casing material (e.g., standard weight steel, PVC Schedule 80).
- Packer type and depth(s), if used.
- Record flow rate and pressure.
- Driller's well log.
- Artesian formation name and depth.
- Type of capping materials or valve used to control artesian flow at the wellhead.
- Aquifer testing result, including test type (e.g., step drawdown or constant rate), test length, stability of water level, pumping rate, and specific capacity after water level is stable.
- Detailed documentation of all pertinent information to the site conditions and other problems encountered during controlling flows.
- Presence of natural hazardous gasses, such as carbon dioxide, methane, or hydrogen sulfide, as applicable.
- If water quality tests were performed, record the parameters, test method and results, sampling date, name of person who took sample, and name of laboratory that conducted testing.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Prepare a plan for operation and maintenance of the water well and improvements installed. The owner is responsible for keeping and maintaining well construction records with the maintenance plan. The owner must ensure periodic inspection of the well to confirm it is properly functioning and producing acceptable water quality. The inspection must include conditions that affect well performance as designed for the water use. As a minimum, these conditions include:

Declines in discharge, static potentiometric surface (well head pressure), and maximum pumping level, that are outside of acceptable limits for proper functioning as well as the following:

- Appearance of sediment that may damage the well, pump, or appurtenances.
- Changes in water quality including odor, color, taste, and chemistry.
- Bacteria presence.
- Evidence of leaking casing or valves or other damage to the well.

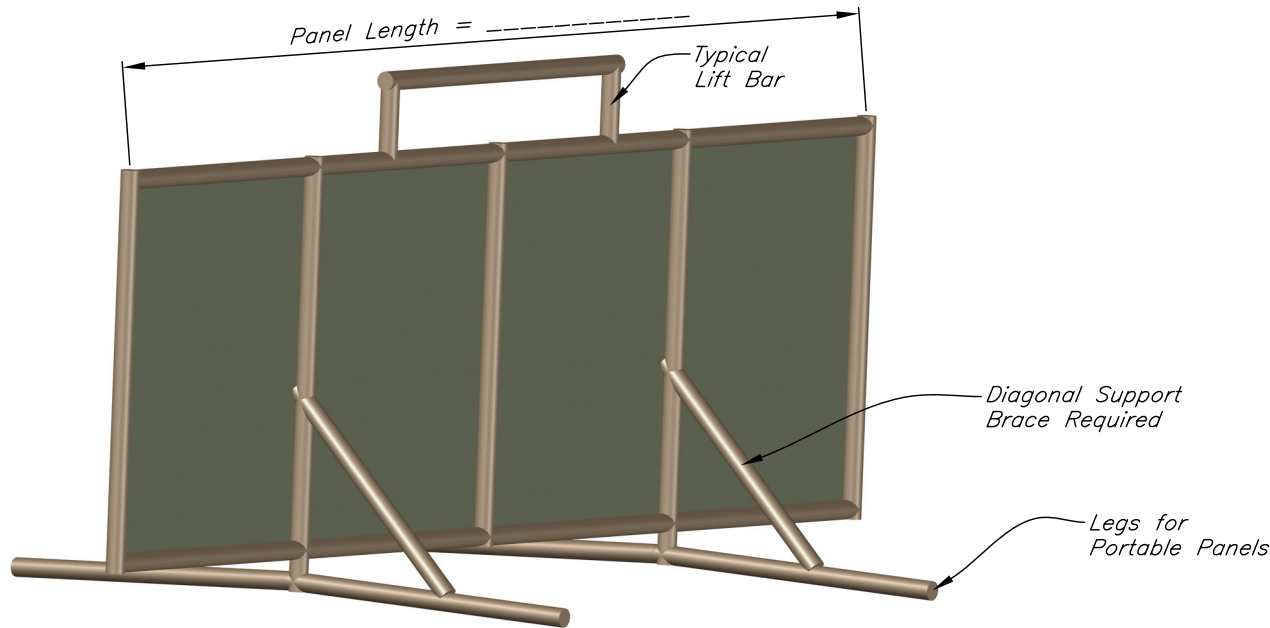
Include in the maintenance plan statements describing identified problems, corrective action taken and date, and specific capacity of well before and after corrective action was taken. The owner must remedy unacceptable well construction conditions in a timely manner.

REFERENCES

USDA NRCS. 2017. National Engineering Manual (NEM) (Title 210), Part 503, Subpart E, "Prohibited Technical Assistance".

USDA NRCS. 2021. National Engineering Handbook (NEH)(Title 210), Part 650, Chapter 12, Section 650.1205, "Wells" and Section 650.1202 "Water Supply Source".

USDA NRCS. 2022. National Engineering Handbook (Title 210), Part 631, Chapter 31, Section 631.3112, "Groundwater Aquifer Testing".



FABRICATED WINDBREAK PANEL UNIT ISOMETRIC DETAIL
No Scale

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

1. If cultural resources are discovered during construction, discontinue construction and notify the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

2. The landowner is responsible for complying with all federal, state, and local laws.

3. No excavator may begin any excavation without first notifying the SD One-Call Notification Center of the proposed excavation at 811 or 1-800-781-7474 at least 2 working days prior to starting any excavation.

4. Prevailing wind direction can be determined from the web site <http://climate.sdstate.edu/windrose/windrose.shtm> or determined from a field investigation with NRCS.

5. Locate the livestock shelter structure on level, uninterrupted terrain, if possible. If the shelter must be located downwind of a hill, place the shelter as far downwind as possible. A shelter upwind of a hill shall be placed a minimum of 75 times the shelter height upwind of the base of the hill. Locate structures a minimum of 100 feet from any surface water bodies, 150 feet from an up-gradient well, and 300 feet from a down-gradient well. Select locations that will not have surface water flow through the structure.
6. Recommended to provide a separate rubbing bar on downwind side of panels to help protect against livestock damage.

7. Diagonal support braces may be attached to windward or leeward side of panel. Diagonal support braces shall be bolted or welded to horizontal legs as shown.

8. Anchoring is required and can be achieved through a number of methods including soil anchors or placement of weighted items on the legs of the structure.

9. Panels require minimum of 180 lbs. pullout resistance and 450 lbs. sliding resistance per each leg to prevent overturning and sliding at the following design wind speeds:
Overturning without anchorage = 63 mph
Sliding without anchorage = 36 mph
Overturning with anchorage = 80 mph
Sliding with Anchorage = 80 mph

One 3/4" f smooth steel pin driven 24" plum into medium stiff soil and chained to tip of each leg provides these capacities. Provide this or an equivalent anchorage.

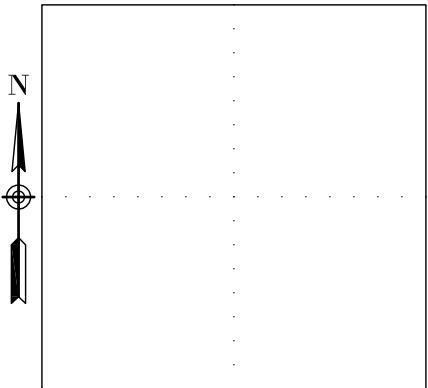
10. Linking adjacent panels together is recommended.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Inspect fabricated windbreak annually and following significant wind events. Adjust anchoring and repair as needed.

SD CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS

SD-17 Metal Fabrication and Installation
For A Full Text Version See <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/SD/documents/section=4&folder=-843>



____, Sec ____ , T ____ , R ____
____ County, South Dakota
LOCATION MAP

Structure Size	
Linear Feet of Fabricated Windbreak for Each Structure	

ESTIMATED TABLE OF QUANTITIES					
Item	Unit	Quantity Per Structure	Number of Structures	Total Quantity	As-Built
Fabricated Windbreak Panel Unit	Each				
Anchors with Chain (Each Leg Tip)	Each				

AS-BUILT DATA						
Fabricated Windbreak ID or Num.	(L) Wing Length (Ft.)	(D) Shelter Width (Ft.)	(H) Shelter Height (Ft.)	Panel Length (Ft.)	Type of Rub Rail	Total Length (Ft.)

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Construction (was) (was not) completed in accordance with approved construction plans and specifications.

____ JAA _____ Date

STRAIGHT-LINE PORTABLE PANEL FABRICATED WINDBREAK
SHEET 1
JOB PLAN 21.6 REV. 07/2025

Date _____

Designed _____

Drawn _____

Checked _____

Approved _____

NAME: 576 LIVESTOCK SHELTER STRUCTURE

Straight-Line Portable Panel Fabricated Windbreak

____, Sec ____ , T ____ , R ____ County, South Dakota

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service

File No. Job Plan 21.6.dwg

Drawing No. _____

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Sheet 1 of 2

PROTECTED AREA NEEDED			
Livestock Type	Livestock Numbers	Ft²/Animal	Area (Ft²)
Yearling		35	
Beef Cow		50	
Sheep		15	
Total Area Needed (Ft²)			
Number of Fabricated Windbreaks			

DIMENSIONS FOR FABRICATED WINDBREAK							
Select Size	Protected Area (Sq. Ft.)	Shelter Length L (Ft)	Shelter Height H (Ft)	# of Panels	Number of Anchors for Legs	Portable Windbreak Panel Size	
	3,264	48	8.0	2	8	8 Ft.	24 Ft.
	4,896	72	8.0	3	12	8 Ft.	24 Ft.
	6,528	96	8.0	4	16	8 Ft.	24 Ft.
	8,160	120	8.0	5	20	8 Ft.	24 Ft.

Protected Area = 0.85 * 10 * H * L

MATERIAL NOTES

1. All materials shall be new or like new, free of any defects such as bends, cracks, or excessive rust.

2. Panel covering is 22 gage or thicker corrugated super steel or roofdeck. Panels should be bolted or screwed to the windward side of the panel frame utilizing bolts, self-toppers, rivets or plug welds. The use of rubber washers is preferred. Panel shall have maximum porosity of 20%.

3. Vertical Steel shall be ASTM A500 Carbon Steel 2" x 2" X 1/8" (11 gauge) steel tubing size or larger.

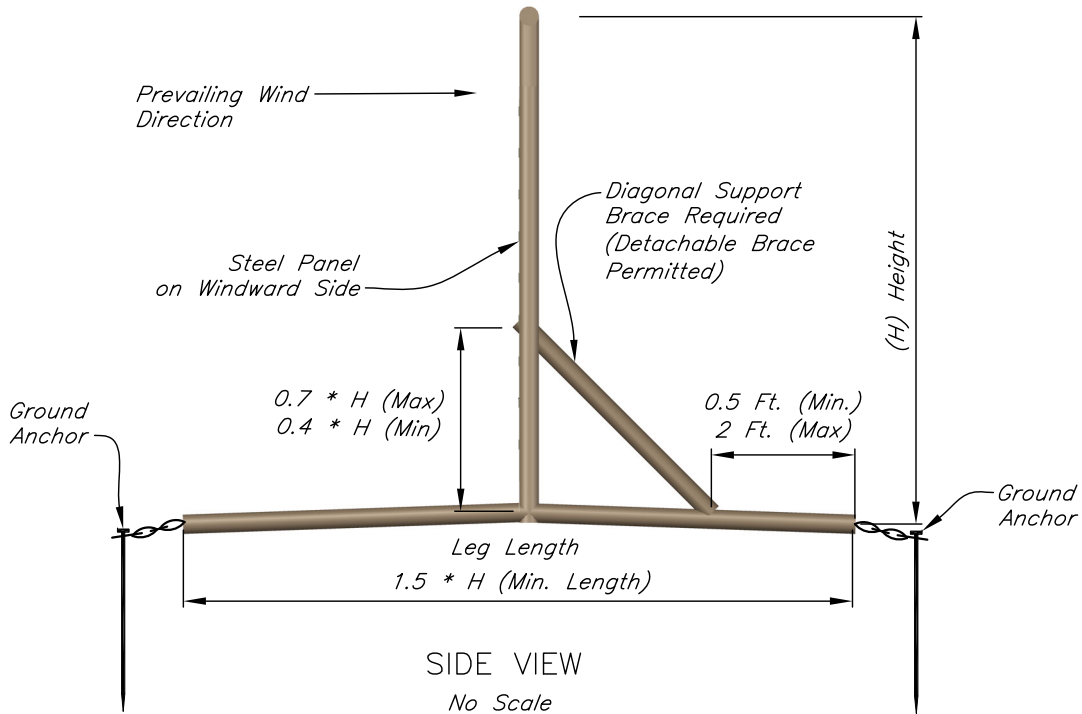
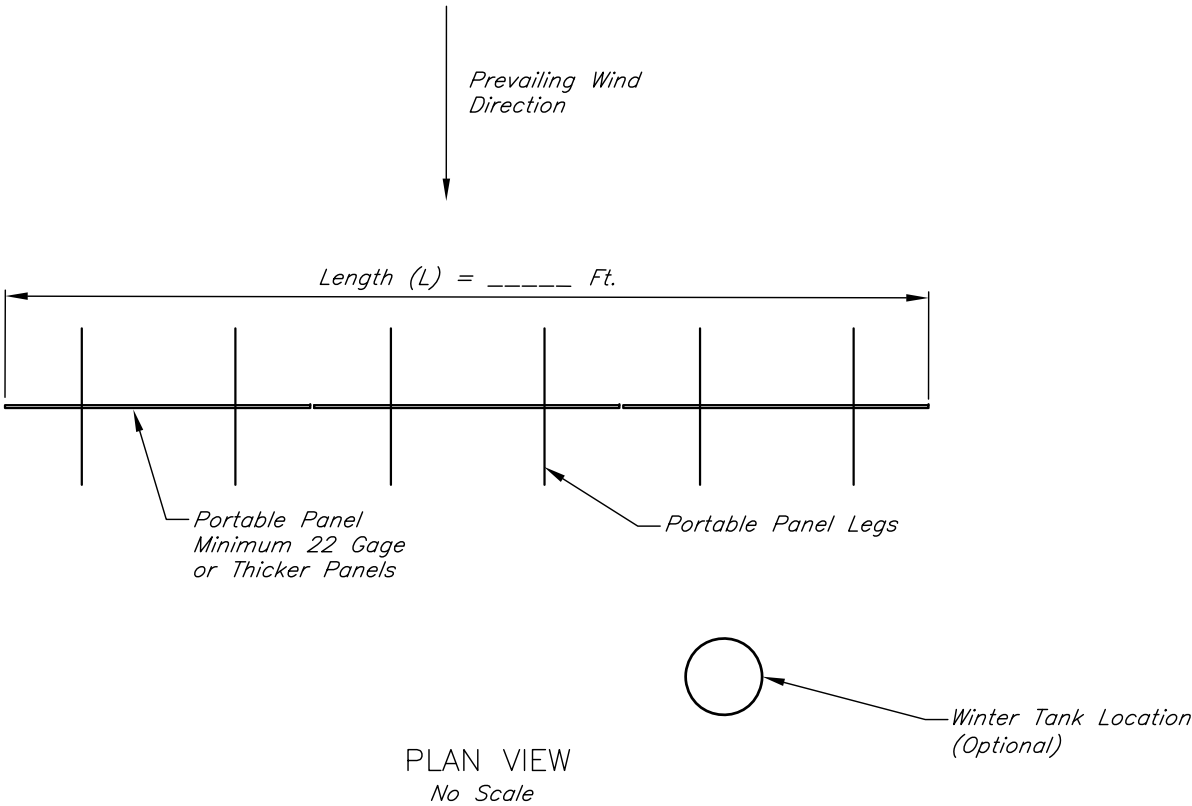
4. The diagonal support brace shall be either 2 7/8" drill stem pipe or larger or the following ASTM A500 Carbon Steel or larger:
 - 2" x 2" x 1/4" angle
 - 2" x 2" x 1/8" rectangular
 - 1.9" x 0.12" round
5. Legs may be 2 7/8" drill stem pipe.

6. Bottom and top rail may be 2 7/8" drill stem pipe or ASTM A500 Carbon Steel 2" x 2" X 1/8" (11 gauge) steel tubing size or larger.

7. All drill stem pipe shall be 2 7/8" standard drill stem pipe. Pipe must have a minimum remaining body wall of 70% (7.5 LB/LF), be clean enough to permit inspection, and reasonably round, straight, and free from defects which might impair pipe strength.

8. Steel members shall be malleable, weldable, and carbon steel. Bolts, tapping screws, rods, nuts, washers, and other hardware shall be an appropriate grade of galvanized steel.

9. Welded connections shall be continuous and extend the full length of the joint where applicable. Welds shall be free of surface flaws including cracks, porosity and unfilled craters.



STRAIGHT-LINE PORTABLE PANEL FABRICATED WINDBREAK
SHEET 2
JOB PLAN 21.6 REV. 07/2025

Date

Designed

Drawn

Checked

Approved

NAME: 576 LIVESTOCK SHELTER STRUCTURE

Straight-Line Portable Panel Fabricated Windbreak

County, South Dakota

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service

File No.

Job Plan 21.6.dwg

Drawing No.

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Sheet 2 of 2

Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (TCAC) Sub-Committee Report for April 21, 2026 State Technical Committee

Nate Grueb, State Tribal Liaison, USDA NRCS South Dakota

The TCAC has been working on restructuring the subcommittee to have better organization, and be more focused, with dedicated members to reflect the genuine voice of the Tribes.

Progress:

TCAC has appointed members for Standing Rock, Cheyenne River, and Yankton

The State Tribal Liaison met and discussed TCAC with Sisseton Wahpeton and Lower Brule Sioux Tribes. Both have identified an appointee, just need approval

Contacts made with Oglala Lakota ST and Flandreau ST; Meetings planned

Working on initial communications with Rosebud ST and Crow Creek ST; Utilizing Partners to make contacts

Subcommittee's goal is to have everyone in place by July 1, 2026. Introduction/educational TCAC subcommittee meetings are planned to be held before the next STC meeting in September 2026.

SD Pheasants Forever Report for 4-21-26 NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting

Staff

- Farm Bill Biologist team is now fully staffed after hiring Benjamin Lyons in Watertown in January and Annie Feden in Mitchell in February. They're busy assisting landowners with enrollment into CRP, EQIP, RBI, and other conservation program delivery throughout the state.
- Habitat Specialist team is now fully staffed after hiring Jeremy Smith in Burke in January and Mitchell Ulrich in Mitchell in February. They're busy helping manage Game Production Areas across the state including preparing food plots, assisting with prescribed burns, removing dead trees, and other various land management practices.
- Prescribed Fire Biologist team of Cody Grewing and Kendall Hettick based in Chamberlain has been acquiring and preparing their equipment for prescribed fire season. They have been busy working with landowners to develop prescribed fire plans and are ready to assist in prescribed burns once field conditions allow.
- Monarch and Native Pollinator Biologist Carter Sergeant is working to deliver a NFWF project focused on improving soil health and water quality. He is doing so through field visits with landowners, awareness campaigns and also coordinating with conservation partners including SCHF, SD NRCS, SDGFP, and other private lands biologists within the project area of the eastern third of the state.
- Easement Habitat Specialist Mark Becker is preparing for seedings this year and installing signs on NRCS easements throughout eastern SD.

Cost-Share Programs

- The Dakota Skipper NFWF is accepting applications for restoration, prescribed fire, barbed-wire, and high-tensile wire projects to be completed in 2026. Please see attached document with program overview and application.

SD Public Access To Habitat (PATH) Program

- Since 9-1-2023 SD PF and SDGFP staff have worked together to develop 90 PATH contracts for 77,825.25 acres in 37 counties throughout the state to provide public access to private lands.
- Through this effort PATH has opened 2,451 acres of land locked public ground in SD as well.

SD Legislative Action Support

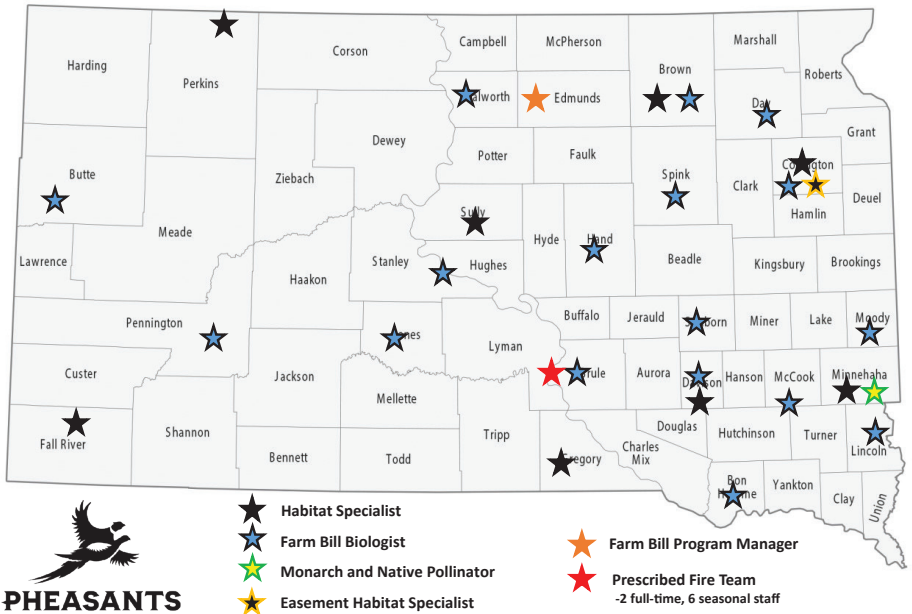
- Provided letter of support for HB1001 (prescribed burning of state-owned land by a person owning adjoining land) which passed.
- Provided letters of support and in-person testimony for SB 222 (make an appropriation for riparian buffer initiative [RBI] projects) which passed.

SOUTH DAKOTA FACT SHEET

Pheasants Forever's mission is to conserve pheasants, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education, and conservation advocacy.

SD Farm Bill Biologist FY 2026 Impacts

- 18 staff members (see map)
- Assisted in delivery of federal, state, and local conservation programs impacting 341,281 acres statewide
- 871 conservation plans
- 2,359 landowner contacts
- 784 status reviews
- 221 easement monitorings 55 education events hosted (workshops, tours, articles)
- Doesn't include April-June 2026
- Accomplished in partnership with SD NRCS & SD GFP



South Dakota FY 2025 Chapter Accomplishments

- 37 active chapters
- 7,932 members
- \$338,000 in chapter contributions
- Record number of Habitat Projects totaling more than 3,900 acres of impacted lands
- 3 Build A Wildlife Area® Projects completed totaling approximately 325 acres



South Dakota Public Access to Habitat (PATH)

- Enrolled over 77,900 acres of new public access since 9-1-23
- 96 properties enrolled in 37 counties
- Provides supplemental payments to those made by SD GFP through the Voluntary Public Access Program administered by SD NRCS
- Annual goal of 10,000 new acres & \$250,000 in landowner payments
- PATH has now expanded within PF & QF in NE, ND, OK, & MI



SD FY 2026 Monarch & Native Pollinator Biologist

- Delivering cost-share program to restore 540 acres to grasslands & improve 2,100 acres through prescribed burning and/or grazing infrastructure
- 13 Landowner and Youth Educational Events reaching over 1,000 people
- Created educational materials on pollinators to be distributed by conservation partners including SDGFP & SD Grassland Coalition
- Accomplished in partnership with SD NRCS

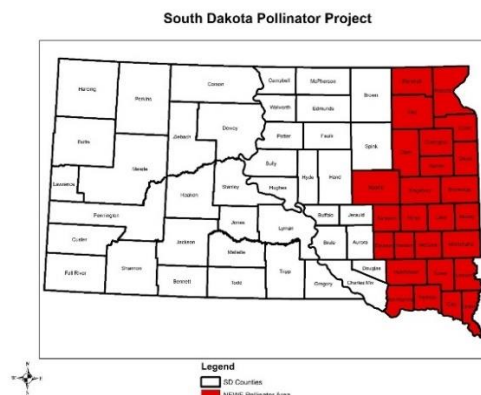
South Dakota Dakota Skipper Project

Program Overview

Quality habitat establishment and management to provide appropriate areas for Monarchs, Dakota Skippers, and other native pollinators.

What acres are eligible for this program?

- Enrollment is focused on creating and maintaining quality pollinator habitat. All acres that plan on utilizing burning, rotational grazing, or creating new pollinator focused habitat will be considered.
- Acres must be within the following counties in eastern SD: Marshall, Day, Clark, Beadle, Miner, McCook, Turner, Clay, Union, Minnehaha, Lincoln, Grant, Sanborn, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Bon Homme, Yankton, Moody, Lake, Brookings, Deuel, Hamlin, Codington, Roberts, Kingsbury, Spink.



How is Pollinator Habitat defined?

- Newly created pollinator habitat - Requirements for seed mixes would be 25 native species with three species within each bloom period and no more than 50% native grasses.

What is the contract length?

- Contract length is 10 years. It is required that participants keep established pollinator habitat and fencing infrastructure in place for this period, with appropriate management during this period.

What are the cost-share rates?

- Establishing New Pollinator Habitat – Seed reimbursement of \$200/acre.
- Prescribed Fire on established acres *cannot be enrolled in other C/S programs* – \$48/acre
- Grazing Infrastructure – *must meet EQIP Standards*
 - High Tensile Fence – up to \$0.52/foot
 - Multi-Strand Barbed Wire Fence – up to \$0.87/foot

Are there any additional considerations for landowners?

- Landowners should be aware that reasonable access is requested for monitoring after establishment or practice implantation takes place.

South Dakota Dakota Skipper Project Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Legal Description _____ Estimated Total Acres _____

By signing this application, I understand that:

This application is subject to approval by Pheasants Forever and associated partners involved and will be based on project priorities. **You must obtain prior approval for any work planned to be eligible for cost-share.**

Landowner must be willing to conduct one of the following habitat improvements: prescribed fire, grazing infrastructure (with grazing plan) or planting new pollinator acres with an approved seed mix containing 50% forbs minimum.

All invoices and receipts must be submitted to Pheasants Forever to be eligible for cost-share reimbursement. Pheasants Forever, Audubon Society, Game Fish and Parks, USFWS, and any associated partners will be granted reasonable access to inspect acres enrolled on the property listed above throughout the lifespan of the program. Vegetation and infrastructure must be kept intact for the duration of the program.

Cropland and pastureland within the following counties are eligible for this cost-share program: Marshall, Day, Clark, Beadle, Miner, McCook, Turner, Clay, Union, Minnehaha, Lincoln, Grant, Sanborn, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Bon Homme, Yankton, Moody, Lake, Brookings, Deuel, Hamlin, Codington, Roberts, Kingsbury, Spink.

The qualified acres will receive 100% cost-share up to \$48/acre for burning, \$200/acre for pollinator seed costs, \$0.52/foot for high tensile fence or up to \$0.87/foot for multi strand fences.

Once a contract is signed, you will be responsible for the maintenance of the enrolled acres for 10 years and will follow the contract and associated plans for the lifespan of the program.

Participant Signature

Date

Estimate of Potential Infrastructure Needed:

High Tensile Fence: Linear Feet _____

Multi-Strand Fence: Linear Feet _____ Number of Strands: _____

Prescribed Burning: Acres _____

Native Pollinator Seeding: Acres _____

**Some of the topics included in the
Grazing School agenda include:**

Adaptive Management
Concepts of Grazing
Managing Diversity on Rangelands
Working with Livestock
Pasture Allocation
Inventory of Ranch Resources
Plant Species Identification
Mineral Nutrition Needs of Livestock Seasonality
of Grazing Nutrition
Ranch Monitoring Techniques
Soil Health and Infiltration
Planning for a Forage Shortage
Fencing and Watering Systems
Holistic Management
Implementing Grazing Practices
Consultation with Grazing Experts

www.sdgrass.org



Grazing School participants will benefit from hands-on experience in the field

The Grazing School is designed for producers and anyone with an interest in learning how to best manage grasslands to benefit livestock.

The agenda features presenters from state and federal agencies, and universities. Area producers share their expertise about various topics related to grazing techniques and grassland management. Participants will hear presentations in the classroom and gain experience with hands-on activities in the field with pasture allocation activities with cattle at cooperating ranches.

Space is limited. Early registration is encouraged. Contact us at (605) 280-0127 or visit sdgrass.org for more information.

Mail-in Registration Form

Name: _____

Operation/Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of people attending from your operation: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ (\$300 for SDGC members; \$335 for non-members, which includes a one-year membership; \$150 for each additional person from the same operation.)

Legal Description of your operation: _____



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

The vision for the South Dakota Grassland Coalition is:
*To offer grazing land managers of South Dakota useful tools to
maintain healthy and diverse ecosystems while optimizing
available natural resources.*



Grazing School

Register online

www.sdgrass.org

Register by Mail

South Dakota Grasslands Coalition
Attn: Judge Jessop
24690 299th Ave
Presho, SD 57568

Cost

\$300 for SDGC Members
\$335 for non-members (includes
a one-year membership)
* Fee includes session materials
and meals

What you need to bring

Bring clothing for hot, cool, or wet
weather conditions.

www.sdgrass.org

South Dakota Grazing Schools 2026

Wall ~ June 16-18

Chamberlain ~ Sept 9-11

For Information & Registration

Judge Jessop

(605) 280-0127

judge.jessop@sdconservation.net
sdgrass.org

Send Registration to:

South Dakota Grassland Coalition

Attn: Judge Jessop

24690 299th Ave

Presho, SD 57568

REGISTER ONLINE:

<https://sdgrass.org/bird-watching-tour/>

Birds. At Home, on the Range. June 3-4, 2026

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number in Party: _____ ADULTS _____ STUDENTS

Interested in earning college graduate credit? ☐ YES ☐ NO *Contact Dr. Kristel Bakker: 605.256.5182 or Kristel.Bakker@dsu.edu.*
Registration is FREE to all SDGC members or \$35 per person (includes a 1-year membership)

Please mail registration form and payment to:

Judge Jessop

24690 299th Ave

Prescho, SD 57568

Please make checks payable to the South Dakota

Grassland Coalition.

For planning purposes, registration form and fee must
be received by **May 29, 2026**

LOCATION

Bien Ranch
Veblen, SD

COST

Free to current SDGC members and students; \$35 per person for non-members (includes a 1-year SDGC membership).

Meals included.

Lodging is on your own.

REGISTER



WHAT TO BRING

Bring your digital camera & binoculars.
Wearing appropriate clothing and sturdy, enclosed footwear for walking on uneven terrain, changing weather conditions and protection from the elements and injury is recommended.

LODGING

There are multiple options nearby, including Roy Lake State Park, Prairie Coteau Lodge, Prairie Sky Guest & Game Ranch, motels, and more. Check our website for a full list.



BIRDS. AT HOME ON THE RANGE

Annual

BIRD WATCHING TOUR

June 3-4, 2026

BIEN RANCH
VEBLEN, SD



GRASSLAND
COALITION

sdgrass.org

BIRD TOUR AGENDA

CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME

BIEN RANCH
JUNE 3-4, 2026

WED, JUNE 3

Central Daylight time

GATHER AT BIEN RANCH	3:25-4PM
WELCOME & INTRO TO SD GRASSLAND COALITION	4:00-4:15
HISTORY OF THE BIEN RANCH	4:15-5:00
BIRD IDENTIFICATION	5:00-5:45
SUPPER & REFRESHMENTS	5:45-6:45
RAINFALL SIMULATOR	6:45-7:30
BIRDING	7:30

THURS, JUNE 4

GATHER	5:30AM
SUNRISE COFFEE & ROLLS	5:30-5:55
BIRD WATCH/RECORD SPECIES	6:00-8:35
GROUPS TO ROTATE TO DIFFERENT STATIONS (40 min per station)	8:40 - 10:40
BREAK/DISCUSS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS	10:45-11:05
HABITAT PRESENTATION: GRASSLAND BIRDS	11:05-11:35
LUNCH & SLIDESHOW	11:35-12:35
GRASS MANAGER'S VIEW	12:40-1:30
KIDS' ACTIVITIES	1:30-2:00
CLOSING COMMENTS	2:00

REGISTER ONLINE:

<https://sdgrass.org/bird-watching-tour/>



Natural Resources Conservation Service

BIRDS. AT HOME ON THE RANGE

Annual BIRD WATCHING TOUR



Join us for a unique opportunity to explore the diverse grasslands of northeastern South Dakota and observe the abundant bird species that call this region home.

Experience firsthand how thoughtful rangeland management supports thriving wildlife populations while sustaining working ranches.

Whether you're an experienced birder, rancher, student, or simply someone who appreciates South Dakota's open spaces, this event offers learning, connection, and unforgettable early-morning birding.



LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Published: Sept. 2025

Shaping conservation priorities through local voices



WHAT IS LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION?

Local people know local problems best. Locally led conservation starts with their knowledge and experience. By bringing together communities, landowners, and local experts, we can identify and solve resource challenges in ways that fit each area. This protects soil, water, air, plants, and animals while supporting today's land use and ensuring healthy resources for future generations.

WHAT ARE THE RESOURCES?



SOIL



WATER



ANIMALS



PLANTS



AIR



WHAT ARE RESOURCE CONCERNS?

A resource concern is any natural or human caused issue that threatens soil, water, air, plants, or wildlife. When natural resources are at risk, they become a "resource concern."



WHY DO THEY MATTER?

Damaged resources take years to recover. Addressing resource concerns early helps nature heal and protects them for future generations.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

CONTACT

Contact your local conservation district or NRCS office for programs and guidance.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov



**South Dakota's
Conservation Districts**

www.sdconservation.org

VISIT

Visit SD's Natural Resource Concerns website to explore local issues:

www.sdresourceconcerns.org

GET INVOLVED

Get involved in local work group meetings and share your input.

LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION IN SOUTH DAKOTA

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LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION PROCESS

Locally led conservation is a community-driven process where producers, landowners, and partners come together to identify and solve natural resource concerns.

Guided by Conservation Districts and supported by NRCS technical staff, programs, and other partners, this approach ensures solutions reflect local knowledge and expertise.

It is based on the principle that **local people know local problems best**.



HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

1

Conservation Districts

Bring people together, guide the process, and help ensure local voices are heard.

2

Community Input

Landowners, producers, and residents identify local resource concerns.

3

Local Work Group (LWG)

Prioritizes resource concerns and recommends actions.

4

Conservation Districts

Facilitates process and forwards recommendations.

5

State Technical Committee (STC)

Reviews and elevates priorities to inform programs.

6

Conservation Programs & Partners

NRCS, agencies, and partners provide technical and financial resources to put solutions into action.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Directly shapes how conservation dollars are invested in South Dakota.
- Ensures programs reflect local needs and priorities.
- Builds stronger community partnerships.

WHO'S INVOLVED

Conservation & Agencies

- Conservation District supervisors & staff
- NRCS, FSA, Extension, DANR, GF&P, and other agencies

Agriculture & Natural Resources

- Farmers, ranchers, and commodity groups
- Fish, wildlife, and environmental organizations

Community & Leadership

- Local elected officials
- Tribal governments & representatives
- Community organizations
- Interested community members