South Dakota State Office

200 Fourth Street SW
Room 203
Huron, SD 57350

Ph: 605.352.1200
Fx: 855.256.2565

South Dakota State Technical Committee Meeting

September 9, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time
Mathews Training Center, 523 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 & 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
- Ecological Sciences Subcommittee
  - Jessica Michalski, State Resource Conservationist, Huron
- Engineering Subcommittee
  - James Reedy, State Conservation Engineer, Huron
- 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 determined at a later date. Persons needing accommodation should please contact the NRCS State Office one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

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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

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SD State Technical Committee
9/9/2026

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FY2027 FA Subcommittee Recommendations

- Management Practice update
- Specialty Production Identification
- Update to recommend core practice for Regenerative Pilot Program
- Update to High Priority Practice
- State Priority Resource Concerns
- Ranking Update
- Locally Led Priorities

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Management Practice Adjustment

- EQIP:
  - Limit management to three payments unless soil health test, CEMA 216 included.
  - If CEMA 216 is included, allow five years of payments
- CSP:
  - Policy requires continued implementation for the life of the contract once adopted

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Specialty Production

- Developed guide for planners to identify specialty producers
- Provides consistency across the state to identify dynamic operation differences and how they fit specialty production efforts
- Based on both state and national operations through collaboration of urban conservationists

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Regenerative Pilot Program

- National priority to address whole-farm resource concerns that support voluntary regenerative agriculture conservation plans.
- Common SD practices include: Cover Crop, Crop Rotation, Nutrient Management, No Till, Grazing Management, Pest Management
- SD has the opportunity to request to add core practices
- Request to add Range Planting

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Update to High-Priority Practice

- 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
- Program subcommittee suggested removing an unused practice and replace it with a perennial planting. Field boarder was specifically discussed for removal. After reviewing data, field boarder is used and will remain

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Crop Rotation	Prescribed Burning
Cover Crop	Prescribed Grazing
Field Border	Brush Management
Nutrient Management	Salinity and Sodic Management
Pest Management	No Till

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State Priority Resource Concerns

- Soil (Concentrated Erosion)
  - Plants (Degraded Plant Condition)
  - Water (Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss)
    - It was noted that agricultural waste systems serve a significant importance to surface water in SD and both nutrient management as a priority practice and water quality are in alignment with DANR priorities.
  - Animals (Livestock production limitation)
  - Plants (Pest pressure)
  - Soil (Soil quality limitations)
  - Animals (Terrestrial habitat)
  - Soil (Wind and water erosion)

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Ranking Data Layers updated

- Surface water quality priority areas
- Source water protection

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Local Priority Resource Concerns & Prioritization Overview

- Hosting Local Work Groups
- Collecting feedback to prioritize conservation planning and Program priorities
- Local priority impact will continue grow in FY2027 and beyond

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FY2027 Easement Subcommittee Recommendations

- ACEP-WRE
  - Ranking Update
- ACEP-ALE
  - Identify High-Priority areas for Grassland of Special Environmental Significance (GSS) and General components
  - Workload Prioritization

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Ranking Update Recommendation-WRE

- Prioritization tool does not add priority to perpetual easement offers
- Subcommittee recommendation is to add offers in perpetuity addition points in the ranking
- Subcommittee also recommended the following question updates:
  - Does the landowners qualify as ~~part of~~ a historically underserved ~~group ,~~ a limited resource producer, ~~a new/beginning farmer/rancher~~ or a veteran landowner?
  - How much of the offered land is ~~productive for growing crops~~ **used** for annual crop production?

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Identify High Priority Areas for ACEP- ALE and General

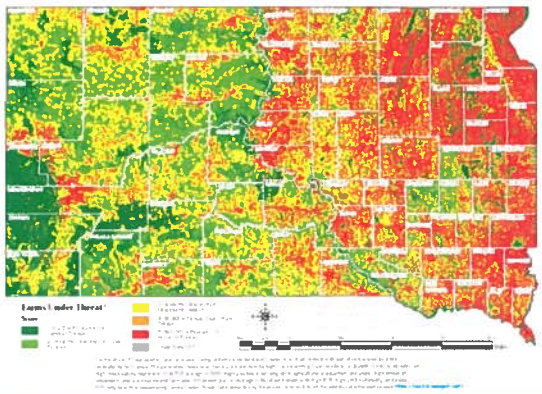
- Purpose is to protect the agricultural use and future viability of working farms and ranches by limiting non-agricultural development
- Protect grasslands to meet grazing and other needs for years to come
- Better communicate high-priority areas to interested parties

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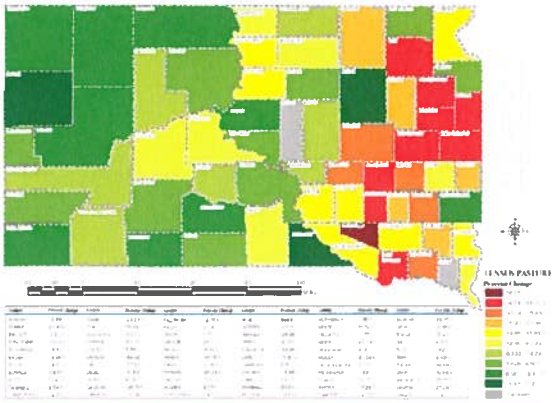
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SOUTH DAKOTA FARMS UNDER THREAT: 2040 OUTLOOK



SOUTH DAKOTA PASTURELAND CHANGE FROM 2017 TO 2022

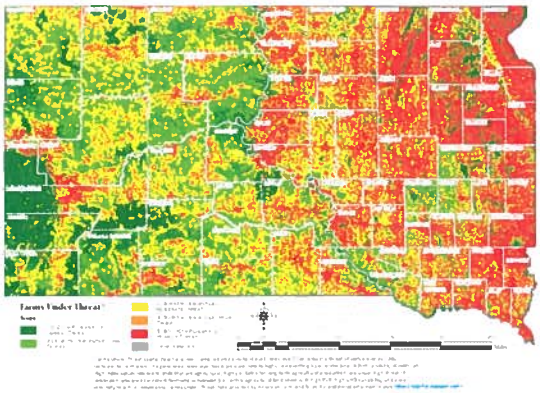


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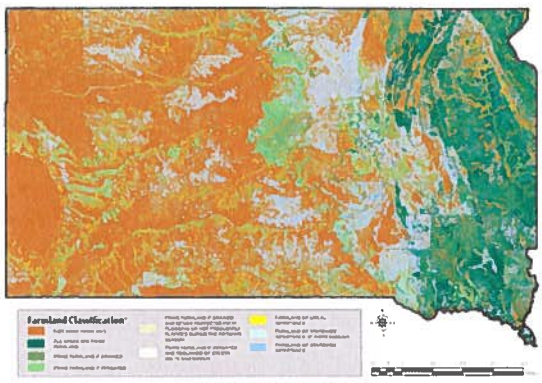
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SOUTH DAKOTA FARMS UNDER THREAT: 2040 OUTLOOK



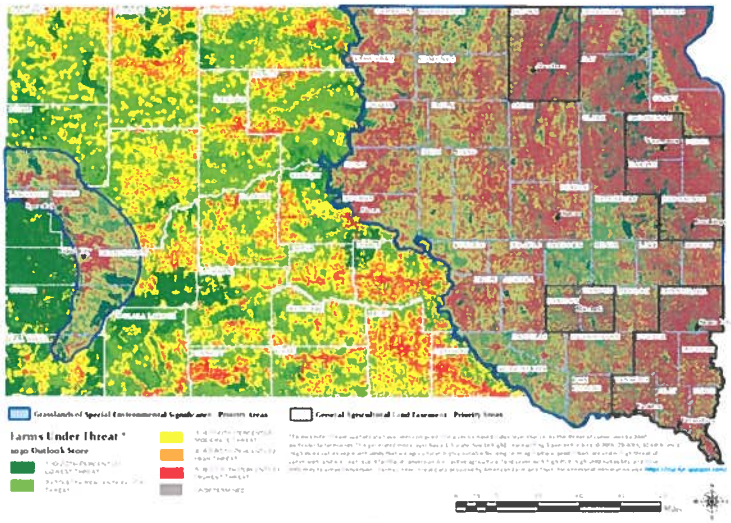
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMLAND CLASSIFICATION BY SOIL TYPE



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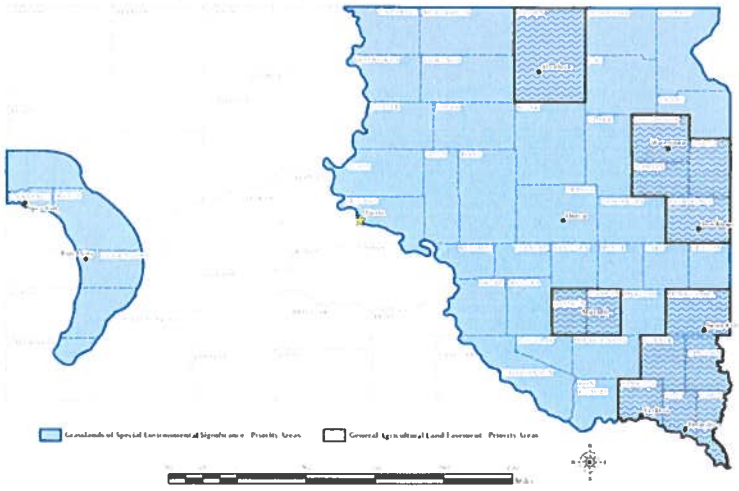
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SOUTH DAKOTA PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM -
AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PROGRAM PRIORITY AREAS



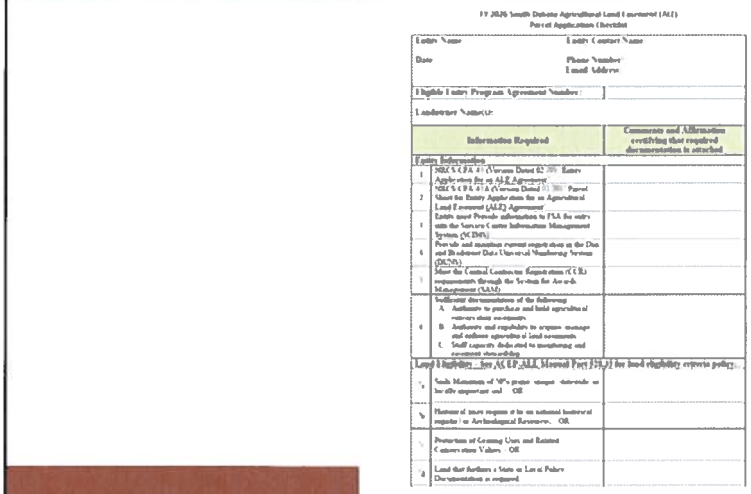
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AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PROGRAM PRIORITY AREAS



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Questions?

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Meeting Notes

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Programs Subcommittee Meeting
August 17th, 2026
9:00-11:00 CDT

A virtual meeting was held to discuss Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 financial assistance priorities within South Dakota. Partner attendance included Mark Norton, SD Game, Fish and Parks and Kris Dozark, SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. SD NRCS: Valorie Dupraz, Jennifer Wurtz, Danielle Rhine, Matthew Morlock, and Nathan Grueb. Several other members were unable to attend due to other late scheduling conflicts: Taya Runyan, SD Cattlemen's, DaNita Murry, SD Corn, Becky Cypher, SD Soybean, Tina Erickson, SD Pork Producers Council. Additional opportunity is provided to all members unable to attend up to the State Technical Committee meeting date.

Discussion Summary

- **Reviewed implementation of prior year recommendations**:
    - Fund Pool Structure
        - Fund pool structure was implemented within recommendation to support specialty production separate from conventional operations. Current fund pool structure will remain in place for FY2027
    - Specialty Production
        - As requested, SD NRCS developed a guide to identify specialty production operations to ensure designation and fund competition is consistent state wide.
    - Management Practice Payments-Program subcommittee supported the following:
        - Conservation Stewardship Program requires management practices to be implemented for the life of the contract after adopted (cannot limit to 3 years)
        - EQIP-Non RPP adopted limited 3 years of management payments
        - Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) requires 5 years of management payments
        - Seeking support for 5 years of management payment with all CEMA 216 practices to encourage adoption of soil health sampling
    - Discussed Regenerative Pilot Program and committee suggested adding range seeding and other perennial seedings as core practices.
- **Discussion on High Priority Practices** included adoption rate within contracts and suggestion to remove practice/s not adopted within the state and replace them with range planting or other perennial seeding.
    - **High Priority Practices:**

Practice		**Practice**		**Practice**
Crop Rotation		Nutrient Management		Brush Management
Cover Crop		Pest Management		Prescribed Burning
No Till		Salinity and Sodic Management		Prescribed Grazing
Field Border				

- **State Priority Resource Concerns were discussed and supported for use in FY2027:**
    - Soil (Concentrated Erosion)
    - Plants (Degraded Plant Condition)
    - Water (Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss)
        - It was noted that agricultural waste systems serve a significant importance to surface water in SD and both nutrient management as a priority practice and water quality are in alignment with DANR priorities.
    - Animals (Livestock production limitation)
    - Plants (Pest pressure)
    - Soil (Soil quality limitations)
    - Animals (Terrestrial habitat)
    - Soil (Wind and water erosion)
- **Local Work Group Priority efforts were discussed and local workgroup feedback is expected this fall to be utilized with FY2028 priority resource concern updates.**
- **The following layers were updated for ranking purposes:**
    - Surface Water Quality Priority Areas for ranking
    - Source Water Protection Areas for ranking
- **Prioritization Overview**
    - Discussed ranking structure and associate prioritization within fund opportunities. The use of priority resource concerns, priority practices and geospatial features to determine ranking priorities. Workload prioritization tools reflect ranking priorities to identify highest priority plans.

Action Items

- Work with ecological staff to make the recommendation to add perennial vegetative seeding to the RPP core practice list.-Complete 8/17/2026

Meeting Notes

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
ACEP-WRE Subcommittee Meeting
August 20th, 2026
9:00-10:30 CDT

A virtual meeting was held to discuss Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) priorities within South Dakota. The WRE Subcommittee attendance included: Mark Norton, SD GFP, Chuck Pyle, USFWS, and Bruce Toay, Ducks Unlimited. Additional NRCS attendees included Valorie Dupraz, ASTC Programs and David Flanery, Easement Program Manager.

The agenda included the following topics:

- Workload Prioritization Tool
- Overall Program Success in SD
- Summary of current Program status

ACEP-WRE Subcommittee Notes:

Workload Prioritization Tool: The committee reviewed workload prioritization questions. No suggested updates were made to the workload prioritization process as there are no changes from the prior year. The ranking was also reviewed and it was suggested to recognize perpetual easements as a priority in the ranking. Additionally, it was suggested to streamline the historically underserved verbiage as well as identify the percent of the offered land consisting of current cropland used for production.

Action Item: Add priority to the ranking to capture the value of a perpetual easement over a 30 year easement for high priority applications. Also update Historically Underserved reference and question referencing cropland; identify the land use as land currently used for annual production.

Overall Program Success: The committee discussed participation and overall success of WRE in SD. The committee felt the prioritizes aligned with South Dakota landscape needs.

Summary of Current Program Status: The overall success of WRE was discussed and the value it adds across the landscape for wildlife habitat, water quality protection, and alternative for producers seeking to protect their lands for long term periods.

The meeting concluded in approximately 90 minutes with additional feedback expected on proposed high priority ALE areas identified on a map based on known threats and resources to be protected.

Meeting Notes

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
ACEP-ALE Subcommittee Meeting
August 9th, 2026
9:00-10:30 CDT

A virtual meeting was held to discuss Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE) priorities within South Dakota. The ALE Subcommittee attendance included: Tony Lief, Travis Entenman, Lucas Zilverberg, and Jaime Reimann. Additional NRCS attendees included Valorie Dupraz, ASTC Programs and David Flanery, Easement Program Manager.

The agenda included the following topics:

- Ranking Question Overview
- Priority Areas within South Dakota
- Workload Priority within South Dakota
- Grassland of Special Environmental Significance definition review

ACEP-ALE Subcommittee Notes:

Ranking Overview: The committee reviewed ranking questions used to prioritize ranking applications and did not have additional suggested priorities.

High-Priority Areas: With limited funding and backlog of greater than 30 unfunded applications each year, the team worked to identify priority areas. There was limited feedback outside of easement demand in the Black Hills area and less demand in other parts of the state. The benefits of identifying priority areas were discussed relative to partners being able to prioritize their work in priority areas and being able to communicate to producers not in a priority area their chances of funding may be less. An ALE high-priority map was drafted and is under review by the committee and will advance to the State Technical Advisory Committee for final approval.

Action item: Finalize proposed ALE priority map and update as needed based on feedback.

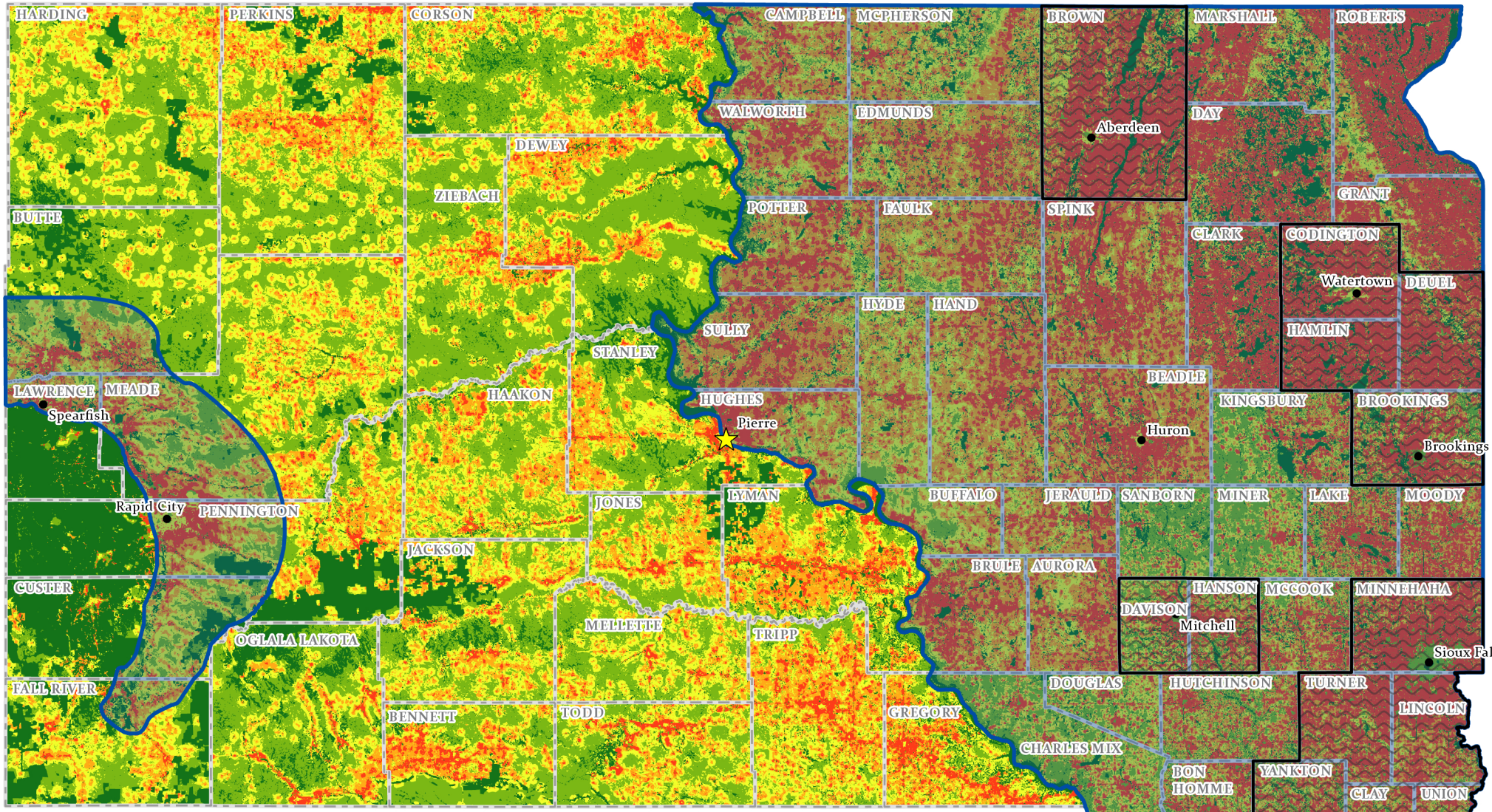
Workload Prioritization: Each year SD receives multiple applications that meet minimum application requirements. SD determines eligibility prior to ranking and eligibility determinations are difficult without complete information at the time of eligibility. To best service all partners and interested landowners, a checklist of needed information for all land offered for enrollment will be completed. If any items are missing, the offer will be considered a low priority for funding.

Action Item: Review application checklist with SD State Technical Advisory Committee to communicate documentation requirements associated with ALE offers to be considered high-priority.

Grassland of Special Environmental Significance: The definition was discussed and no updates were suggested.

The meeting concluded in approximately 90 minutes with additional feedback expected on proposed high priority ALE areas identified on a map based on known threats and resources to be protected.

SOUTH DAKOTA PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM - AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PROGRAM PRIORITY AREAS



Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance - Priority Areas

General Agricultural Land Easement - Priority Areas

Farms Under Threat *

2040 Outlook Score

- 1 (0-20th Percentile): Lowest Threat
- 2 (20-40th Percentile): Low Threat
- 3 (40-60th Percentile): Moderate Threat
- 4 (60-80th Percentile): High Threat
- 5 (80-100th Percentile): Highest Threat
- Undetermined

*Farms Under Threat spatial data have been compiled into a vector-based index layer that ranks the threat of conversion by 2040 particular to farmlands. The generated index layer has a 1-5 scale (low to high), representing 5 percentile bins (0-20th, 20-40th, 40-60th, etc.). High index values represent lands that are agricultural, highly suitable for long-term agricultural production, are under high threat of conversion, and are near recent farmland conversion (i.e., active agricultural land cover with high PVR, high UHD suitability, and close proximity to active conversion). Farms Under Threat Data provided by American Farmland Trust, for additional information visit: https://csp-fut.appspot.com/

Map Produced by USDA/NRCS, August 2026
South Dakota State Office
Business Tools/GIS Department, Adam Madigan
Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

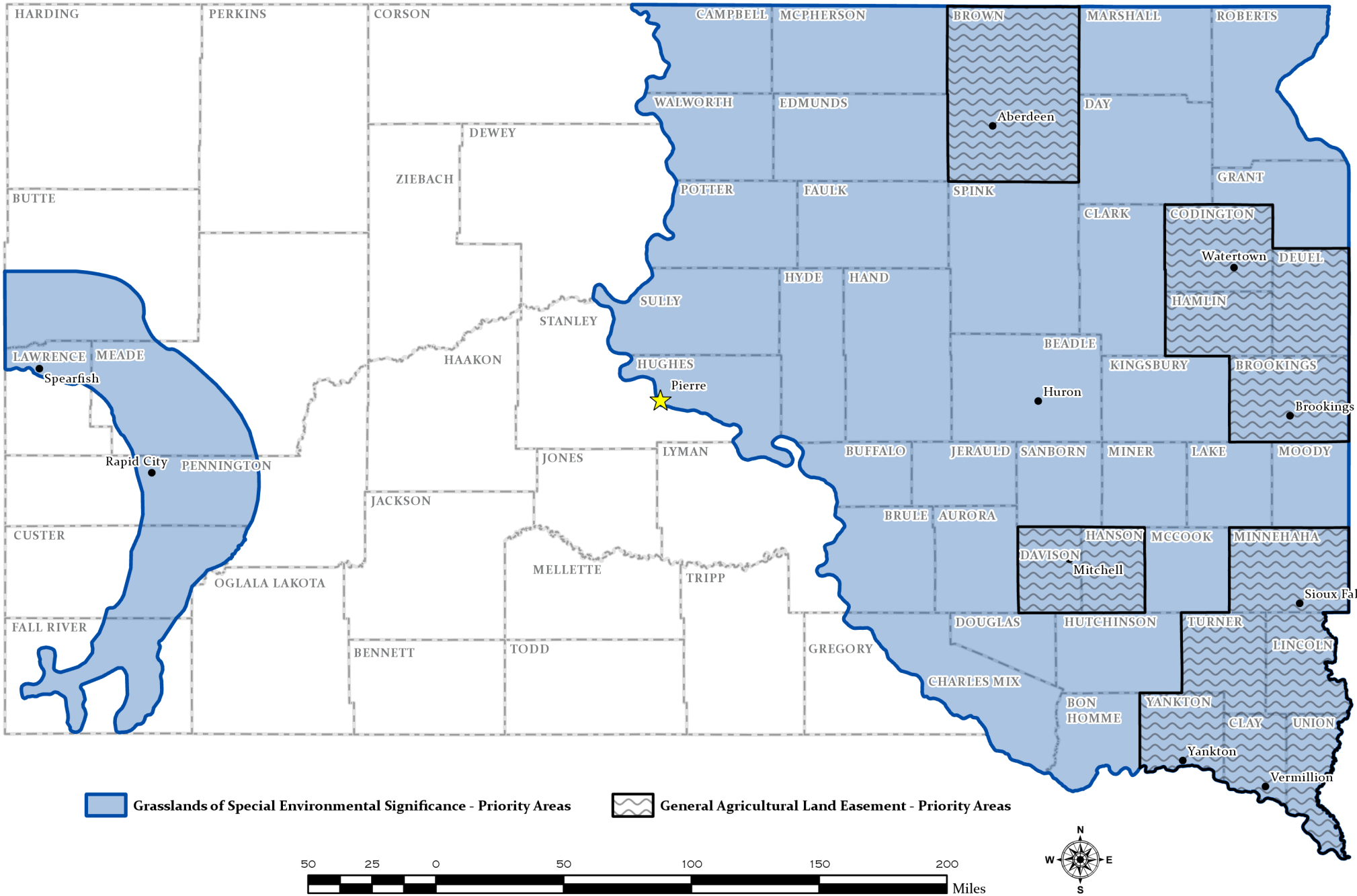
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FY2027 SOUTH DAKOTA NRCS AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM - AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PROGRAM PRIORITY AREAS



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FY 2027 South Dakota Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Parcel Application Checklist

Entity Name:	**Entity Contact Name:**
Date:	**Phone Number:** **Email Address:**
Eligible Entity Program Agreement Number:	
Landowner Name(s):	

	Information Required	**Comments and Affirmation certifying that required documentation is attached**
Entity Information		
1	NRCS-CPA-41 (Version Dated 02/20) "Entity Application for an ALE Agreement"	
2	NRCS-CPA-41A (Version Dated 02/20) "Parcel Sheet for Entity Application for an Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Agreement".	
3	Entity must Provide information to FSA for entry into the Service Center Information Management System (SCIMS).	
4	Provide and maintain current registration in the Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS).	
5	Meet the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) requirements through the System for Awards Management (SAM).	
6	Sufficient documentation of the following- A. Authority to purchase and hold agricultural conservation easements. B. Authority and capability to acquire, manage, and enforce agricultural land easements. C. Staff capacity dedicated to monitoring and easement stewardship	
Land Eligibility - See ACEP-ALE Manual Part 528.33 for land eligibility criteria policy.		
7a	Soils-Minimum of 50% prime, unique, statewide, or locally important soil. - OR	
7b	Historical (may require it be on national historical register) or Archeological Resources, - OR	
7c	Protection of Grazing Uses and Related Conservation Values, - OR	
7d	Land that furthers a State or Local Policy. Documentation is required.	

FY 2027 South Dakota Agricultural Land Easement
(ALE) Parcel Application Checklist

MAPS- All maps to have a title and legend, including the following: Township, Range & Sections, and government lots if applicable.		
8a	Aerial photo map & shapefile of offered acres; Labeled with Township, Range, & Section, total acres, and identifying all fee-owned acres with landowners listed. (Shapefile must be submitted to NRCS as a zipped file).	
8b	NRCS Web Soil Survey soil map with farmland classification ratings. Include legend and table with acres, percent, and totals of each soil classification identifying Prime, Unique, Statewide, or Locally Important soils (if applicable).	
8c	Aerial photo identifying Land Use/Land Type on offered acres; identify Forest, Pastureland, Rangeland, Grassland, Cropland, Non-Forested Wetland, Forested Wetland with acres of each cover type.	
8d	Aerial photo location map including legal and physical access to the parcel(s), the location and name of the public road from which the parcel will be accessed, and the access route between the public road and the proposed enrollment area.	
8e	Map showing the offered area and location of other protected land if the protected land is within 2 miles of the offered area.	
8f	Map showing location(s) of historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by the easement (if applicable)	
Landowner Eligibility		
9a	Names of landowner(s) of the parcel(s) as recorded on the ownership deed/s.	
9b	Legal property description of offered parcel(s) **and** recorded deeds of ownership for the entire offered area. Provide completed table identifying which deeds go with each parcel***** (see example on the last page below).	
9c	Signature Authority documents if offered parcel(s) are owned by an entity. May include: Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and/or meeting minutes which establish who has signature authority for the entity (partnership, trust, or corporation) for this type of transaction.	

9d	Landowner(s) are responsible for meeting with FSA prior to submitting parcel application to: 1) Verify, and if needed, update Farm Records for all offered acres. 2) Complete CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan for all parcel owners. See Landowner Eligibility Matrix for exceptions. 3) Submit a CCC-941 Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification for all parcel owners. Both entity and individual owners must file, as well as all embedded members of an entity owner. 4) Submit an AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification. Both entity and individual owners must file, as well as all embedded members of an entity owner.	
Other Required Documents		
10a	Direct deposit form for the eligible entity (SF-1199).	
10b	For any portion of the Parcel not accessible from a public road, provide proof of recorded/recordable access to all offered parcels, OR waiver request if access is via BLM or USFS lands (NOTE: waiver request must identify all parcels using this type of access and the roads that will be used, documentation of ownership of proposed access roads from BLM or USFS must be included).	
10c	Copy of Written Pending Offer to landowner or from the Landowner to the entity.	
10i	Most recent National agricultural statistics (NASS) census data for the county the offer is located in.	
10j	Most recent US Census data for the county the offer is located in, including population density of the county.	
10k	Evidence of a farm or ranch succession plan that has been established to address farm viability for future generations.	
Waiver Requests (if applicable)		
11a	Waiver of eligible entity cash contribution requirement.	
11b	Waiver of 50% soils requirement.	
11c	Waiver of legal access requirement.	
11d	Waiver of adjusted gross income cap.	

*Sample Legal/Ownership Table.

Parcel Name	Legal Description	Recorded Deed of Ownership
Parcel X	T4S R8W, Section 18: Lot 2	Book 321 page 14
Parcel Y	T4S R9W, Section 12: W ½ SE ¼, S ½ SW 1/4	Book 452 page 323
Parcel Y	Section 13: All	Book 466 page 32

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) and Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) Landowner Eligibility Matrix

Note: Adjusted gross income (AGI) requirements are not applicable to fiscal year (FY) 2014 ACEP enrollments, but are applicable beginning in FY 2015.

SCIMS Business Type Code	Business Type	SCIMS Tax ID Type	Individual or Entity		Entity Members		
			FTE Eligibility Required[1/]	AGI Eligibility Required [2/, 10/]	Members Required [3/]	Member's AGI Affect Payment [4/]	Member FTE Eligibility must be checked and documented
00	**Individual**	SSN	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
02	**General Partnership**	EIN	Yes [5/]	Exempt [6/]	Yes	Yes	Yes
03	**Joint Venture** [7/]						
04	**Corporation**	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
05	**Limited Partnership**	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
06	**Estate**	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
07	**Trust - Revocable**	SSN[8/]	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
07	**Trust - Revocable**	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
10	**Churches, Charities, & Nonprofit Organizations**	EIN	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
17	**Trust - Irrevocable**	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
18	**Individual Operating as a Small Business**	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
20	**Indian Tribe**	EIN	Yes	Exempt	No	No	No
20	**Alaska Native Corporations**	EIN	Yes	Exempt	No	No	No
22	**Limited Liability Company (LLC)**	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
22	**Limited Liability Company (LLC)**	SSN [9/]	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

1/ Farm tract eligibility (FTE) reflects the combined result of highly erodible land (HEL), converted wetland (CW), and planted converted wetland (PCW) determinations recorded in Farm Service Agency's (FSA's) subsidiary system.

2/ Average adjusted gross income (AGI) certification is required to be filed for all business types where AGI eligibility required is "Yes" and for entity members where the member's AGI affect payment is "Yes." AGI certifications for landowners and entity members are completed using the CCC-941, "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax information" or successor form. The CCC-941 form must be supplied to FSA and the eligibility value will be available in the Subsidiary System.

3/ For business types where members required is "Yes," Forms CCC-901A or CCC-902 **must** be on file with the FSA. The information must be current and be in "determined" or "filed" status in FSA business records for all entity members. All members must file Form CCC-941 for AGI certification. Payments to the entity will be reduced for member shares not meeting AGI.

4/ Business types where members required is "Yes" will have payment reductions in an amount commensurate with the ownership shares of the AGI ineligible members. This reduction will occur at payment but **Participants and Landowners** must be informed, prior to signing **the easement enrollment agreement (for ACPE-ALE the ALE-Agreement; for ACEP-WRE either the NRCS-CPA-31(APCE) or NRCS-CPA-40 (AECLU))**, that these reductions will be applied at payment.
5/ FTE should be documented at both the joint operation (general partnership) level **and** the member level since a member may be ineligible on another tract impacting eligibility. The joint operation at the entity level (not member level) needs to have an association with the land; members may have a 'no association' FTE status.
6/AGI is not evaluated at the entity level for this business type, but is checked at the member level.
7/ Joint ventures are not an eligible landowner type for easement programs.
8/ Refer to FSA CM-1 Paragraph 178.8 for additional guidance regarding revocable trusts using a SSN as the tax id.
9/ Refer to FSA CM-1 Paragraph 178.6 for additional guidance regarding single member LLC using a SSN as the tax id.
10/ The AGI 2014 Farm Bill determination will be reset to "Not Filed" and the SED determination will be reset to "No Determination" when the either of the following is updated in SCIMS: the tax ID number or an AGI Type change between "Exempt" or "Non-Exempt." This requires FSA to validate the change with IRS.

NRCS Planner:

Criteria Questions	Yes	No
Do the majority of the crops grown in rotation meet the USDA Definition of Specialty Crops?		
Specialty crops are defined in law as "fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture." Refer to Appendix A - F for further examples of the most common specialty crops and those that are not.		
Is the total size of the specialty production cropland equal to or less than 20 acres?		
Does the operation produce value-added product(s) from the harvestable raw materials grown on site?		
A value-added product is when raw materials are changed, processed, or enhanced to add greater market value. e.g., Strawberries become jam; tomatoes and peppers become canned salsa.		
Does the producer manage what could be considered a "niche" opeartion?		
A niche operation is a specialized business or activity that focuses on a single, specific, and/or unique product or service that targets a particular customer base. *In regard to crop production, this may include:* *A. Operations that identify as a specific type of farm or garden where their operational focus is less around production and more around building community, education, outreach and advocacy, or similar;* *B. Operations that produce "niche" products from harvestable goods that could be considered more than a value-added product;* *C. Operations that market and/or sell through a "niche" market;* *D. Operations with "niche" management techniques and approaches.*		
Does the operation lack larger farm machinery and/or manages the land through hand tools, hand-held equitment, and/or additional labor?		
Is the operation associated with a community-based organization, operates under non-profit status, or has an operational structure of similar nature?		
Total		

Directions
1. Answer all criteria questions.
2. Provide any notes to support a yes or no answer.
3. Total the amount of Yes answers.
4. Use the Determination Chart to determind if your application meets Specialty Production applicability.

Notes to Support Determination:

Determination Chart	
4 - 6 Yes Answers	**MEETS Specialty Production Applicability**
0 - 3 Yes Answers	**DOES NOT MEET Specialty Production Applicability**

**If you feel the determination does not adequately capture the operation, management, or products of the application in question, please consult with the State Urban Cosnervationist for further discussion.

Getting Started | Crop Based | Livestock Based | Forestry Based | Appendix A-F | +

Criteria Questions	Yes	No
Are the majority of the livestock animals or species outside the realm of common or traditional agricultural livestock in South Dakota?		
e.g., (Animals) Yak, Llamas, Rabbits, Insects, Alpaca *e.g., (Species) Kunekune Pigs vs. Yorkshire Pigs*		
Does the livestock provide more than meat or milk as its main commodity?		
e.g., Other edible products or value-added goods, fiber, fur, labor, or show		
Is the care, management, and/or breeding of the livestock outside traditional animal husbantry for that animal/or species?		
e.g., Pasture-Raised Pigs vs. Pigs raised in a Pig Barn		
Does the producer manage what could be considered a "niche" opeartion?		
A niche operation is a specialized business or activity that focuses on a single, specific, and/or unique product or service that targets a particular customer base. *In regard to livestock operations, this may include:* *A. Operations with management-based certifications emphasizing specific environmental benefits or animal welfare like Free-Range, Pastured-Raised, Grass-Finished, Regenerative, and Certified Humane;* *B. Operations that market and/or sell through a "niche" market;* *C. Operations with "niche" management techniques and approaches.*		
Do the number of livestock fall within a below category? *Please indicate which one and how many.* — *Livestock Present* / *Livestock Number* *A. Large Ruminats (Catte, Yak, etc.) - 25 or less* ☐ ____ *B. Small Ruminats (Sheep, Goats, etc.) - 100 or less* ☐ ____ *C. Poultry (Chicken, Ducks, etc.) - 250 or less* ☐ ____ *D. Others (Pigs, Rabbits, etc.) - 30 or less* ☐ ____ *E. Horses - 3 or less* ☐ ____		
Total		

Directions
1. Answer all criteria questions.
2. Provide any notes to support a yes or no answer.
3. Total the amount of Yes answers.
4. Use the Determination Chart to determind if your application meets Specialty Production applicability.

Notes to Support Determination:

Determination Chart	
3 - 5 Yes Answers	**MEETS Specialty Production Applicability**
0 - 2 Yes Answers	**DOES NOT MEET Specialty Production Applicability**

**If you feel the determination does not adequately capture the operation, management, or products of the application in question, please consult with the State Urban Cosnervationist for further discussion.

Getting Started | Crop Based | Livestock Based | Forestry Based | Appendix A-F | +

Criteria Question	Yes	No
Does the operation produce specialty forest products as its main purpose?		

A specialty forest product is a harvested forest material that is collected, manufactured and/or sold as a value-added good for its unique, artisan, decorative, or niche functionality and typically sold through direct-to-consumer markets. This does not include timber cut and left on-site, nor products used for industrial wood markets such as particleboard, pallets, interior construction lumber or other bulk manufacturing feedstock.

e.g., A producer uses thinned trees to create furniture to sell at the farmer's market.

e.g., A producer makes syrup from the syrup trees that grow on their property and sells direct-to-consumers. After lossing trees to a recent wind storm, the landower would like to plant replacement trees to keep the land forested. The trees requested will be native syrup producing species.

Specialty Production Applicability for Forestry Based applications is determinded by a yes or no answer to the given criteria question.
***If you feel the determination does not adequately capture the operation, management, or products of the application in question, please consult with the State Urban Cosnervationist for further discussion.*

Notes to Support Determination:

Determination Chart	
Yes	MEETS Specialty Production Applicability
No	DOES NOT MEET Specialty Production Applicability

Examples of Special Forest Products can be found here: https://www.fs.usda.gov/forestmanagement/products/sfp/sfp-definitions.shtml.

Keep in mind this is a non-exhausted list.

Special Forest Products Definitions

Product	Definitions and Examples
Christmas Trees	Variety of conifer species.
Special Wood Product - Non Convertible	Special Wood Products that do not fix an existing category.
Bee Trees	Trees with wild bees.

Getting Started | Crop Based | Livestock Based | Forestry Based | Appendix A-F | +

USDA Definition of Specialty Crop

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this document is to facilitate coordination among the various US Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies with programs that address the needs of specialty crop producers, handlers and processors. Although a common definition of specialty crops across these agencies is desirable for USDA stakeholders and customers, it is also recognized that the mission of each agency is unique and so the application of a common definition might vary. It is also recognized that individual states may wish to modify the definition used by USDA to satisfy local or regional needs. The agencies involved in this effort were the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Office of the Chief Economist (OCE), U.S. Forest Service (FS), the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

WHAT ARE SPECIALTY CROPS?

Specialty crops are defined in law as "fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture." This definition, although more exact than previous legal definitions, leaves a certain amount of latitude in interpretation. Fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, nursery crops and floricultural crops are all considered to be horticultural crops. Regardless, the specific mention of these crop groups means that plants so classified automatically qualify as specialty crops. Where interpretation is needed is in which plants, not specifically mentioned in legislation, can be classified as horticulture (sic) crops.

WHAT IS HORTICULTURE?

Horticulture is defined as that branch of agriculture concerned with growing plants that are used by people for food, for medicinal purposes, and for aesthetic gratification. Horticulture is divided into specializations. The terms used to describe these specializations derive from millennia of common usage and are sometimes at odds with botanical nomenclature. For example, vegetables are described as herbaceous plants of which some portion is eaten raw or cooked during the main part of a meal. Fruits, for horticultural purposes, are described as plants from which a more or less succulent fruit or closely related botanical structure is commonly eaten as a dessert or snack. By these definitions, plants such as tomato, squash and cucumber are considered vegetables despite the fact that the edible portion is defined botanically as a fruit. The delineation of plants by common usage was legally established in 1893 by the unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case of Nix vs. Hedden – 149 U.S. 304.

Over the last 60 years, agriculture, including horticulture, has become increasingly reliant on science and technology to maintain profitable production. The scientific study of horticulture is divided into various sub-disciplines. Pomology is defined as that branch of horticulture dealing with fruit and tree nut production. Fruit production includes the so-called tree fruits; such as apple, peach, and orange, and small fruits; such as strawberry, blueberry, and raspberry. Olericulture is defined as that branch of horticulture dealing with the production of vegetables and herbs. Floriculture is that branch of horticulture dealing with the production of field-grown or greenhouse-grown plants for their flowers or showy leaves. Environmental horticulture is that branch of horticulture that deals with the production of plants for ornamental use in constructed environments, both indoors and outdoors.

There are many facets to environmental horticulture. Nursery production involves growing plants under intensive management for use in another location. Nurseries are defined in a variety of ways:

a) the type of plant grown, such as fruit tree, turf or Christmas tree nurseries;
b) the function of the nursery, such as production, wholesale, retail, mail-order or landscape nurseries; and
c) the production system, such as field-grown or container-grown.

Landscape horticulture involves the design, installation, and maintenance of both outdoor and indoor

The following appendices give examples of plants that are considered specialty crops by USDA. These appendices are not intended to be all-inclusive, but rather are intended to give examples of the most common members of the various groups.

APPENDIX A – PLANTS COMMONLY CONSIDERED FRUITS AND TREE NUTS

Almond	Grape (including Raisin)
Apple	Guava
Apricot	Kiwi
Aronia berry	Litchi
Avocado	Macadamia
Banana	Mango
Blackberry	Nectarine
Blueberry	Olive
Breadfruit	Papaya
Cacao	Passion Fruit
Cashew	Peach
Citrus	Pear
Cherimoya	Pecan
Cherry	Persimmon
Chestnut (for Nuts)	Pineapple
Coconut	Pistachio
Coffee	Plum (including Prune)
Cranberry	Pomegranate
Currant	Quince
Date	Raspberry
Feijou	Strawberry
Fig	Suriname Cherry
Filbert (Hazelnut)	Walnut
Gooseberry	

APPENDIX B – PLANTS COMMONLY CONSIDERED VEGETABLES

Artichoke	Mushroom (Cultivated)
Asparagus	Mustard and Other Greens
Bean Snap or Green Lima Dry, Edible	Okra
Beet, Table	Pea

Getting Started | Crop Based | Livestock Based | Forestry Based | Appendix A-F | +

South Dakota (SD) NRCS Easement Restoration Criteria and Guidelines (RCG)

The purpose of the easement Restoration Criteria and Guidelines (RCG) is to document the technical considerations and parameters used to support wetland and/or floodplain easement program decision-making. This State-specific restoration criteria and guidelines provide a transparent set of technical considerations and parameters for restoration and management of wetlands and associated habitats in SD.

Technical determinations are made by the state Easement Team and supporting documentation provided to the State Conservationist or Assistant State Conservationist – Programs where appropriate for approval. Restoration and management of both restored and existing habitats shall follow Ecological Site Description (ESD) State-and-Transition Diagrams/models according to their historic or reference plant community.

The historic conditions based on known reference site data used to develop soil map unit specific ESDs serve as a reference point for restoration and represent the onsite conditions and habitat prior to conversion. Ecological Site Descriptions are available for each Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) in SD.

Ecological Site Description information is found in SD NRCS the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section II, Statewide Soil and Site Information, 2. Rangeland, Grazed Forestland, Native Pastureland Interpretations, a. Ecological Site Descriptions. Within each ESD, site characteristics are identified and discussed in relation to the historic reference (climax) plant community and plant communities under different disturbances and/or perturbations. Section I, Ecological Site Characteristics, includes physiographic features, climatic features, influencing water features, representative soil features, and plant communities.

The easement RCG shall be applied to the entire easement area, including adjacent lands (e.g. associated upland habitat) as part of the habitat restoration. Easement restoration and management criteria and guidelines are summarized in Table 1.0 below.

Table 1.0 Summary of Easement Restoration Criteria and Guidelines

Habitat Type	Vegetation Restoration	Hydrology Restoration	Management
Palustrine Wetlands (temporary & seasonal)	Seed according to ESD reference / climax plant community	Ditch plug; ditch fill; limited dugout closure; limited tile disablement; micro- and macro-topography.	Follows ESD State-and-Transition Model diagram
Emergent Marsh; Lacustrine and Riverine Wetlands	Natural Revegetation; limited seeding according to ESD reference / climax plant community	Ditch plug; ditch fill; limited dugout closure; tile system disablement; micro- and macro-topography; sediment removal; levee breech.	Follows ESD State-and-Transition Model diagram
Adjacent Lands	Seed according to ESD reference / climax plant community	Sediment removal; reconnect floodplain.	Follows ESD State-and-Transition Model diagram
Alternative Communities	Seed according to wetland and overflow or subirrigated ESD reference / climax plant community.	Ditch plug; ditch fill; dugout closure; tile system disablement; sediment removal.	Follows ESD State-and-Transition Model diagram

I. Common Eligible Land Types

The following table provides a summary of the common eligible land types used in SD. For a complete listing of eligible land types, and for further details, please refer to the ACEP Manual Part 528.105.

Type	Note
Farmed or Converted Wetlands	Includes wetlands farmed under natural conditions, wetlands partially or fully drained/prior converted cropland. Does not include Converted Wetlands (CW/CW+Year).
Former or Degraded Wetlands	This land type is not considered Farmed or Converted Wetlands land type. Hydrology significantly degraded/modified (>75% impacted) **AND substantially restored (>90% restored) through the WRPO.**
Lands Substantially Altered by Flooding	Flooded lands that developed and retains wetland functions and values (and were not previously wetlands). The hydrology conditions must have or will develop hydric soils and hydrophytic vegetation over time.
Grassland or Croplands Flooded by Overflow of a Closed Basin Lake or Pothole	Pothole/basins flooding non-wetlands. Must have a high likelihood of successful restoration. Offer must be a minimum of 20 contiguous acres, must be hydric soils, and the depth of water is 6.5 feet or less.
Lands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	Excludes trees. Subject to an existing CRP contract. Likely to return to production after the land leaves CRP.
Adjacent land functionally dependent on the wetlands	Up to 9 to1 ratio (EPD waiver). Tall and mixed grass uplands adjacent to all wetland habitat types in Section VII.

II. Reserved Grazing Rights

Grazing is a natural management tool that improves and/or maintains upland/wetland complex ecosystems. Typically, large herds of bison grazed an area intensely for short durations before moving on. If left unmanaged, grasslands are taken over by exotic invasive grasses such as smooth brome and Kentucky bluegrass. Herbivores may create vegetative diversity in the wetlands themselves. Grazing replicates a natural process and can be prescribed to maintain a healthy mix of grassland habitats, early successional wetland plants, open water, and mud flats. Grazing effects include both what the grazer eats and trampling effects from hoof action. As a result, it can be a tool to help control invasive vegetation which is often a primary threat to wetland functions.

Unmanaged wetlands are prone to being taken over by hybrid cattails or reed canarygrass unless a management regime is prescribed such as grazing following a fire treatment or patch burn grazing. Intense grazing May through September may be appropriate near wetlands to allow migrating shorebirds ready access to mud flats for feeding. Different grazing management may be needed for different wetland types and any surrounding uplands. Each habitat type (wet meadow, shallow marsh, upland prairie, etc.) has the potential to support different wildlife species, ranging from migratory birds to amphibians and pollinators, and management of these sites should strive to augment those qualities. The WRPO identifies the wildlife guild (ducks, shorebirds, etc.) and wetland habitat types for each easement restoration. Grazing will only be conducted in a manner that supports the wildlife and wetland functions/values identified and selected in the WRPO.

The following table provides a summary of the "Technical Criteria for Grazing in Upland/Wetland Complexes of the Tall and Mixed Grass Prairies in South Dakota."

Criteria	Note
Maintain healthy and diverse upland/wetland complexes.	Grazing timing and intensity vary depending on dominant plant community. Follow the ESD State-and-Transition Model diagram. See WRPO and Grazing Plan for site-specific details. Intense early season grazing is needed to control cool season invasive grasses. Adequate rest and recovery of desirable plant species is required,
Manageable size	Offers must have at least 20 acres of grazable upland
Grazing Infrastructure	Per National Easement Programs Division (EPD) ACEP-WRE Eligible Practices Waiver Response, dated May 12, 2020: • The installation of permanent boundary fencing around a wetland easement to exclude livestock during non-grazing periods and support restoration of the wetland and adjacent upland habitat is an eligible practice. All new perimeter fencing should be wildlife-friendly, and existing perimeter fencing that will remain in place may be modified to wildlife-friendly standards. • Interior cross-fencing and livestock watering infrastructure, while eligible as livestock grazing infrastructure on ACEP-WRE Reserve Grazing Rights easements, cannot be obligated under ACEP-WRE because they support grazing rights retained by the landowner in the Warranty Easement Deed. Therefore, they are not approved practices for ACEP-WRE and are ineligible for financial assistance through ACEP-WRE cost-share funding. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Title 440 Part 530.402 E(ii), may be available for certain grazing-related practices not covered by ACEP-WRE under reserved grazing rights.
Grazing duration	Grazing is not guaranteed in every year. Follow the ESD State-and-Transition Model diagram. NRCS must review/modify the grazing management plan at least every 5 years as needed to address appropriate habitat features. Monitoring is conducted annually and may result in a change to the grazing plan.
Grazing is for management purposes and must benefit wetland functions and values	Goal: Create height and species diversity. Migratory waterfowl and other birds prefer at least approximately 10-12 inches of vertical structure for nesting activities. A mix of native cool and warm season grasses creating 12 inches of vertical structure between new growth and residual each spring is optimal.

III. Special Ranking Consideration – Prioritization of Offer Types

If a "prioritization tool" is needed the NRCS requires a single "Workload Prioritization Tool" for all programs be utilized through the CART/CD platforms, or their successor tools. Therefore, the easement RCG is not the appropriate forum for the "tools" review and approval and this section will no longer be updated. ~~The state conservationist determined that all offers will be screened, using a screening worksheet, in the following order:~~

~~Offer Type~~	~~Priority~~
	~~Extremely High~~
~~Permanent Duration Easement with Reserved Grazing Rights (At least 4:1 upland to wetland ratio)~~	~~Very High~~
~~Permanent Duration Easement (2:1 up to 9:1 upland to wetland ratio) **OR** 30-year Contract (Tribal)~~	~~High~~
~~30-year Duration Easement with Reserved Grazing Rights; **OR**, Any Duration Offer with Existing Conservation Easements Requiring an Appraisal~~	~~Medium~~
~~30-year Duration Easement; **OR,** Any Duration Offer with Less Than 2:1 Upland to Wetland ratio~~	~~Low~~

~~In general, offers shall be selected and funded in ranking point order by Offer Type (e.g. Extremely High, Very High, High, Medium, then Low). However, the state conservationist determined that offers within each "Offer Type" that include either the Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) with a Targeted/Localized Approach or include source water protection ranking points are of high importance and value. Therefore, offers either utilizing the CIS or with source water protection points, may be selected and funded outside a strictly applied screening or ranking point order within the ACEP-WRE-General Fund pool (ACEP Manual Part 528.113 A).~~

IV. Eligible Practices

For a listing of eligible practices please refer to the current version of the ACEP-WRE and EWP-FPPE cost lists. Practice names and codes are not included here because the names and/or codes change frequently. Grazing infrastructure practices are authorized on easements were grazing is used as a management tool and on all Reserved Grazing Rights easements. Please refer to the WRPO for additional information.

V. State Compatible Use Authorization Criteria

Compatible Use Authorizations are considered on a case-by-case in SD. This section provides criteria and guidelines for several types of CUAs. CUA approval is neither implicitly nor expressly implied based solely on the easement RCG.

Approved CUA acres shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.

The maximum duration of a multi-year CUA is 10 years (Title 440, Part 528.152 A5), excluding reserved grazing rights easements (5 years). In SD, since wetland and biological systems are dynamic the following CUA durations apply:

- Food Plots, Burning, Grazing, Haying/Mowing, and Beehives - Five years

Although each CUA request is considered individually, the following are not allowed:

- Any activity that will not further both the long-term protection and enhancement of the wetland and other natural values of the enrolled area.
- Any activities that will reduce the site's long-term ability to support wildlife.
- Food plots located in a wetland (as determined by easement staff).
- Biannually planted food plots.
- Greater than 2 food plots (as determined by State Office easement staff).
- Food plots may not be allowed if the easement upland acres are 10% or less of the total easement acreage. Limited upland acres require further review of the overall habitat to assess the impact of additional loss of cover.
- Haying or mowing around food plots.
- Haying or mowing in strips (hunting lanes).
- Wintering of cattle on the easement.
- Grazing is not permitted in the same year and on the same acreage as haying and mowing.
- Season-long grazing and continuous seasonal grazing.
- Consecutive years of haying the easement.
- Haying or spraying of the beehive placement area.

Activities that may be allowed if the NRCS determines site-specific conditions dictate the need for management:

- Haying eligible upland acres (select only one of the two haying options below).

Option 1	Option 2
Year 1 - all	Year 1 - 1/3
Year 2 - 0	Year 2 - 0
Year 3 - 0	Year 3 - 1/3 (different acres from the 1/3 in year 1)
Year 4 - 0	Year 4 - 0
Year 5 - all	Year 5 - 1/3 (different acres from the thirds year 1 and year 3)

NOTE: Easements under 20 acres will be hayed as one unit under Option 1. All haying plans must be easily manageable and easily enforced (e.g. the thirds must be visually obvious and distinguishable in the field for both the equipment operator and the NRCS).

- Grazing based on site-specific habitat goals and timed to ensure adequate regrowth of vegetation for winter and spring habitats.
- Easements under 20 acres will be grazed as one unit.

The easement RCG is not all inclusive and does not prevent the agency from completing due diligence analysis of restoration and/or management actions and violations on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with the Wetland Reserve Plan of Operations (WRPO), policy, and regulations.

VI. Wetland restoration definition (7 CFR § 1468.3) –

Wetland restoration means the rehabilitation of degraded or lost wetland and associated habitats pursuant to published State-specific criteria and guidelines developed in coordination with the State technical committee in a manner such that:
(1) The original, native vegetative community and hydrology are, to the extent practical, reestablished; or

(2) A hydrologic regime and native vegetative community different from what likely existed prior to degradation of the site is established that will:

(i) Substantially replace the original habitat functions and values while providing significant support or benefit for migratory waterfowl or other wetland-dependent wildlife; or

(ii) Address local resource concerns or needs for the restoration of wetland functions and values for wetland dependent wildlife as identified in an approved State wildlife action plan or NRCS national initiative.

VII. Wetland Habitats within South Dakota (ACEP-WRE Manual Part 528.131 B (2)(i))

a. ***Palustrine wetlands (Palustrine Emergent)*** –

Temporary and seasonal hydrologic regimes with emergent vegetation (low prairie and wet meadow) account for approximately 92% of basins in Eastern SD (Johnson and Higgins, SDSU. 1997. Wetland Resources of Eastern South Dakota).

These types of basins contain multiple “wetland zones”. Temporary basins typically contain low prairie and wet meadow zones. Seasonal basins typically contain low prairie, wet meadow, and shallow marsh zones. Please refer to the Ecological Site Description for the respective plant communities for each of these zones. (Note: ESD name may not be the same).

Vegetative restoration typically includes existing cover destruction and seeding the appropriate wetland seed mix based on the reference / climax plant community identified in the ESD.

In limited site-specific situations, depending on the extent of existing hydrology and extent/density of cattails and reed canarygrass, the existing wetland vegetation may be allowed to (re-)colonize the area and no seeding would be required.

Hydrologic restoration typically includes installation of ditch plugs and/or ditch fill. In certain instances, as determined by the state Easement Team, filling in dugouts (closure) may be considered hydrologic restoration if the volume of excavation is 25% or greater than the volume of the wetland. A typical livestock water dugout is 0.7 acre-feet or 1,200 cubic yards. A typical wildlife water dugout is 0.5 acre-feet.

b. ***Emergent Marsh*** –

Semipermanent and permanent hydrologic regimes, emergent vegetation (shallow marsh and deep marsh) account for approximately 8% of basins in Eastern SD (Johnson and Higgins, SDSU. 1997. Wetland Resources of Eastern South Dakota).

These types of basins contain multiple “wetland zones”. Semipermanent basins typically contain low prairie, wet meadow, shallow marsh, and deep marsh zones. Permanent wetlands are typically located along the fringes of larger waterbodies. Both wetland types may lack the low prairie or wet meadow zones or both. Please refer to the Ecological Site Description for the respective plant communities for each of these zones. (Note: ESD names may not be the same).

Vegetative restoration typically includes allowing nearby existing vegetation to (re-)colonize the area and no seeding would be required.

Hydrologic restoration typically includes installation of ditch plugs and/or ditch fill and/or the destruction of extensive tiling systems. In certain instances, as determined by the state Easement Team, filling in dugouts (closure) may be considered hydrologic restoration if the volume of excavation is 25% or greater than the volume of the wetland. A typical livestock water dugout is 0.7 acre-feet or 1,200 cubic yards. A typical wildlife water dugout is 0.5 acre-feet.

c. ***Other wetland types –***

Most wetlands in SD are Palustrine emergent wetlands. In very limited instances lacustrine and riverine wetlands exist, and wetlands with shrub and/or tree communities exist.

In most instances vegetation restoration typically includes revegetation with the site-specific appropriate mix (seeds/seedlings) based on the reference / climax plant community identified in the ESD.

Hydrologic restoration typically includes installation of ditch plugs and/or ditch fill and/or the destruction of extensive tiling systems, fill in dugouts (as described in Section II a. and II b. above), and/or reconnection to the floodplain via sediment removal and/or levee breaching/removal.

d. For all wetlands the following Wetland Topographic Design applies –

Undisturbed natural wetland systems typically contain a complex of vegetative habitats. These “complexes” owe their existence to varying hydroperiods, the period during which a wetland is covered by, or saturated with, water. Hydroperiods are, in turn, greatly influenced by topographic relief, soil permeability, climate, and weather. Topographic variation ranges from relatively shallow areas (microtopography) to deeper wetland habitats (macrotopography) and may include upland characteristics.

When restoring wetlands that exhibit uniform topography, returning the hydrology alone (through removing drainage tile or plugging drainage ditches) will often not result in establishing the diversity of wetland habitats that previously existed prior to disturbance. Restoring or creating micro- and macrotopography increases the diversity of hydroperiods and results in a more complex wetland vegetative community, and consequently, a more diverse assemblage of wildlife species.

For the purposes of this document, microtopographic features are those features with less than six inches of water depth. Microtopographic features are either depressional in nature (e.g. pit-mound topography) or relatively flat in nature (e.g., small ridges in a flat field back water into shallow pooled areas. Microtopography can often be seen in fields where shallow “sheet” water stands for short durations after a rain.

For the purposes of this document, macrotopographic features are depressional in nature and have landscape positions that occur both in floodplains and on terraces. Macrotopographic features can range from approximately 0.1 acre to 5.0 acres in

size and up to 30 inches deep. Variability in shape is common in these features. Some occur as simple circles, others as complex amoeba-like shapes, and still others as meandering linear features. The “upland” components that often occur in macrotopographic features consist primarily of mounds (circular or elliptical) and ridges (linear), and typically do not exceed 30 inches in height.

Table 2.0 Micro- and Macrotopography Design Guidance

Wildlife Guild		Excavated Depth (inches)	Size (acres)	Basin Side Slopes	Density (% of area restored)	Hydrology (minimum)	Comments
General Wetland Wildlife		6 - 30	0.5 – 1.5	Between 8:1 and 20:1	10 -15%	July 15	Create variety in size & depth
Amphibians		0 - 8	0.1 – 3.0	20:1 or flatter	30 – 50%	July 15	Must remain fish-free
Aquatic Snakes & Turtles	Seasonal 50%	0 – 10	0.1 – 3.0	20:1 or flatter	30 – 50%	July 15	Sandy sites preferred for nesting turtles
	Permanent 50%	10 - 20		8:1		Permanent	
Wading Birds (bitterns, egrets, herons)		3 – 24	0.5 – 3.0	20:1 or flatter	30 – 50%	Permanent	Create areas of saturation only to promote emergent herbaceous vegetation
Shorebirds		0 - 10	0.5 – 3.0	20:1 or flatter	Up to 100%	June 15: spring migration	
Waterfowl	Feeding areas (50%)	6 – 18	0.5 – 3.0	8:1 or flatter	10 -15%	May 30: spring migration July 15: breeding	
	Loafing areas (50%)	18 – 30	1.0 – 3.0	8:1			

VIII. Alternative Wetland Communities (ACEP-WRE Manual Part 528.131 B (2)(ii))

a. *Partial Hydrologically Restored Wetlands (Seasonal, Semipermanent, or Permanent hydrologic regime)* –

These wetlands are unable to have their full hydrology restored, for legitimate reasons, and hence are unable to support the full range of historic wetland plant communities. A seasonal wetland may only have its drainage ditch partially filled restoring hydrology to a lesser extent and hence shrinking or eliminating the “wet meadow” zone but the inner “low prairie” zone is still restored. A portion of the wetland zones reference plant community is restored, and a portion of the wetland zones becomes drier. The drier portion is seeded to either the adjacent overflow or subirrigated reference plant communities. Wetland functions and values, including habitat and water quality benefits, are still provided.

Vegetative restoration typically includes existing cover destruction and seeding the appropriate seed mix based on the wetland and/or subbirrigated or overflow reference / climax plant community identified in the ESD.

IX. Adjacent Land Eligibility (ACEP-WRE Manual Part 528.131 B (2)(iii))

Adjacent lands may be enrolled as outlined in Part 528.105 I. The state conservationist may authorize a waiver allowing adjacent land acres to exceed eligible land acres for certain unique situations. In SD the state conservationist approved the following unique or critical wetland complexes whose functions and values inherently depend on adjacent land and do

not meet one of the eligible land types: prairie potholes, playas, fens, and ridge and swale floodplain complexes. Most of these unique systems are interdependent upland/wetland complexes in the prairie pothole region of SD (from the Missouri River east). The prairie pothole region produces over 60% of the continental waterfowl population.

All wetland habitat types in Section VII of the easement RCG are functionally dependent on vast acres of adjacent upland habitat. One of the main functions of upland/wetland complexes in the state are to provide migratory waterfowl habitat, specifically upland nesting waterfowl (Northern pintail, mallard, gadwall, teal, widgeon, and Northern shoveler) nesting habitat. In general, the larger the block of upland cover the better, with 20-acre blocks considered minimal. About 73% of the basins in SD are 1.0 acre or less in size, with a median size of approximately 0.5 acres. These basins are dotted throughout eastern SD and are connected by the large areas of adjacent uplands. Hence the term "upland/wetland complexes" in the prairie pothole region. Therefore, it is appropriate that the easement RCG includes enrollment of adjacent land to the highest allowable ratio as possible and follows what SD has allowed historically. The previously approved upland to wetland ratio is 9:1.

The state conservationist has the authority to approve additional adjacent lands over the eligible acres not exceed five times the eligible acres (5 to1 ratio). ***However, the state conservationist determined, based on this easement RCG, the appropriate adjacent land (upland) to wetland ratio is 9 to 1. The state conservationist submitted a waiver request to exceed the 5 to 1 ratio up to 9 to 1, on all easement offers for all habitat types in Section VII of this RCG, to the EPD director pursuant to ACEP WRE Manual Part 528.105 I (4). The request was subsequently approved by the EPD director in ACEP-WRE Policy Waiver Response dated February 4, 2021.***

Vegetative restoration typically includes existing cover destruction and seeding the appropriate seed mix based on the reference / climax plant community identified in the ESD.

All the information in the easement RCG remains in effect until replacement by an updated version. The easement RCG is not all inclusive and does not prevent the agency from completing due diligence analysis of restoration and/or management actions on a case-by-case basis according to the Wetland Reserve Plan of Operations (WRPO). Any additional requirements to the easement RCG will be incorporated on an as-needed basis.

- Version 1 Reviewed and Accepted by State Technical Committee on March 6, 2020.
- Version 1 Reviewed and State Conservationist Approval on March 13, 2020
- Version 2 Reviewed and Approved on January 28, 2021. Updated to reflect the 2021 screening worksheet Offer Types.
- Version 3 Reviewed and Approved on November 3, 2021. Updated to reflect the 2022 CIS strategy.
- Version 4 Reviewed and Approved on …….. Updated to clarify the Special Ranking Considerations/Prioritization of Offers and EPD policy responses since March 6, 2020.

State Conservationist

Executive Summary: SD NRCS Ecological Sciences Subcommittee Meeting

(August 7, 2026)

Purpose & Structure

The meeting convened the South Dakota (SD) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Ecological Sciences Subcommittee Meeting to discuss recommendations for conservation practice standards, review new and existing standards, and provide input for the State Technical Committee (STC) and advisory group. The session included introductions from a diverse group of conservation professionals, state specialists, and partner organizations. Those in attendance included the following: from SD NRCS: Jessica Michalski, Ryan Kruse, Marcia Deneke, Rachel Lawton, Victor Tuschen, Brandon Walter, Emily Rohrer, Kent Vlieger, and Shane Jordan. From SD Game, Fish, & Parks: Mark Norton. From Pheasants Forever: Kendall Hettick and Cody Grewing. From Ducks Unlimited: Bruce Toay. From South Dakota State University (SDSU): Pete Bauman. Others attending: Jim Ristau (Elevate Ag), Jim Millar (Precision Soil Management), Zach Wright (Living Soil Lab), Angela Jackson (SD Specialty Producers Association (SPA)), Mary LaHood (SD Family Forests), Katie Christensen (Agronomist).

Key Topics & Decisions

1. Prescribed Fire in CRP (Conservation Reserve Program)

- The committee discussed expanding the burn window for prescribed fire within CRP, emphasizing ecological and practical benefits.
- Later burns help control weeds (e.g., wormwood, thistle) and improve habitat structure for nesting birds.
- Research shows nesting birds prefer established grasslands, supporting flexibility in burn timing.
- Weather data indicates March/April burns are increasingly risky due to fire danger and red flag warnings.
- Expanding the burn window would relieve pressure on volunteer fire departments and improve resource management.
- The group agreed to pursue a resolution supporting expanded burn windows, with the next step being a fleshed-out proposal for the State FSA Committee, followed by STC review and submission to the national office.

2. Compost Extracts & Biological Products

- Presentations highlighted the use of compost extracts as soil amendments and starter fertilizers, replacing synthetic inputs.

- Compost extracts offer consistent results, improve soil health, and reduce reliance on high-analysis fertilizers.
- Application rates, storage, and biological viability were discussed, with emphasis on local production and adaptability.
- Interim conservation practice standard Plant Biostimulant and Microbial Applications (833) is being considered, requiring technical guidance for staff and producers.
- The committee recognized the need for guidance sheets and technical notes to support adoption and evaluation of this practice.

3. Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)

- The National Office requested recommendations for the RPP, which leverages Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funding.
- SD exceeded expectations, funding at least 25% of applications through the program in Fiscal Year 2026.
- The committee debated which conservation practices should be considered "regenerative," noting prescribed burning and soil carbon amendments were missing from the primary list.
- Emphasis was placed on a systems approach, integrating multiple practices and resource concerns.
- Suggestions included incentivizing reductions in synthetic fertilizer use and expanding eligible practices (e.g., perennial cover seeding, brush management).
- Input will be collected and forwarded to higher authorities; additional comments can be submitted via email.

Follow-Up Items Needed

Draft Resolution for Prescribed Fire Flexibility

- Prepare a detailed proposal for the State FSA Committee, including supporting data (weather, ecological research).
- Develop an SDSU fact sheet summarizing key points and referencing supporting documents.
- Timeline: Proposal needed before August 25th; fact sheet to be published by end of the week for reference in national submission.

Technical Guidance for Compost Extracts

- Create guidance sheets/technical notes for staff and producers on application, storage, and benefits of compost extracts.

- Review and adapt interim practice standard, ensuring compliance with state law and practical usability.
- Engage core team and contributors for document development and review.

Regenerative Pilot Program Recommendations

- Review and suggest additional conservation practices for inclusion (e.g., prescribed burning, perennial cover seeding).
- Consider mechanisms to incentivize reduction in synthetic fertilizer use.
- Collect and forward input from committee members and partners to the National Office.

Ongoing Communication & Feedback

- Encourage committee members and partners to submit further ideas and feedback via email.
- Share draft documents and standards for review before final release (target: October for new standard).

Aligning South Dakota FSA Prescribed Fire Policy with Best Practices for CRP Contracts

A Case for Allowing Prescribed Burning during Primary Nesting Season (May 1 – August 1) on South Dakota CRP Contracts

Federal law directs the Secretary, in coordination with the applicable State technical committee, to permit activities such as prescribed fire on CRP land where they meet four conditions: consistency with conservation of soil, water quality, and wildlife habitat; appropriate restrictions during the primary nesting season (PNS) for economically significant or declining bird species; contribution to the health and vigor of established cover; and consistency with a site-specific plan that accounts for regional differences. South Dakota's current blanket PNS prohibition (May 1–August 1) is inconsistent with each of these four statutory tests. Research compiled by SDSU Extension (Bauman, Kelly, and Smart 2026), drawing on decades of agency, weather, and landowner data, demonstrates that the current rule undermines the very outcomes it is meant to protect. The SD FSA State Committee should use its statutory authority, in coordination with the SD NRCS State Technical Committee, to permit objectives-based prescribed burning on CRP contracts throughout the growing season.

1. Conservation of Soil, Water Quality, and Wildlife Habitat

- Prescribed burning is considered one of the best management practices to establish, maintain, or restore the diversity, vigor, and habitat value of natural or planted grasslands in South Dakota.
- Diverse, healthy grasslands produced by well-timed fire provide improved cover for birds, greater insect and pollinator production, and better nesting/brood-rearing habitat across multiple years, not just the year of the burn.
- Growing season burning enhances the return on investment of federal, state, and non-government conservation dollars by encouraging vegetative diversity and reducing long-term reliance on chemical or mechanical control of invasive species.
- Delaying burns until after May 1 allows landowners to take advantage of spring field work and grazing on adjacent land and to rely on naturally greened field edges, roads, and waterways as firebreaks, reducing the need for disking or blacklining that disturbs sod and soil.
- NRCS Conservation Practice Standards (338 – Prescribed Burning; 394 – Firebreaks) already tie fire and firebreak management to soil, fuel, and vegetation conditions rather than a fixed calendar date, reflecting the same conservation goals FSA policy is meant to serve.

2. Appropriate Restrictions for Economically Significant and Declining Birds

- The statute requires restrictions be “appropriate,” not absolute. South Dakota's current rule imposes a uniform, calendar-based ban regardless of actual risk to bird populations.
- Even with full flexibility, private-lands planning indicates it is very unlikely that more than 30,000 acres of CRP, about 1% of the state's roughly 3 million eligible acres in Grasslands, general, and continuous CRP, would be burned in any given year, making any incremental impact on nesting birds statistically insignificant.
- Recruitment of young-of-the-year birds into the adult population from a burned unit is essentially zero regardless of whether the burn occurs in April or June. This is because nesting cover is unavailable after an early burn, or because of displacement and egg loss from a later burn. The PNS date does not change this outcome; it only changes whether the burn achieves its habitat objective.
- Mortality of adult females from prescribed fire is rare, and females frequently renest successfully after a burn in nearby grasslands.
- Higgins et al. (1992) found nest success in planted cover was highest with prescribed fire (22.7%) compared to idle (16.7%) and grazed (9.3%) cover, and Grant et al. (2011) concluded waterfowl and grassland birds are adapted to periodic fire.
- Chick survival is the most sensitive population parameter for economically important ring-necked pheasants (Clark et al. 2008); Matthews et al. (2012a, 2012b) linked improved chick survival directly to the vegetative diversity that objectives-based burning restores.
- The statutory framework allows the State technical committee to tailor “appropriate restrictions”; e.g., site- or species-specific timing set through the SD NRCS State Technical Committee's CRP Subcommittee

3. Contribution to the Health and Vigor of Established Cover

- SDSU Extension's objectives-based scoring of burn outcomes by month (Figure 3) shows May and June rank highest overall for effective prescribed-fire outcomes in South Dakota grasslands, precisely the window the current PNS rule forecloses.
- Fire applied May 1–June 15 significantly reduces the competitive advantage of cool-season exotic invaders (Kentucky bluegrass, smooth brome, crested wheatgrass) while native warm- and cool-season grasses recover quickly, even when burned "green."
- Short-term stress to native warm season grasses such as big bluestem, switchgrass, and indiangrass from later burns is temporary and minor compared with the long-term stand benefits.
- Woody-species encroachment, one of the top threats to South Dakota grasslands, is controlled far more effectively and efficiently by prescribed fire than by other management activities
- By forcing burns into the less effective, higher-risk dormant season, or preventing them altogether, the current PNS rule works against the cover-vigor outcome the statute requires FSA to protect.

4. Consistency with a Site-Specific Plan Accounting for Regional Differences

- NRCS technical guidance already governing CRP land (Range Technical Note 12 and Technical Note 13) states plainly that "for most ecological objectives such as improved native plant vigor, seed production, weed control, or woody species control, late spring is the preferred time to burn," directly conflicting with FSA's own PNS restriction on the same acres.
- South Dakota's climate is variable enough that a cold, wet spring can shift plant growth curves by two weeks or more, meaning a fixed May 1 date is not reliably tied to actual vegetative or weather conditions in a given region or year.
- National Weather Service data from all three South Dakota forecast offices (Aberdeen, Rapid City, Sioux Falls) show Red Flag Warnings and high/very-high/extreme Grassland Fire Danger Index days are concentrated in March through early May: 39–51% of Red Flag warnings by station. Safe burn windows expand dramatically after May 1, when warning frequency drops to 5–9%.
- In spring 2026, statewide Red Flag Warning days were split 68% before May 8 versus 32% after; as a result, essentially no CRP burning objectives were accomplished before the PNS deadline this year.
- FSA already recognizes site-specific, contract-phase flexibility: current guidance permits management, including prescribed fire, during the first two years of a CRP contract outside PNS dates (2-CRP Manual Par. 426, Part 13). Extending a comparable, technical-committee-reviewed, site-specific approach through the full contract period is consistent with existing FSA precedent and with NRCS's parallel authority to permit growing-season burns on other USDA-administered acres.

Recommendation: The SD FSA State Committee, in coordination with the SD NRCS State Technical Committee, should amend South Dakota CRP policy to de-couple prescribed-fire timing from the fixed May 1–August 1 Primary Nesting Season window and instead permit objectives-based prescribed burning under site-specific burn plans throughout the growing season, consistent with the statutory conditions above and with NRCS practice standards already governing the same acres.

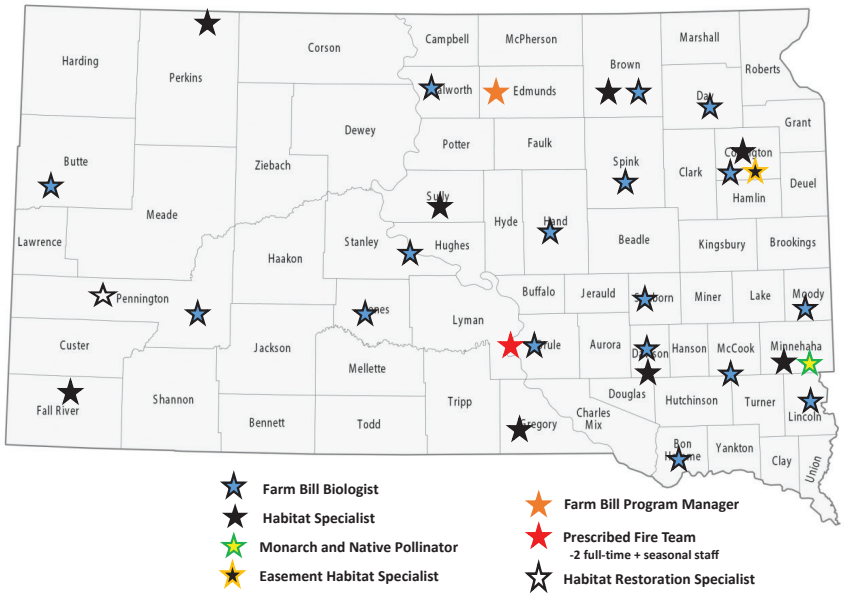
Source: Bauman, P., S. Kelly, and A. Smart. 2026. Prescribed Fire Timing for South Dakota USDA Conservation Programs, Native Grass Plantings, and Native Pastures. SDSU Extension.

FY 2026 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 Impacts

- 18 staff members (see map)
- Assisted in delivery of federal, state, and local conservation programs impacting 431,810 acres statewide
- 1,622 new conservation plans
- 3,651 landowner contacts
- 1,382 status reviews
- 88 CRP mid-contract management plans
- 70 landowner engagement events (workshops, tours, articles)
- Accomplished in partnership with SD NRCS, SD GFP, & PF Chapters





Prescribed Fire Team

- First-ever full-time staff (2) hired in late summer of 2025
- Provide prescribed fire support to landowners & 6 Prescribed Burn Associations (PBAs) statewide
- Focused efforts within the Missouri, James & White River watersheds
- Developed burn plans covering 3,181 acres
- Implemented 30 burn units totaling 1,347 acres
- Assisted 45 landowners in 17 counties across south central SD
- Accomplished in partnership with SD NRCS, NFWF, PF Chapters, & Greater Dakota Chapter of Safari Club International



Public Access to Habitat

- Enrolled over 79,200 acres of new public access since 9/1/2023
- 93 properties enrolled in 39 counties
- Provides supplemental payments to those made by SD GFP through the Voluntary Public Access & Habitat Incentive Program administered by South Dakota NRCS
- Annual goal of 10,000 new acres & $250,000 in landowner payments
- PATH has expanded within PF & QF in NE, ND, OK, & MI after piloting in SD
- Accomplished in partnership with partners including onX, PF Chapters, & the National Wild Turkey Federation



Habitat Specialist Team

- Impacted 8,967 acres across 195 of SD GFPs Game Production Areas statewide
- Established 1,900 acres of food plots
- Established 730 acres of native grass
- Implemented prescribed fire on 1,800 acres
- Removed 1,000 acres of invasive trees
- Treated 1,500 acres of noxious weeds
- Improved, maintained, or removed over 11 miles of fence
- Accomplished in partnership with SD GFP and PF Chapters

PHEASANT HUNTING AND SOUTH DAKOTA

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Pheasant Populations

Pheasant populations and harvest numbers are directly related to land use trends and the quantity and quality of available habitat, and there is an especially strong connection between pheasants and CRP.

In 2007, peak CRP enrollment levels in SD coincided with pheasant population levels not seen since the Soil Bank era of the 1960s, with an estimated population of 11.9 million birds.

Recent and future loss of expiring CRP acres is a major concern. From 2007-2014, over 550,000 acres of CRP expired in SD, and from 2024-2028, an estimated 355,000 acres of CRP are scheduled to expire without adequate rental rates and incentives to encourage re-enrollment. This has the potential to drastically affect pheasant and other wildlife populations.

The Importance of Access

Without a strong public access program, the economic potential of pheasant hunting cannot be fully realized, especially the economic activity generated by non-resident hunters. That is why public hunting access has long been a top priority for Pheasants Forever, SD GFP, and other partners in the state.

GFP's Walk-In Area (WIA) program was created in 1988 to address this need and offer incentives for private landowners to voluntarily lease their habitat for public hunting access. Since 2011, GFP has been awarded $4.7 million in grants from the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program administered by USDA and authorized through the Farm Bill.

In 2022, 1.3 million acres of hunting land was made publicly accessible through the WIA Program, with half of all hunters in the state utilizing land enrolled. The WIA Program also has strong ties to CRP enrollment, with a bonus paid on WIA contracts to give landowners an incentive to keep their marginal land in CRP.

Pheasants Forever's new Public Access to Habitat (PATH) initiative builds on the success of WIA by accelerating and increasing enrollment in habitat and access programs. PATH provides an additional sign-up incentive ($25 per acre) for landowners to open quality habitat to public recreation and enrolled over 16,000 acres in its first year.

Pheasanomics

Pheasant hunting is major economic engine and significant contributor to tourism, South Dakota's second largest industry. According to South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, 73,000 non-resident hunters come to the state in 2022 for hunting season, spending more than $156 million in restaurants, hotels, gift shops, and gas stations. This economic activity is directly tied to the need for more quality pheasant habitat in the state.

In Brown County, a group of local businesses and organizations understood this well when they formed the Aberdeen Pheasant Coalition in 2015. There, coalition members are working to raise funds to be used to incentivize farmers and landowners to enroll in the CRP and WIA. Their goal is simple: creating more habitat means more pheasants, which means more hunter dollars, which means a stronger economy. Learn more at *www.aberdeenpheasant.com.*



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

2026 Woody Encroachment Field Tours

Come join us for a field tour near you to discuss woody encroachment treatment options. Experts and producer testimonies will highlight practical woody plant control methods including prescribed fire, mechanical and chemical control of eastern redcedar and other problematic species invading South Dakota grasslands.

July 9 | 3:00 pm | Sacred Heart Hall 513 Main St, White River, SD
Please RSVP to Jewell Bork 605-669-2222 or email: southcentralrcd@goldenwest.net

July 22 | 5:30 pm | Oacoma - from Arby's in Oacoma, SD drive 7.5 miles north on 339th Ave. turn right on 340th Ave and follow the road 5 miles, turn right on Ft. Hale Rd and go 1.7 miles to arrive at the pasture

August 12 | 5:30 pm | Mitchell area - meet 0.5 miles east of intersection 419th Ave and 268th St. (2 miles north and 9.5 miles east of Dimock, SD)

August 27 | 5:30 pm | Yankton area - from the intersection of Hwy 81 and Hwy 46 go 1.5 miles south to NE Jim River Rd, turn west and go 0.8 miles to arrive at the Knutson residence on the south side of the road

September 17 | 5:30 pm | Oacoma - from Arby's in Oacoma, SD travel west 1 mile on Hwy 16, turn left and travel south 3.5 miles down Cooper School Rd/Co Rd 6. At the fork in the road stay left and keep traveling 3 miles south down 337th Ave then turn right and travel 0.5 miles west on 252nd St. Parking will be on the South side of the road.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOUTH CENTRAL RC & D
Resource Conservation and Development
Jones
Mellette
Tripp
Todd

PHEASANTS FOREVER
The Habitat Organization

Audubon
GREAT PLAINS

PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION
MID-MISSOURI RIVER
LYMAN-BRULE-GREGORY-CHARLES MIX

RIVER BREAKS
PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION

SOUTHEAST DAKOTA
PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION

CONTACT
Sandy Smart | Extension ANR Program Leader | alexander.smart@sdstate.edu | 605-688-4940

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PRESCRIBED (RX) FIRE WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY PHEASANTS FOREVER & THE SOUTHEAST DAKOTA PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION

MENNO, SOUTH DAKOTA • SEPTEMBER 30th

FIELD TRAINING FOR Rx FIRE IMPLEMENTATION

The training will be centered around the implementation of 5 Rx fire units in Central Hutchinson County.



TRAINING TOPICS

- Execution of multiple Rx burns
- Use of various types of Rx fire equipment
- Ignition and suppression techniques
- Using fire to reduce eastern red cedar encroachment

CHECK-IN
9:30 AM
Safety briefing at 10:00 AM

WORKSHOP
10:00 AM–6:00 PM
Lunch will be provided, snacks and water will not

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Landowners • Prescribed Burn Association members • Resource professionals • Anyone interested in using Rx fire

WHAT TO BRING

Eye protection (sunglasses) • All-leather gloves • Nomex or natural, non-synthetic long-sleeve shirts and pants • Leather boots **Some Nomex PPE will be available.*

STAGING AREA at KNODEL PROPERTY

From W US Hwy 18 & North 5th St in Menno, drive north 4 miles to 282nd St. Turn left/west 1 mile to 430th Ave. Turn right/north 0.75 miles. Driveway is on the west side of the road.
GPS: 43.31074, -97.60289

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED*

Kendall Hettick
khettick@pheasantsforever.org
605-290-9835

WEATHER NOTE: If conditions are not conducive to burning, registered participants will be notified, and the training will be postponed until a later date.