



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR GRASSLAND BEST PRACTICES

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HOW TO USE THIS LIST

Landowners exploring ways to manage their land using systems that improve profitability while simultaneously increasing biodiversity, soil, water, wildlife, etc. are encouraged to consider financial assistance programs to support their work.

This list describes types of practices, and entities that offer programs for privately owned lands.

To find more details on the programs, and to connect with a professional to see if their program could be a fit, visit:

DAKOTA
CONSERVATION
NETWORK
www.conservesd.org



and
habitat.sd.gov



PROGRAMS PROVIDER OPTIONS

Annual Payments for Conservation Practices	USDA- Farm Service Agency
Easements	Audubon Great Plains, SD Ag Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Grassland Restoration: Grazing Deferral	Ducks Unlimited, USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service,
Grassland Restoration: Grass Plantings	Ducks Unlimited, James River Water Development, Monarch Joint Venture, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture, Second Century Habitat Fund, SD Game, Fish and Parks, USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service- Partners for Fish & Wildlife, World Wildlife Fund
Grazing Infrastructure (water, cross fence, etc.)	Ducks Unlimited, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture, SD Game, Fish and Parks, USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service- Partners for Fish & Wildlife
Pollinator Establishment	Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund, Monarch Joint Venture, Pheasants Forever, SD Game, Fish and Parks
Prescribed Fire Services	Pheasants Forever, many local Volunteer Fire Departments
Public Hunting Access Payments	Pheasants Forever, SD Game, Fish and Parks
Riparian Buffer Improvement	Conservation Districts, SD Dept of Agriculture and Natural Resources, SD Game, Fish and Parks
Westland Restoration	Ducks Unlimited, SD Game, Fish and Parks, US Fish and Wildlife Service- Partners for Fish & Wildlife
Woody Encroachment- deferred grazing	USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service
Woody Encroachment- tree removal	USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Select SD Conservation Districts

**Find a Habitat
Advisor near you and
start the
conversation**

habitat.sd.gov



Technical Assistance

In addition to financial assistance, many entities also provide help in planning your project. Help can be found through SDSU Extension, your local USDA-NRCS or conservation district office, and mentors listed at

sdgrass.org/mentoring-network/



USDA

Through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the US Department of Agriculture offers a broad array of programs. With an office in nearly every South Dakota county, this can be a great place to start exploring options.

www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs

and

www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives

Every Acre Counts

Offered through SDSU Extension, Every Acre Counts goal is to improve the farm profitability, diversity, and ecosystem benefits of agriculture by using precision technologies to empower producers to help make informed management decisions for every acre of their operations.

To achieve that, the precision data from the grower is transferred to a profitability software along with the production input costs, crop market price, and variable rate fertilizer or seeding maps available. When all the data is collected, a report is generated to show the producer the profitability throughout the field and see it as an acre-by-acre profit/loss map instead of an averaged field-by-field representation.

When marginal land, such as saline soils is prevalent, conservation program examples are created to show what could happen to the field's profit, expense reduction, and ROI if the marginal lands were removed from crop production and enrolled into partner conservation programs.

This program is free for producers. To learn more, visit www.extension.sdstate.edu/agriculture/every-acre-counts

This handout was prepared by the Connecting Grasslands Producers & Conservation Program Workgroup of the

South Dakota Grasslands Initiative.

To learn about work happening around the state, and to find out how you can use your own interests and talents to get involved in supporting our grasslands,

visit: SDGrassInitiative.org



South Dakota
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