

Conservation Implementation Strategy Project Belle Fourche Irrigation District (BFIG) Irrigation and Soil health



The Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) is a new phased-in approach to deliver conservation programs to farmers and ranchers across South Dakota. Funding for CIS comes through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). Funding and support from other agencies and groups can be leveraged and coordinated to focus on mutual issues of the highest priority.

For more information, go to:
<https://bit.ly/SDNRCS-CIS>

This Project At-A-Glance

Partners

Belle Fourche Irrigation District
Belle Fourche River Watershed
Partnership
Butte Conservation District

Funding for this project is provided by the EQIP Program and partners with financial and in-kind contributions.

Contact:
Victor Tuschen
District Conservationist
USDA-NRCS
victor.tuschen@usda.gov
(605) 892-3368

Background

When Belle Fourche Irrigation District started in early 1900's, all water delivery within the system was done by open ditches, which was the best practice at the time. Due to topography and design, there are small irregular shaped fields that are hard to efficiently irrigate and can cause soil erosion. Over the past 20 years there has been a concentrated effort to improve efficiency of the Belle Fourche Irrigation District by NRCS and multiple partners.

Resource Concern(s)

Concerns include inefficient use of irrigation water, soil erosion, degraded plant condition, and soil quality degradation.

Goals

The approach will be to concentrate on the implementation efforts in the

core area of the project, with minimal projects implemented outside this area. The goal is to work with a minimum five producers the first year, ten producers the second year, and ten producers the third year.

Desired Outcomes

Optimal outcome would be a Resource Management System plan developed at the field level. The base practice will be irrigation pipeline and irrigation water management. Options to include in the plan would be conservation tillage, cover crops, and conservation crop rotation.

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