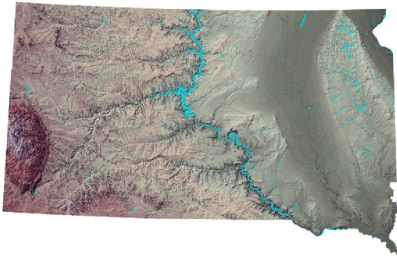


## Conservation Implementation Strategy Project

# Honeybee 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

Honeybee Soil Health Initiative will begin in 2021 by signing up six producers with the goal of having 12 distinct producers signed up by 2023.

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

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#### Background

Soil health has a direct impact on pollinator visitation patterns, quality and quantity of nectar, and pollen production. If increases in soil health have a positive effect on honeybee health, then one could assume that decreases in soil health have a negative effect. Three fields conducted honeybee monitoring on cover crop fields throughout the bloom period which resulted in nearly absent honeybee counts.

#### Resource Concern(s)

There resource concerns are degraded soil quality, inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife which include shelter, food, water and habitat continuity, degraded water quality, livestock production limitation, and undesirable plant production and health.

#### Goals

The Honeybee Soil Health Project seeks to improve the overall performance and resiliency of all pollinators with a primary emphasis on honeybees by providing ample habitat, food, and cover.

#### Desired Outcomes

Our desired outcome is to see an increase in honeybee monitoring counts throughout the priority area. The increased prevalence in honeybee counts will inform us that soil health is not only important for food production but is also important for other ecological aspects such as pollinators. Research is needed to prove that soil health provides a positive web for all ecological aspects in nature.

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