USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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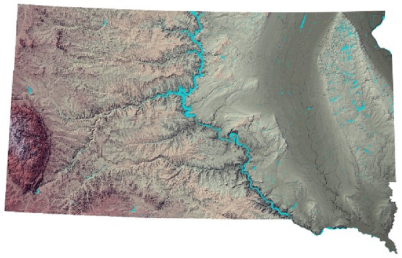
SD-FS-CIS FY2020-MEDC

Conservation Implementation Strategy Project

Medicine Creek Conservation Implementation



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

At-A-Glance

Partners

Hughes County Conservation District
SD Soil Health Coalition
United States Forest and Wildlife Service Partners for Wildlife Program
Hughes County Commission
National Wild Turkey Federation
SD State University Extension
SD Department of Game Fish and Parks
Ducks Unlimited

Funding for this project is provided by the EQIP Program and partners with

Background

The grasslands in the lower Medicine Creek basin have been declining in soil health and plant productivity due to poor rotations, no rotation, or over grazing. The increase of invasive grasses in rangeland have added to the decline. Most cropland systems no longer have perennial species in the rotation and livestock integration on the cropland is limited due to lack of water sources and fencing.

Resource Concern(s)

The primary concern is the degraded plant communities. All other resource concerns include plant productivity and health, structure and composition, and organic matter depletion. The terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates, and production of feed and forage imbalance, will improve as well.

Goal

The goal on cropland is to plant perennials and/or integrate livestock on 1,000 acres of cropland or have five operators implement perennials or integrate livestock into their cropland. For grazing land, the goal is to improve grazing systems and implement Prescribed Grazing on 4,000 acres of grazing land.

Desired Results

The desired results are treating 75 percent of the grazing land to maintain healthy and productive grassland plant communities and soils with a sustainable management system that will benefit a whole host of resource concerns.

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South Dakota
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