

## Conservation Implementation Strategy Project

# Soil Health - Salinity Management



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

Spink Conservation District  
Precision Soil Management  
Ducks Unlimited

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### Background

The abundance of precipitation in the 1990's has increased the number and extent of salt affected soils in Spink County. By the late 1990's and through today, many areas have accumulated enough salt on the surface that foxtail barely and/or kochia will no longer grow, resulting in hundreds of acres no longer capable of growing conventional crops.

### Resource Concern(s)

Salinity expansion is the greatest resource concern affecting cropland throughout Spink County. Environmental impacts range from increase in soil erosion throughout the year, loss of desired soil structure, resulting in loss of water infiltration and functional soil biology, and advancement of invasive and noxious weeds.

### Goal

The goal is to reclaim existing saline seeps and implement improved conservation management strategies to prevent expansion and development of saline/degraded soil conditions.

This will increase field profitability by improving soil functions and biological activity, and gradually reduce producer dependency on synthetic fertilizers, use of seed treatments, and chemical treatments. It will also increase nesting cover for priority upland game species and pollinator habitat through the establishment of diverse cover crop mixtures.

### Desired Results

By maintaining residue levels of 60 percent throughout the year and increasing crop diversity and cropping systems will allow the introduction of livestock grazing along with proscribed grazing practices.

South Dakota  
**Natural  
Resources  
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