

Soil Health Planning and Improvement Project

Cover Crops, Forage/Biomass Planting, Pasture Grazing Best Management Practices

Purpose

To improve water quality through implementation of soil health best management practices.

Overview

The Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program has designated funds in South Dakota to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and operators within the program's active watershed project areas who are willing to help improve water quality by adopting certain soil health best management practices.

This assistance will be administered by the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (SDSHC) in partnership with the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (SDANR), and South Dakota State University Department of Natural Resource Management.

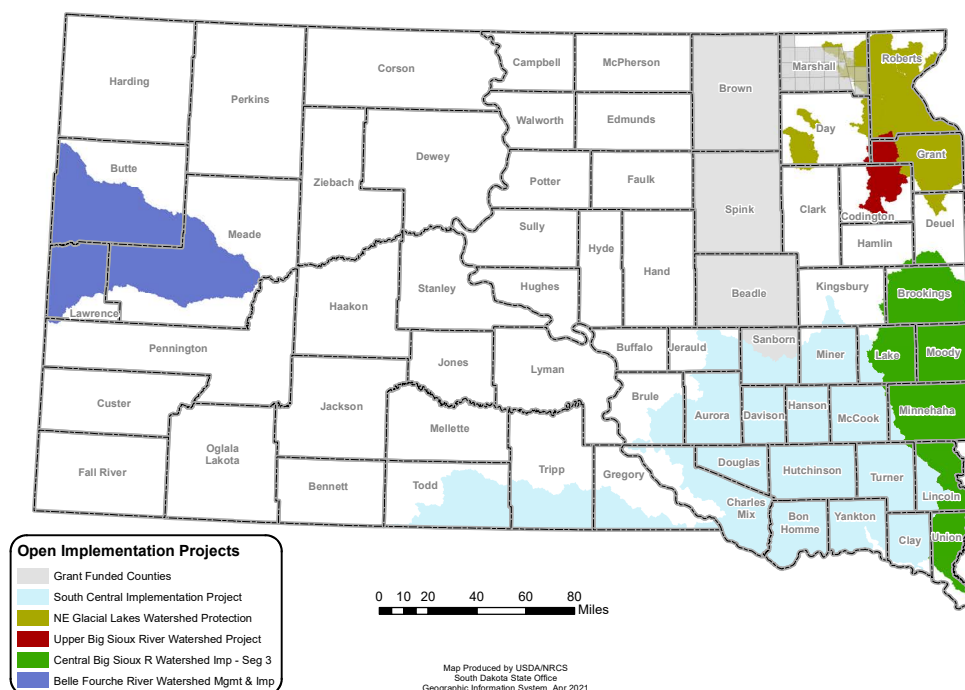
Supported Practices

Through this program, technical assistance and cost sharing funds are available for planting cover crops; planting forage and biomass in riparian areas; and fencing, planting riparian buffers, and stock watering best management practices for pasture grazing.

SDSHC staff will also provide advice and technical assistance for other conservation practices and work with landowners to determine the availability of financial assistance for best management practices for their operations.

Project Areas

To qualify for the project's financial assistance, supported work must occur in South Dakota's active Section 319 watershed project areas or the northern counties of the James River Water Development District. These include: South Central Watershed Project, Northeast Glacial Lakes Watershed Project, Belle Fourche River Watershed Project, Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project, Big Sioux River Watershed Project, Spink County, Brown County, Beadle County, and portions of Marshall County.



Participation Requirements

Participating landowners and operators must complete an application and be willing to provide documentation of work completed, including receipts for services and materials, documentation of time spent on supported work, and before and after photos. All supported practices must be approved by SDSHC prior to beginning work and verified by SDSHC staff after work completion. Additionally, participants must grant permission for SDSHC staff to access the work site and to access relevant participant files within the NRCS system.

Participation in the program is also dependent upon available funds.

Practices

Though not an exhaustive list, the following is a list of supported practices in the program.

Practice	Practice
Cover crop planting	Tank (standard w/base)
Forage/Biomass planting	Tank (fountain type)
Grass planting (tame)	Pasture pump (nose pumps)
Grass planting (native mix)	Alternative energy pump
Grass planting (native/forbs mix)	Rural Water hookup
Pipeline (plastic above ground)	Dugout construction
Pipeline (HDPE below ground)	Dam construction or repair
Pipeline (PVC up to 1.25")	Well (steel or copper/plastic)
Pipeline (PVC 1.5" to 2" below ground)	Fence (electric)
Pipeline (PVC 3" below ground)	Fence (barbed wire)
Tank (freeze-proof with base)	Specialized protective fence
Tank (steel rim w/flex. bottom)	Temporary fence

Getting Started

For an application or more information, visit www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org/319-program or contact any of the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition staff members.

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