

# FARM BILL CONSERVATION IN

# SOUTH DAKOTA

Farm Bill conservation programs provide tens of millions of dollars each year to South Dakota farmers, ranchers and landowners through cost-share, rental payments, technical assistance and more. The voluntary, incentive-based programs help producers steward the state's soil, woods, waters and wildlife, and provide meaningful economic benefits.

## Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

In 2025, **\$41.1 million** was invested in South Dakota through CSP. **271 contracts** totaled **740,282 acres** across the state. CSP helps farmers and ranchers implement multiple conservation practices over a five-year contract to enhance their entire operation.

Top SD practices include:

- Prescribed grazing
- Reduced tillage
- Nutrient management
- Pest management

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP provides financial and technical support to help farmers and ranchers integrate beneficial conservation practices on working lands. In 2025, South Dakota producers received **\$22.2 million** from the program, enrolling **170,764 acres** in **218 contracts**. The most popular practices for the state include cover crops and prescribed grazing.

## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

In 2025, **14,406 South Dakota farms and ranches** were enrolled in CRP, covering **2.6 million acres**. Of them, **89%** held at least one Continuous CRP contract—best known for its practices implemented alongside regular production, such as grassed waterways, filter strips, wetlands and pollinator habitat.



## Boosting producers' bottom lines

Some of the most popular practices in federal conservation programs those that improve soil quality, protect the soil from erosion, and have water quality and quantity benefits. Case studies indicate that once soil health practices are established, a producer can expect:



Improved yields



Savings on machinery, fuel and labor costs



Positive return on investment

Source: American Farmland Trust, Economic Impacts of Soil Health Practice Adoption, 2024

## A worthwhile investment

Investments made to federal conservation programs pay off well beyond their natural resource benefits. Conservative estimates show that for the period of 2019-2029, EQIP, CSP, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program will:

- Support more than 46,000 jobs annually.
- Provide a net economic return of more than \$1.58 for every federal dollar invested.
- Generate more than \$2 billion in local, state and federal tax revenue.

Source: The Nature Conservancy, Farm Bill Conservation Programs: An Economic Impact Analysis, 2025

## The Izaak Walton League in South Dakota

The Izaak Walton League of America was founded in 1922 to conserve outdoor America for future generations. Our founders, hunters and fishermen, named the organization after Izaak Walton, author of *The Compleat Angler*, a classic book about the art and spirit of fishing. Today, the League has **12 local chapters** and over **1,500 members in South Dakota**.

One of America's oldest conservation groups, the League has been involved in agricultural policy since 1937. Today, our 40,000 members across the country continue the legacy.



Sioux Falls, SD Chapter

For more information, contact Kate Hansen at [khansen@iwla.org](mailto:khansen@iwla.org)