hughes & stanley county
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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Producers reap rewards of cover crops

South Dakota State University finds cover cropping can increase profits for producers even in the first few years.

Aug 20, 2021 (farmprogress.com)

The longer farmers use cover crops, the more likely they are to see the benefits and to use the conservation practice on a higher percentage of their farmland, according to a survey of eastern South Dakota producers.

Cover crops, which are planted after harvesting the cash crop, help prevent erosion and runoff, and increase soil organic matter, thereby reducing the need for fertilizer and improving water quality. In addition, cover crops can help suppress weeds, thereby reducing herbicide and pesticide usage, says assistant professor Tong Wang of South Dakota State University's Ness School of Management and Economics.

She is part of a team of SDSU researchers who conducted the spring 2018 survey to evaluate producers' perceptions about the benefits of conservation practices aimed at improving soil health, reducing the industry's carbon footprint and increasing the sustainability of agriculture.

Furthermore, Wang says those who use cover crops for grazing are more likely to view them as increasing their profitability, even during the first few years. "Grazing helps offset the cost of using cover crops by reducing forage costs," she says.

More than 70% of South Dakota producers graze their livestock on crop residue and cover crops, according to a 2016 survey in the Northern Great Plains.

An article on South Dakota farmers' perceptions about profitability and their likelihood of continuing to use cover crops was published in the May issue of the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics. The research was funded by the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Tracking cover crop usage

In the contiguous United States, the number of acres on which farmers plant cover crops increased from 218,000 in 2012 to 619,000 in 2017, according to the fifth-annual cover crop survey by Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education's Conservation Technology Information Center. Of the 708 South Dakota producers who responded to the SDSU researchers' survey, more than 80% expressed interest in adopting cover crops in the future, including those who did not use them.

More than 40% of the survey respondents planted cover crops. Furthermore, the percentage of cover crop users reporting a profit of 5% or more — the threshold used in the survey — increases as the number of years of cover crop usage increases.

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Wang estimated the annual per acre cost of planting cover crops at $40 to $50 per acre. Based on the market price for soybeans and corn, the 5% profitability threshold translates to an increased profit of more than $11 per acre. “The savings typically come after three to five years,” Wang says.

Among those who have used cover crops for less than three years, 20.6% saw profits increase by 5% or more. Nearly 29% of those using cover crops for three to five years met the 5% profitability threshold, while more than 35% of those who had used cover crops for six to 10 years reported doing so.

Slightly more than 40% of those who had used cover crops for more than 10 years saw profits of 5% or more, Wang says. Even among those who had never used cover crops, 16.1% had the perception that the conservation measure could increase profitability.

Increasing cover crop usage

As the number of years of cover crop usage increases, so do the number of acres on which cover crops were planted. “The trend is to try the practice on a limited number of acres and then expand,” Wang says. The newest adopters planted cover crops on only 12% of their farmland, while those who had used cover crops more than 10 years did so on 45% of their farmland.

In addition, Wang found a majority of the farmers who use cover crops have also adopted no-till or reduced tillage practices. “There is an interaction between the two practices,” she says.

Farm size also affected the likelihood of adopting cover crops, Wang notes. “Those farmers who report $100,000 to $1 million in gross sales are more likely to use cover crops,” she says, adding that very small and very large farms are less likely to use cover crops.

The USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program are designed to promote adoption and continued use of cover crops, but only 40% of the survey respondents who use cover crops received incentives.

“Since we did not ask producers why they did not apply for subsidies, the exact reasons are unknown,” Wang says.

Based on a research conducted from the 2012 USDA Agricultural Resources Management Survey of farmers, SDSU researchers suggest “the complexity of the application process and the programs themselves may discourage producers from participating.”

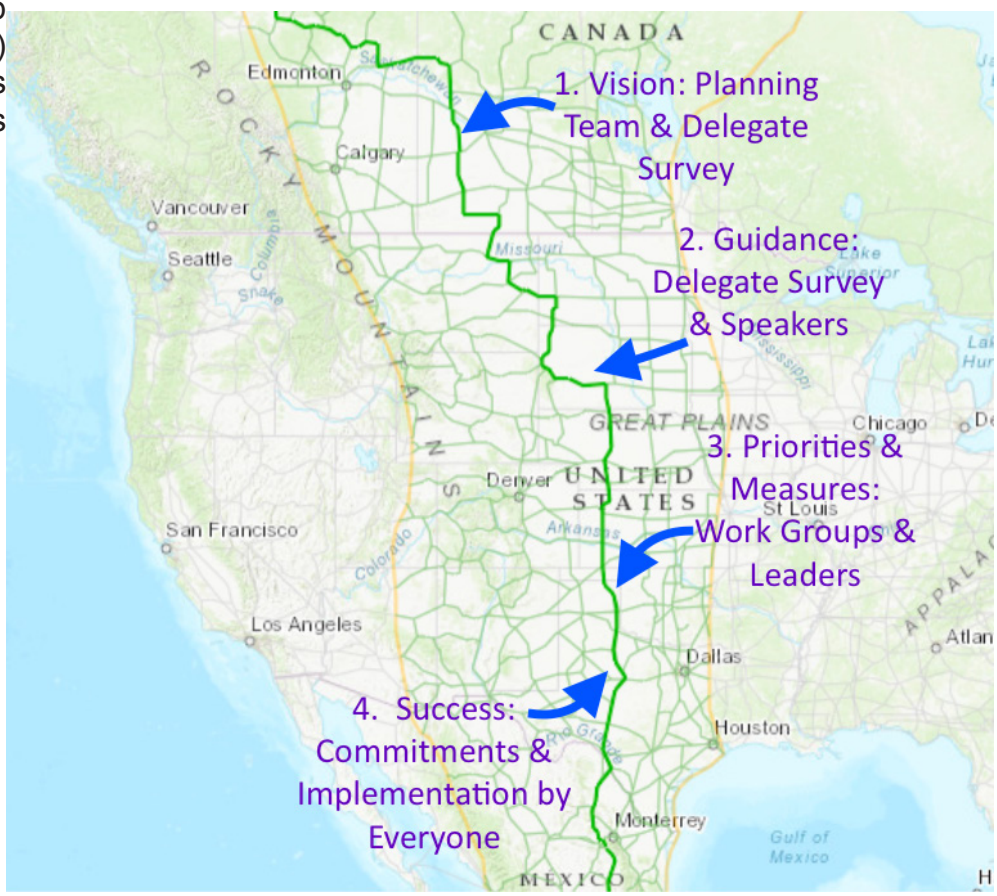
Education may be the key to encouraging more producers to use these incentive programs, Wang says. The SDSU survey showed farmers who had attended SDSU Extension workshops and used social networks to learn about farming innovations were more likely to see cover crops as increasing profitability.

“Adoption is a learning process that involves improvement in farmers’ knowledge and skills to apply the practice on their own farms. Therefore, the factors that potentially accelerate farmers’ learning progress, such as Extension training, workshops and social networks, could facilitate the adoption process, help more producers use incentives and play a positive role in perceived profitability,” Wang says.

Central Grasslands Roadmap 2020

During 2020, a number of entities, organizations and individuals, including Partnerscapes, convened remotely in a series of sessions to increase the resiliency and sustainability of grasslands and the human communities they support across our continental central grasslands from Mexico to Canada. This process, known as the Central Grasslands Roadmap (www.grasslandsroadmap.org) engaged participants from across eight sectors from landowners and corporations to state and federal conservation agencies. and included representatives Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota, and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

If you would like to do the survey, please contact us at info@grasslandsroadmap.org.



One of the primary goals of the Central Grasslands Roadmap is to ensure that programs, incentives and policies are both relevant to and supportive of ranchers and ranching. Healthy grasslands and sustainable communities can be supported in part through landowners having access to information, resources and choices provided through nonprofit, local, state, and federal programs that financially or technically support improvements to rangelands. As a part of the effort to ensure that efforts to support landowners are both relevant and appropriate, the Roadmap team has designed this short survey to better understand landowners' perspective on conservation partnership opportunities. Your voice as a rancher and landowner is crucial to leading this effort and the final product of the Roadmap. If you are a landowner or land manager that operates on grasslands in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota, and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan or the Northwest Territories your participation in the survey linked below is requested.

When responding to the following questions, consider livestock production, range production, and the overall health of your business. The responses to this survey will be summarized and themed by a team (including ranchers, landowners, and producers) helping to ensure that the priorities identified in the Central Grasslands Roadmap support ranchers/landowners/producers as much as possible.

Disaster Programs August 2021

Disaster Programs

1. **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP):** The signup period for Hughes and Stanley will start on Tuesday July 6, 2021 and end on Friday August 20, 2021. ECP is for water lines either temporary or permanent. You would need to apply for this program BEFORE you start. To dig an underground line an Environmental Survey is needed before you start. We cannot cost share the undertaking if the study is not completed. This may take some time. So, if immediate water is needed you may want to consider a temporary above ground line as it would not require an Environmental Survey to be completed.
2. **Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP):** This program will pay cost share for water hauling. You will need to keep track of hours of labor and gallons of water hauled.
3. **Livestock Forage Program (LFP**): This program pays for lost grazing on pasture acres. Make sure you report the grazed acres in the correct name as this will make the application go smoother. Currently Hughes and Stanley are eligible for payments.
4. **Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**: Producers with NAP insurance must file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. CALL THE OFFICE BEFORE YOU GRAZE YOUR HAY GROUND.
5. **Emergency Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** Haying Producers must complete paperwork prior to haying.

If you have questions, contact the Hughes-Stanley FSA Office. All programs take preapproval so make sure you contact the office and don't lose eligibility.

CRP ACREAGE MAINTENANCE

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants are responsible for ensuring adequate, approved vegetative and practice cover is maintained to control erosion throughout the life of the contract after the practice has been established. Participants must also control undesirable vegetation, weeds, (including noxious weeds), insects, and rodents that may pose a threat to the existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area.

MAINTAINING ARC/PLC ACREAGE

If you're enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, you must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. By signing ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts, you agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If you fail to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on your farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate your contract for the program year.

Planning Forage Needs

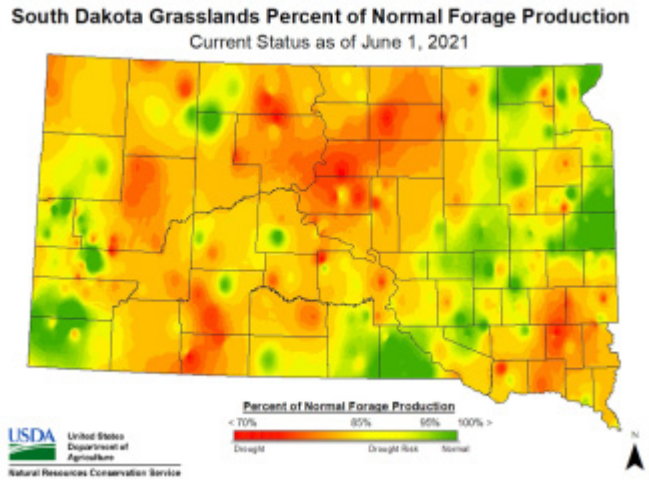


Figure 1. South Dakota grasslands percent of normal forage production. Current status as of June 1, 2021. Courtesy: U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

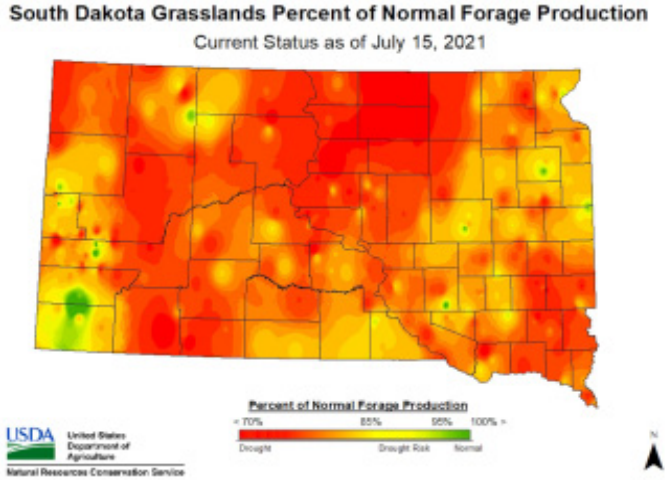


Figure 2. South Dakota grasslands percent of normal forage production. Current status as of July 15, 2021. Courtesy: U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

Inventorying and planning for hay and other forage feed needs is essential every year, especially when production is uncertain due to drought or excess moisture.

At the beginning of the hay crop year, May 1, 2021, beginning inventory across the nation was down 11.8 percent compared to a year ago and 13.7 percent lower than the five-year average. Five of the top-producing hay states reported stocks were 27.5 to 43.9 percent lower than a year ago and up to 60.3 percent lower than thefive-year average.

Average to higher production, combined with average to higher-than-average temperatures throughout the winter, helped South Dakota stocks. However, South Dakota beginning stocks were 6.4 percent lower than the previous year.Early predictions for the 2021 hay production year indicated a reduction in grass and alfalfa production across the state (Figure 1).

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) estimates in June listed production at 85 percent or less than normal forage production in many counties, with 10–12 counties at less than 70 percent of normal production. Prodcution, as a percent of normal, deteriorated in the July 15 report (Figure 2). With the exception of small pockets, most of the state is classified as drought risk to drought, and a large portion of South Dakota counties are at or near the 70 percent or less of normal forage production.

Anecdotal evidence based on the first cutting of alfalfa harvested in early June, and second cuttings being allowed to mature without being harvested in July, reinforce the reduction in forage production across many areas of the state.

What Can Be Done?

INVENTORY

The first step to feed planning is to take a current inventory of the livestock operation. A list of the number and weight of the animals to be fed is a critical step to determining the needed roughage and other feed needs.

Example: Count the herd and take weights.

- 102 cows, average weight 1325 pounds
- 97 calves, average weight 220 pounds
- Four bulls, average weight 1605 pounds
- Two horses, average weight 1250 pounds

Considering 2.3 percent of body weight required, this herd requires 57 tons of feed per-day before accounting for any waste due to the method of feeding used.

Next, inventory the feed on hand. Count and weigh bales, measure silage piles, measure grain supplies, and do a feed test on these feedstuffs. Counting and weighing ensure an accurate evaluation of the current situation. Feed testing allows for the evaluation of nutrition value available and areas lacking.

NUMBER OF DAYS TO FEED

Given the current dry situation, determining the number of days harvested forages are needed to provide the required nutrition for the herd is more complicated than in traditional grazing years. However, this does not mean "don't do it." Create a traditional feed required list, say feeding from November to April, and then evaluate pasture conditions and expected production to determine when animals need supplemented forages and add that to the total required feed number.

PREPARE

"Ignorance is bliss" is a detrimental frame of mind for this situation. Preparation and planning can alleviate shortfalls when identified early.

The Livestock Forage Program (LFP) provides some feed assistance to producers. Talk to your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to determine if your county qualifies for assistance and at what level.

Create and evaluate feed options. There is more than one way to feed and take care of livestock, and feed options should be taken into consideration during short feed times.

- Create a sacrifice pasture to feed the herd on. Sacrificing a pasture ensures only one pasture needs to recover from overgrazing when rainfall levels return to normal.
- Drylot the cowherd in your lots or at a custom lot. Determine the economic difference between hauling feed to the cows or hauling the cows to the feed.
- Early wean the calves. Reduce the feed requirements of the cow and reduce the feed production needs from the pasture.
- Invest in hay feeders and bunks. Bale feeders and bunks can improve the utilization of available harvested feedstuffs by reducing wasted feed. Wasted feed is an expense to all operations, especially during drought when feed is not readily availiable.

Tools Available

Easy decisions are few and far between in the current moisture situation. To help with the decision-making, South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension has several online tools available to assist with the math components of these decisions.

- Feed Inventory and Demand: This spreadsheet compares the feed needs of the herd to the feed inventory currently on hand.
- Livestock Budgets: Compare the costs related to keeping or selling beef animals at different weights.
- Feed Nutrient Calculator: Compare the actual cost of purchased feeds by adding a mileage rate and comparing the cost of the energy or protein components.
- Move the Cows or Move the Feed: Compare the cost of moving cows or moving feed.
- Silage/Earlage Calculator: As the corn crop matures, the option to harvest silage or earlage may arise. Placing a value on these feedstuffs is aided by using this calculator.

Protecting Plants From Heat Stress

When temperatures reach well above the 90s with no real sign of a break, it is hard on humans and plants. Man cools off by finding shade, setting up a fan or finding an air-conditioned house. Plants are stationary. They must deal with whatever nature dishes out. Here are some tips that will help protect plants from heat stress.

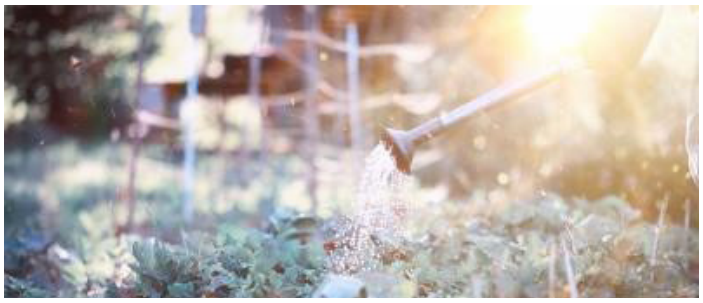
Air and Soil Temperatures

Courtesy: Canva

Plants have optimal temperatures they thrive in, so when outside temperatures exceed that, vegetation will start showing signs of stress. When signs of stress are present, leaves will wilt, curl or burn. Cool-season annuals are especially susceptible to damage during hot, summer months, and they will likely stop flowering, go dormant or die out entirely. As the sun beats down, it increases the soil temperature, which also contributes to the heat stress in a plant. To lower the temperature, a layer of four-to-six inches of straw, pine needles, leaves or grass clippings will help.

Also watch for vegetables dropping blossoms in times of high heat. Plants, such as tomatoes, peppers, squash, melons, cucumbers, beans and even pumpkins, are notorious victims. Cool-season crops, such as broccoli, will bolt. Check your vegetables and fruits regularly. Harvest the produce promptly! This saves plant energy, and your crop is less likely to be overripe.

Water and Fertilizer



Overly dry soil is a sure sign that plants will develop heat stress. Water is essential for plants to live. During a heat wave, correct watering is even more important.

Early-morning or early-evening watering is the best time to provide moisture to all your plants in the garden or landscape. If overhead watering is done during the midday, most of the water will evaporate before it gets to the roots. Use a soaker hose or drip irrigation to direct water right into the soil and avoid loses from evaporation.

Deep watering two to three times a week is ideal. The goal is to get the equivalent of one inch of rainfall on garden soils each week. Note: Container gardens will likely require daily watering during hot, dry conditions.

Too much water is just as bad as too little water. So, before watering, feel the soil first. If it is wet, don't water. Overwatering deprives the roots of oxygen, which can lead to root rot or fungal diseases.

When you have a heat wave, stop fertilizing. Without adequate water, fertilizing could cause damage to plant tissues. A sudden flush of nutrients signals to the plant that it is time to grow. It is dangerous and stressful for the plant during soaring temperatures, because new growth is more-susceptible to the effects of heat damage.

Providing Shade

During prolonged periods of hot weather, temporary shading can reduce temperatures and prevent sunburn on your plants. Remember, avoid prolonged shading of fruits, vegetables and sun-loving annuals when temperatures normalize and days start to shorten. Here are some ideas for temporary shade:

- Patio Umbrella: Use in a small area.
- Shade Sail: Best if used in areas between houses, trees or a shed.
- Row Cover: Light enough to drape over the plants. Delicate plants will need support hoops to keep the fabric from breaking or damaging the plants.
- Gunny Sacks: Find stalks or a small garden fence, and place the sacks in such a way that they act like a curtain to block out the rays.

Summer Lawn Care: Mowing, Weed Control and Watering Practices

When temperatures reach well above the 90s with During a summer of drought, the extreme heat, lack of rainfall and invasion of pests can really take a toll on our turf. Below are general concepts of summer lawn care and techniques to help your lawn through difficult summer months.

Mowing

- Many of the lawns in South Dakota are made up of Kentucky bluegrass and fescues. These grasses should be mowed to a height of three inches or more. This helps the lawn cope with summer heat stress and shades the soil surface to reduce weed germination. During times of heavy drought and high heat, only mow when absolutely needed. Every mowing of a lawn creates a great deal of stress, especially during hot and dry conditions, and anything we can do to help avoid that stress is beneficial.
- When mowing, do not cut any more than one-third of the total leaf area in any single mowing. If your mower is normally set to a three-inch cutting height, try to mow before the lawn reaches four and one-half inches.
- If your lawn grows more than expected between cuttings, it is always best to adjust the cutting height a notch or two higher, so as not to remove all the accumulated growth in one mowing pass. Phase the mower deck height back to the normal cutting height over two or three cuttings.
- Especially during a dry summer, avoid bagging lawn clippings. Instead use a mulching blade to return grass clippings back into the lawn to help recycle fertilizer nutrients back into the soil where the turf plant can utilize them.

Weed Control

ESTABLISHED LAWNS

Summer, especially during drought and periods of high heat, is a poor time to control perennial broadleaf weeds.

- Weeds need to be actively growing to have the greatest likelihood for good weed control from herbicide applications, summer weed control can often be spotty at best. Weeds in non-irrigated lawns during dry periods are less likely to be controlled by herbicides. Waiting until fall to initiate your weed control program is best. Remember, controlling weeds is a marathon, and you must have a good, long-term plan in place.
- Many broadleaf herbicide product labels state to not apply if daytime temperatures are 85 degrees Fahrenheit or higher to prevent injuring the lawn. During this summer, many of our days easily reach above that temperature.
- Crabgrass usually shows a fair amount of growth and becomes much more noticeable in your lawn in June and subsequent months. During early summer months it may be difficult to control actively growing crabgrass with a single herbicide application. It may take two applications two or three weeks apart to get decent control. Be sure to use a post-emergence crabgrass herbicide to control growing plants, as crabgrass preventers will not kill already growing plants. If crabgrass is becoming an issue in your lawn during the summer, it is best to plan ahead and use a pre-emergence herbicide (also commonly called a crabgrass preventer) next spring.

- Precautionary statements will be spelled out on herbicide product labels. It is the responsibility of the user to read and follow all label directions associated with any herbicide application.

NEW TURF ESTABLISHMENT

New lawn establishments planted this spring are likely to have new weeds growing along with the new lawn grasses.

- Most herbicide label directions have a recommended waiting period before it is safe to apply herbicides without a risk of injuring the newly planted lawn; however, product label statements can vary greatly in this regard. This waiting period is typically relative to the lawn having made enough growth to have been mowed two, three or more times.
- Mowing the lawn can help keep the weeds in check if summer temperatures make it unsafe to control weeds until fall.
- For minor weed issues, removing weeds by hand or with an appropriate tool is always a great option that does not lead to herbicide damage or stress, especially during hot weather.

Watering

During drought conditions, many communities have watering guidelines for summer water conservation. In many cases, water use is only allowed every other day and is based upon the odd or even home street address. Efficient use of water is good for the community, your lawn and your budget! Be sure to check your local guidelines, as water conservation has become even more important during hot and dry summers.

- Lawn watering practices can be dependent on homeowner preference. Some people prefer to water more frequently to keep the lawn a good, green color, while some will not water and allow their bluegrass lawns to go summer dormant, not watering much at all during extended dry periods.
- When lawns are allowed to go dormant in summer, a light one-quarter to one-half inch watering every three weeks (if not supplied by an occasional rain), will help the growing points (crowns and rhizomes) stay alive to regrow once we reach the cool and moist fall conditions.
- If you do irrigate, the goal is to water deeply and infrequently so that the turfgrass adapts to growing a deeper, more-resilient root system.
- In the absence of rainfall in July and August, applying one to one and a half inches of water per week will maintain good lawn color and growth. This weekly total should not be applied over the course of every single day, but rather occur over two to three deeper watering in a week. Remember to check your local guidelines for watering restrictions.
- Soils vary greatly in how fast water can infiltrate into the soil. Water only as long as it takes for water to begin to slightly run off the lawn. Many automatic sprinkler settings refer to this practice as "cycle and soak." All zones are set for realistic, often shorter run times that avoid runoff. Then additional run times are repeated two or three times over the watering period that day to maximize the amount of water that moves into the soil.
- The best time of day to water lawns is early morning, when there is less wind, to improve sprinkler coverage. Additionally, watering early in the morning prevents wasted water that is lost to evaporation during warmer parts of the day. Also, grass blades can dry quickly as the day warms, reducing the possibility of turfgrass disease issues.

Hughes County Conservation District

We are here to serve you!

Contact: HCCD Manager – Douglas Boes @ (605) 280-3021 or HCCD Secretary Triniti Sowards @ (605) 301-3401
Douglas.Boes@sd.nacdnet.net Triniti.Sowards@usda.gov

Tree Planting (Tractor/Planter/Operator)

Machine Tree Planting -
(**$.40/foot**) includes trees and planting
*$200 Minimum Charge

Hand Plant Tree (Bare Roots)

$2.25 per Bareroot Tree
$45.00 per Bundle of 25
$4.00 per Styro-plug Tree
$18.00 per 1.5 Gallon Pot
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***Must be paid in full at time of pickup**

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$120.00 per hour w/a $150.00 minimum charge.

43,560 Square Ft = Acre 16.5 Ft = Rod Row

Grass Seeding – No-Till Drills

Minimum Charge = $300

Drilling Prices Effective 1/1/2019	Hughes County Customers	Customers Outside of Hughes County
Site Fees =	$250	$250 + Additional $50 per each Additional County Traveled Thru
Drill/Tractor/Oper	$16/Acre	$18/Acre
Drill Rental Only	$12/Acre	$14/Acre

Tree Fabric

Machine Application -
(**$.90/foot**) includes fabric and application
*$200 Minimum Charge
4'x300' roll of fabric - $80.00
6'x750' roll of fabric - $215.00
4'x4' Squares - $4.00
Staples - $.20 each / 500 - $100.00
5' Tubes - $5.00

Mowing/Spraying *plus chemical charge*

$75.00/Hour
$100 Minimum Charge

Pick-up Mounted Sprayer

$50.00/Hour< 10 Acres + Chemical & Surfactant charges
$10.00/Acre > 10 Acres + Chemical & Surfactant charges
****Per Ounce** Chemical & Surfactant charges are calculated at **markup** %
*****$100 Minimum Charge**

HCCD reserves their rights to adjust prices w/out notice

4' No-Till Drill / Water Wagon / Auger

	4 HR Rental	8 HR Rental	24 HR Rental
Kasco Drill/Trailer	$140	$185	$200
Water Wagon	$75/HR	$250	$300
4" / 6" Auger			$30

Stanley County Conservation District

PO Box 393
Fort Pierre, SD 57532 email: Stanleycountycd@gmail.com

Service prices are subject to change

Mary Beth Fravel 220-1840 **Matt Stoeser 220-2854**

MOWING
$15 per acre + $200 site fee
Minimum charge $250

DRILLING
$18 per acre + $250 site fee
Minimum charge $250

RENTALS
Mower $300 per day
$200 to deliver
Drill $10 per acre
$200 to deliver

MACHINE TREE PLANTING
20 cents/ft Plus cost of trees
$250 minimum

MACHINE TREE FABRIC
70 cents/ft + 200 site fee
$250 minimum

FABRIC
4'X 300' roll $80
6' X 500" roll $145
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Plantskydd works by emitting an odor that animals associate with predator activity. Research has proven that odor-based repellents (Plantskydd) are more effective than other repellent systems; where the animal needs to taste treated plants before being repelled. Animals avoid plants before they bite—not after!

Its long-term effectiveness is attributable to the tenacity of its 100% natural, vegetable oil binder in sticking to plants — even under severe snow/rainfall conditions: up to 6 months over winter, 3-4 months in summer.

Is Plantskydd safe to use?

Yes! Made in the U.S.A. Pronounced: plant-skid, it contains no synthetic additives, is non-toxic, and is not harmful to animals or the environment. Plantskydd is Swedish for 'plant-protection,' where it was first developed to protect its vast tree plantations from browsing by deer, rabbits and moose—while also adhering to its strict environmental laws. It is equally effective protecting ornamentals, shrubs, and food crops.

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Plantskydd—the first animal repellent OMRI Listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute as suitable for use in the production of organic food and is USDA approved for organic gardening.

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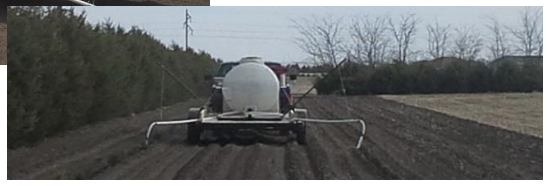
RENTAL / SERVICES

6' Rototiller Service - We now offer rototilling to our customers at a charge of $120/ Hr. with a $240 minimum charge.



1000 Gal. water tank available to lease to our customers at a charge of $75/ Hr. with a $150 Minimum charge.

4' Kasko No-Till Drill available to lease to our customers at Half-Day or Full-Day rates.

Contact:
Doug Boes 280-3021
DOUGLAS.BOES@SD.NACNET.NET

Triniti Sowards @ (605) 301-3401
Triniti.Sowards@usda.gov

Nannyberry-Maple Butter

A delicious, naturally sweetened spread made from wild nannyberries and maple syrup. 10 cups of nannyberries will yield about 5.5 cups of puree.

Course: Snack

Cuisine: American

Keyword: fruit butter, nannyberry, viburnum lentago, wild fruit

Servings: 4

Equipment

- Food mill or high speed blender

Ingredients

- 10 cups nannyberries
- 7 cups water

Instructions

1. Wash the nannyberries well and drain, then combine with the water, bring to a simmer, and cook for 40-45 minutes on low heat, mashing them up to extract a thick puree.
2. Pass the mixture through a food mill or strainer while hot, and discard the seeds.
3. To finish the nannyberry-maple butter add 1 cup maple to the above yield of puree, then process in a blender in batches to make it extra smooth.
4. Bake, whisking occasionally for about 30-45 minutes at 325 or until you can notice the evaporation and the mixture is thickened to your liking. A good pinch of cinnamon is great too.

Hughes and Stanley Counties Conservation Districts
1717 North Lincoln Avenue, Suite 103
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3109

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Permit No. 35

Hughes and Stanley County Conservation Districts will each be looking for dependable and reliable individuals to assist with the planting of trees and fabric applications this spring. Positions are available for tractor drivers, machine planters, fabric machine applicators and general laborers. Training is provided. Overtime and bonuses are available.

Applications are available at the Hughes County Conservation District office located at 1717 N Lincoln Ave, Suite 103, Pierre, SD. or at the Pierre area Career Center.

Please feel free to call the following numbers for the respective Districts.

Hughes County

605-301-3401 Triniti, (Office)
605-280-3021 Doug, (Manager)

Stanley County

605-220-1840 Mary Beth, (Office)
605-220-2854 Matt, (Field Manager)