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**AGRICULTURAL
CONSERVATION
PROGRAM**

1937

“Know Your Farm Program”

Preface

The time has come when farmers must stop and seriously consider their business of agriculture. The continued crowding of the soil for maximum production without safeguarding its productivity and the national economic conditions directly affecting farmers are rapidly forcing farmers into serfdom. The reduction in the producing power of the soil because of wasteful usage, which exposes the soil to wind and water erosion, must be stopped and the soils rebuilt, and a unity of effort by farmers to correct the economic situation must be attained, if farmers are to regain their rightful prestige.

The Federal Government realizes the danger to agriculture in South Dakota because of these conditions and is sponsoring a cooperative attack upon the problem of conserving the soils through the Agricultural Conservation Program. The Agricultural Conservation Program has provided payments for diversion of acreage from soil depleting crops to soil conserving crops and usage. Other payments are provided for soil-building practices that will conserve the soil and increase production for harvest.

These practices are proven practical and should be adopted by farmers in the spirit of saving the soils, for such is the only way a suitable income from the farm sufficient to provide an equitable standard of living for the farmers can be obtained. We cannot go on forever crediting failures on the farm to the weather and grasshopper. There is no way to control the weather and there seems to be no adequate protection against the grasshopper; hence it becomes necessary for farmers to readjust their farm operations to meet the emergencies that exist, whatever they may be.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is your program. See that it is protected for the future by carrying on practices in such a manner as to obtain positive performance equal to standards necessary under the program and which will provide adequate protection of the fertility of the soil. Our heritage, the producing power of the soil, must be preserved if farmers are to enjoy a high standard of living and maintain their rightful prestige in American life.

In order that the farmer might more easily understand the workings of the Agricultural Conservation program as applicable to South Dakota, the Extension Service at State College in cooperation with the State Committee has prepared the following information for farmers:

THE 1937 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR SOUTH DAKOTA FARMS

Some of the most important provisions of the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program and their application to South Dakota farms have been pointed out in this bulletin to assist farmers desiring to participate to put their farms in compliance. If additional information relative to the Program is desired, a committeeman or the county agent should be consulted.

Assigned Bases: The community and county committees will assign each farm (1) a soil-depleting base, (2) a soil-conserving base, (3) a corn acreage limit in Area "A," which are comparable with other farms in the community. The soil-conserving base is the difference between total cropland acreage on the farm and the soil-depleting base. It represents acreage that should be devoted to a conserving use under normal conditions with good farming conservation practices in addition to diversion. If the acreage of old soil-conserving crops on the farm is not sufficient to fill the soil-conserving base, it may be filled with emergency hay and pasture crops, or it may be summer fallowed or left idle.

Areas—For the purpose of participation in the 1937 Program, South Dakota has been divided into two areas—namely, Area "A," Corn limit counties and the dryland areas.

Area "A" is composed of the following counties: Bon Homme; Brookings, Clay, Hutchinson, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Turner, Union and Yankton. All farms in this area are wetland farms unless the operator requests and is granted dryland regulations by the county committee before May 1, 1937. Each farm in this area will be assigned a corn acreage limit.

The dryland area is composed of the balance of the counties of the state. All farms in this area are dryland farms unless the operator requests and is granted wetland regulations by the county committee before May 1, 1937.

Wetland and Dryland Farm Regulations differ in (1) method used in setting up the soil-building allowance, (2) kind of soil-building practices permitted to earn the soil-building allowance, and (3) types of benefit payments for performance. Dryland farms are permitted to earn soil-building practice payments for such practices as summer fallow, strip fallow, strip cropping, and contour furrowing while wetland farms are not eligible to these payments.

Wetland Payments—Wetland farms with soil-depleting bases of 20 acres or more are eligible to (1) diversion payments, (2) conserving payments, and (3) soil-building practice payments.

A diversion payment will be made for the diversion of acreage from the soil-depleting base to conserving or neutral use up to 15 percent of the soil-depleting base. There is no minimum requirement. The diversion rate per acre will be the appraised rate of the farm. The average diversion rate for South Dakota will be about \$4.60 per acre.

A conserving payment will be made for the increase of soil-conserving acreage. This payment will be made on any acreage classifying as soil-conserving and drawing diversion payment. The conserving rate will be one-half the diversion rate. The average conserving rate for South Dakota will be about \$2.30 per acre.

A soil-building payment will be made for carrying out approved soil-building practices for wetland farms. This payment is limited to the amount of the soil-building allowance. A soil-building payment may be collected for seeding legumes or grasses even though a stand is not secured, provided adequate proof is submitted showing that adapted seed was used in a workmanlike manner.

Dryland Payments—Dryland farms with soil-depleting bases of 20 acres or more are eligible to (1) diversion payments, and (2) soil-building practice payments.

Dryland farms are not eligible to conserving payments, but a comparable amount of money may be earned through soil-building practices adapted to dryland conditions due to the method of setting up dryland soil-building allowances.

Soil-building practice payments for seeding soil-conserving crops will be increased from \$1 to \$1.50 per acre, depending upon the practice rate, if a stand is shown at the date of final inspection and a hay or grain crop has not been taken off such acreage. Rates of \$2 or more will be increased by \$1.50. Rates of less than \$2 will be increased by \$1.

Wetland Farm Soil-Building Allowance for a farm with soil-depleting base of 20 acres or more will be the sum of the following items: (1) \$1 for each acre in the soil-conserving base; (2) \$1 for each acre for which diversion payment is made; (3) \$1.90 for each acre in commercial orchards; (4) \$1 for each acre on which only one crop of commercial vegetables were grown in 1936; (5) \$2 for each acre on which more than one crop of commercial vegetables were grown in 1936; and (6) 50 cents for each animal unit over 5 of the carrying capacity of the noncrop plowable pasture land.

Dryland Farm Soil-Building Allowance for a farm with a soil-depleting base of 20 acres or more will be the sum of the following items: (1) \$1 for each acre classified as soil-conserving in 1937, not in excess of the soil-conserving base; (2) two-thirds of the diversion rate for each acre for which diversion payment is made; (3), (4), (5), and (6), same as under wetland; (7) 25 cents for each acre or noncropland being restored to grass in accordance with specified provisions.

Performance—Each farm operator who expects to participate in the 1937 Program should make out a Declaration of Intention sheet before

May 1, 1937 and file it with the community committee. The operator is not required to perform as indicated on this form. However, if plans are changed before seeding, it should be checked with a committeeman or the county office to see that the changes do not put the applicant out of compliance.

The first step in determining performance is to see that the soil-conserving base is filled. It shall be filled by cropland devoted to the following uses in the order named: (1) old soil-conserving crops, (2) idle cropland, (3) small grains, millet, Sudan grass, rape, soy beans, and cane used for hay or pasture, (4) summer fallow, (5) new soil-conserving crops.

If the old soil-conserving acreage, such as old stands of alfalfa and sweet clover, is not sufficient to fill the soil-conserving base, idle cropland or emergency forage crops shall be used. If the soil-conserving base is not filled with such acreages new diversion will be taken to complete filling the base. Any acreage used to fill the soil-conserving base will not draw the diversion payments. However, any diversion which is in excess of 15 percent of the soil-depleting base should be used to fill the soil conserving base because such excess acreage is not eligible for diversion payments.

After the soil-conserving base is filled, the applicant may plan for diversion from the soil-depleting base. Diverted acres may be seeded to conserving crops such as alfalfa and perennial grasses, planted to trees, summer fallowed, or any of the other approved uses. Diversion payments on such acreage is limited to 15 percent of the soil-depleting base, but the applicant does not have to meet a minimum requirement.

If a nurse crop is used with conserving seedings on acreage to be used as diversion, such nurse crop cannot be seeded at a rate of more than one-half the normal rate of seeding for grain, and cannot be used for grain or hay. It may be pastured.

Any applicant who makes seedings of soil-conserving crops should fill out a certification relative to the amount of seed used, acres seeded, rate of seeding, date of seeding, and the origin of the seed as soon as seeding is completed, and file it in the county office. The applicant will be in line for soil-building payments next fall if the certification is approved by the county committee, even though a stand is not secured due to unfavorable weather conditions. These blanks may be secured from the community committee or the county office.

Corn Limits—Each farm in Area "A" will be assigned a corn acreage limit whether performing under wetland or dryland regulations. The diversion and conserving rate will be increased five percent.

Each acre of corn planted over the corn limit will draw a penalty of the diversion rate per acre. Applicants with more than one work sheet in the farming unit should check with the community committee to see that corn limits are not being exceeded in the aggregate.

Aggregate Performance usually spoken of as joint compliance, should be approved by the community committee before being attempted. The soil-conserving base on each work sheet must be filled on each farm in

the farming, unit or a penalty will be imposed for exceeding permitted soil-depleting acreage. Diversion may be made any place on the farming unit, but it should be checked to see that the applicant is getting credit for the acreage he expects due to differences in the division of the crops on each work sheet.

The application for payment for a share-rent landlord or farm operator will include all farms in the county from which such landlord or farm operator gets all or a portion of the crop, regardless of whether there is performance on all farms or not.

Division of Benefit Payments—Benefit payments will be divided between the owner and operator of a share-rented farm according to the division of the major soil-depleting crop under the lease or operating agreement. All small grains divided in the same proportion will be considered as a single crop. Sugar beet payments will be divided according to the beet lease.

Range Program—Any rancher who owns or leases 640 acres or more of range land not owned or controlled by the United States Government, or any agency thereof, is eligible to participate in the Range Program.

At the rancher's request, the county range inspector will inspect the ranch and assign the carrying capacity. The carrying capacity is the number of animal units the range would carry during a 12 month period, under normal conditions.

Each ranch which is appraised will have a range building allowance set up by multiplying the carrying capacity by \$1.50. This is the maximum payment that may be earned on the ranch by approved range building practices. A rancher may participate in both the general conservation program and the range program.

The range allowance may be earned by the following range building practices, at the rates specified, if approved for the ranch by the range inspector and county committee:

(1) Reseeding by Deferred Grazing—Natural reseeded by nongrazing of 25 percent of the range from May 15 to September 30, 1937, according to specifications—60 percent of the range building allowance.

(2) Reseeding by Limited Grazing—Natural reseeded of all range land on the ranching unit to permit 25 percent of the grass grown to go to seed, according to specifications—50 percent of the range building allowance.

(3) Construction of contour furrows on range land according to specifications—50 cents per acre.

(4) Planting trees according to specifications—\$10.00 per acre.

(5) Cultivating and maintaining a stand of trees planted between January 1, 1934 and November 1, 1936, according to specifications—\$4 per acre.

(6) Construction of dams and reservoirs according to specifications provided deferred grazing or limited grazing is being practiced—15 cents per cubic yard for the fill.

**Approved Soil-Building Practices
Adapted To South Dakota**

Practice	Wetland Rate Per Acre	Dryland Rate Per Acre
Seeding on farm land:		
Alfalfa -----	\$2.50	\$2.50
Red clover; bluegrass; bromegrass; crested wheat grass; slender wheat grass; western wheat grass -----	2.00	2.00
Alsike clover; mammoth clover -----	1.50	1.50
Biennial sweet clover; annual sweet clover -----	1.00	1.00
Legume mixture or mixtures of legumes and perennial grasses, which contain 50 percent or more of alsike, alfalfa, red clover, or more than one of those legumes	1.50	1.50
Legume mixtures or mixtures of legumes and perennial grasses, which contain 50 percent or more of biennial sweet clover, annual sweet clover, alfalfa, red clover, and alsike or more than one of these legumes -----	1.00	1.00
Orchard grass and permanent pasture mixture of grasses or grasses and legumes containing at least 50 percent of any of the \$2 grasses -----	1.50	1.50
Timothy, reedtop, reed canary grass, and permanent pasture mixtures of grasses or grasses and legumes containing at least 50 percent of brome, orchard, reed- top, reed canary, timothy, bluegrass, crested wheat, and western wheat, or more than one of these grasses	1.00	1.00
Planting of forest trees and trees for windbreaks or shelterbelts purposes, according to specifications --	7.50	10.00
Cultivating, protecting, and maintaining a stand of 200 forest trees planted in 1934, 1935, or 1936 shelter- belts -----	none	4.00
Protected strip fallow according to specified provisions	none	2.00
Protected summer fallowing and basin listing according to specified provisions -----	none	2.00
Protected summer fallow according to specified provis- ions -----	none	1.50
Strip cropping according to specified provisions -----	none	.40
Restoration to native grass of noncropland according to specified provisions -----	none	.25
Construction of contour furrows on permanent pasture land according to specified provisions -----	none	.50

For rates for non-grazing of noncrop plowable pasture, use of lime, and commercial fertilizers, see your committeeman or county agent.

(These payments will be made up to the amount of the soil-building allowance.)

Extension Service
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