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### Great Plains Conservation Program: Stabilize Your Land -- Income -- Future

Cooperative Extension South Dakota State University

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# Great Plains Conservation Program

**Stabilize Your  
Land -- Income -- Future**



**Cooperative Extension Service  
South Dakota State University, Brookings  
in cooperation with  
Soil Conservation Service  
United States Department of Agriculture**

# Great Plains Conservation Program

## Stabilize Your Land -- Income -- Future

By Earl Adams, Extension agronomist, South Dakota State University, and M. J. Spears, assistant state conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Huron

### VOLUNTARY, LONG RANGE PROGRAM

The Great Plains Conservation Program is a voluntary and long range program. It is designed to assist producers apply needed work in accordance with a complete conservation plan. It is an additional program designed to meet long term needs and problems of farmers and ranchers in the Plains region.

### PROGRAM WELL LIKED

Farmer-ranchers like the Great Plains Conservation Program for several reasons:

- Practices included in the Program help reduce severity and even extent of drought conditions.
- Program permits stepped-up rate of establishing needed conservation practices.
- Long-term agreement guarantees cost-sharing help to complete conservation plan.

### South Dakota Counties Eligible and Designated for assistance under the Great Plains Conservation Program

Aurora	Fall River	Lyman	Tripp
Bennett	Gregory	McPherson	Walworth
Brule	Haakon	Meade	Washabaugh
Buffalo	Hand	Mellette	Ziebach
Butte	Harding	Pennington	
Campbell	Hughes	Perkins	Faulk and
Charles Mix	Hyde	Potter	Douglas are
Corson	Jackson	Shannon	eligible but
Custer	Jerauld	Stanley	have not
Dewey	Jones	Sully	requested
Edmunds	Lawrence	Todd	designation

- Cost-share payments are made promptly upon completion of various conservation practices.
- The written agreement may be altered to meet changing agricultural conditions.

A complete conservation plan is developed under the Great Plains Conservation Program.

Properly located stockwater developments, such as springs, ponds, wells and dugouts, provide more uniform range use.





Seeding practices may be drilled or interseeded with special equipment under the Program.



Conservation plans and funds place great value on practices such as seeding land to grass.



Practices include pipelines which may distribute water to several pastures, thus reducing water cost per acre.



Proper management will assure top production and quality forage per acre in addition to saving soil.



↑ Growing crops in proper combination with needed cultural measures is an important part of the program.

↓ A grassed waterway may be designed to dispose of runoff from field, diversion, terrace or other structures.

### INDIVIDUAL HELP ASSURED

Technical assistance at no cost is one of the benefits to the farmer-rancher. The operator who participates in the Great Plains Conservation Program is assured of receiving individual help with the technical problems of establishing conservation practices on his entire ranch or farm. The need and schedule of these practices becomes part of his Great Plains Conservation Program agreement. The program schedule, varying in length from 3 to 10 years, may be changed jointly by SCS personnel and the cooperator when the need arises.

### COST-SHARING

Cost-sharing is available to Great Plains Conserva-

tion Program cooperators because the Plains area is important to the whole nation as a food producing region. A cooperator may receive as much as 80% cost-sharing on some urgent practices.

### PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Great Plains Conservation Program is administered through the Soil Conservation Service and its offices serving each county. Each county Great Plains Conservation Program Committee consists of local representatives of the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service, Soil and Water Conservation District and others associated with conservation in the county.



A water spreading system conserves snow melt and retains other "would be" runoff water on grassland, thus increasing production.

Tree plantings reduce soil loss, trap and distribute moisture, and make landscape more desirable for people and wildlife.

↑ Some fields in the area need properly aligned terraces for erosion control and conservation of moisture.

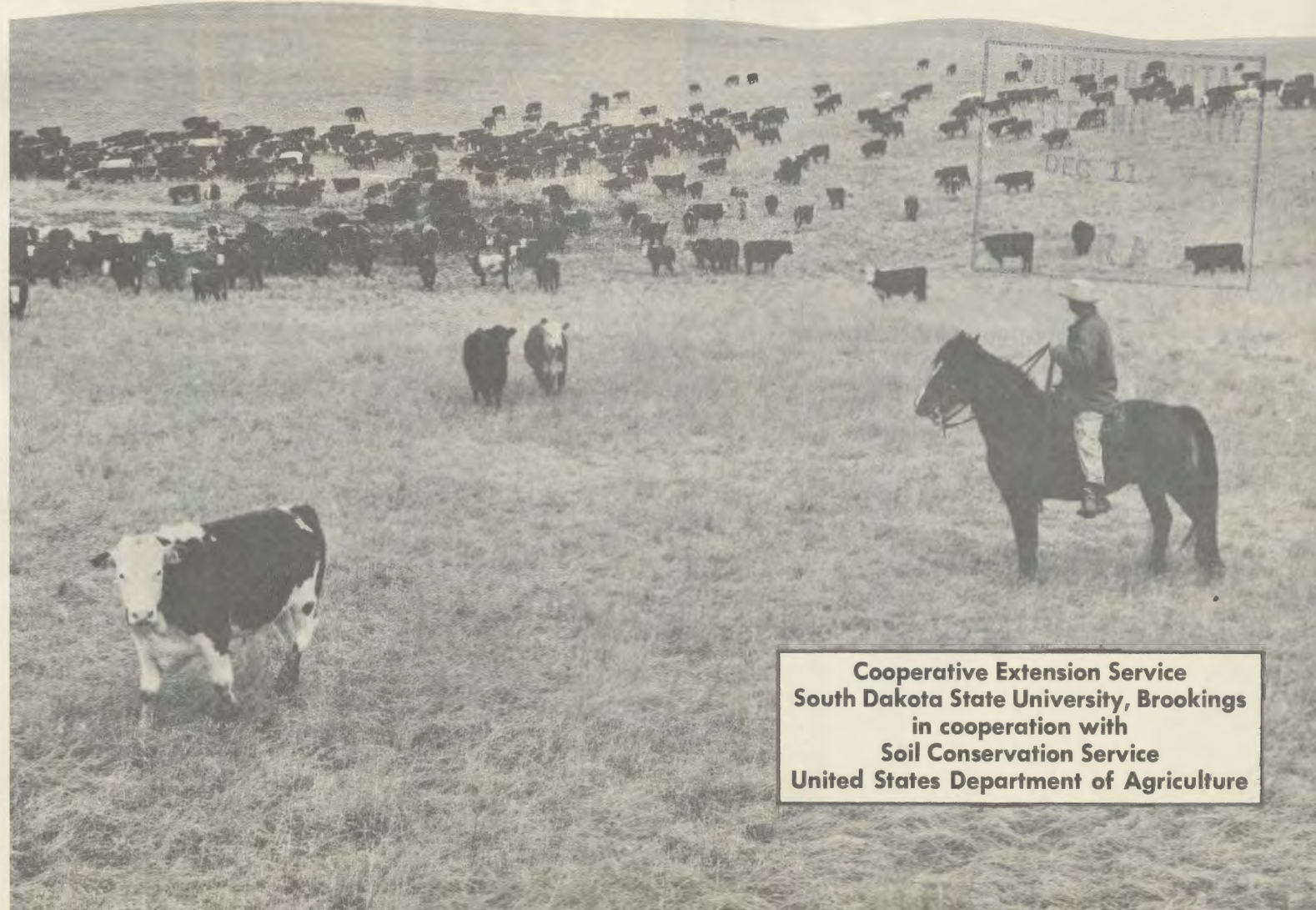
↓ Water management measures — lining irrigation ditches, installing irrigation pipes, land leveling — may be needed.



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PHOTOS:  
Conservation Service

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