

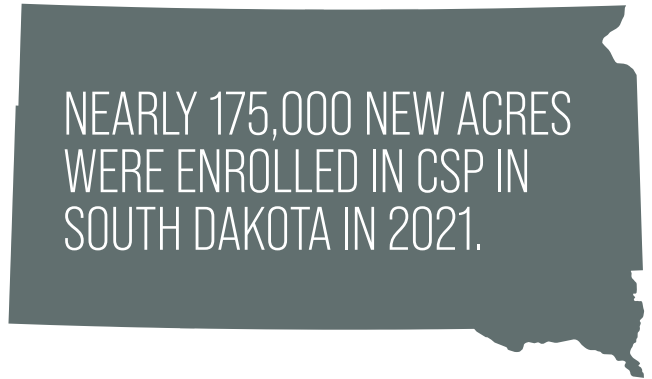
FACT SHEET:

IMPACTS OF THE CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has helped South Dakota farmers achieve conservation goals on their operations for two decades.

Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), CSP provides financial and technical assistance for producers to maintain agricultural production on their land, and simultaneously address resource concerns with conservation practices.

In 2021, **337,167** acres in South Dakota were enrolled in CSP, including both newly enrolled and renewed acres.



Helping producers achieve their conservation goals

CSP contracts are five years in length with a one-time renewal. In 2021, there were **140** new and renewed CSP contracts in South Dakota.

Of the contracts awarded in 2021, approximately **54%** were awarded to producers new to the program and **46%** were existing contract renewals.

In 2021, **27** active CSP contracts were held by beginning farmers and ranchers.

A white rectangular box with a dotted border is set against a dark grey background. At the top, the text "\$19.7 MILLION" is displayed in a large, dark font. Below this, in a smaller, brown font, is the text: "Total assistance allocated to South Dakota producers from 2021 enrollments and renewals. These funds will be spread out over the five-year contract period."

Top five CSP practices in South Dakota (ranked by the number of contracts utilizing the practice)



Protecting the state's water, soil, and natural resources

When enrolled in a CSP contract, producers develop conservation plans with their local NRCS technicians. These plans include an assortment of practices and enhancements they can then implement on their operations to benefit natural resources, such as water quality and soil health.



South Dakota is a top CSP participant

In 2020, South Dakota ranked **No. 9** in total acres enrolled in CSP.

Decreases in CSP funding affect producers

Due to lowered funding for the program, the number of CSP contracts for South Dakota producers has decreased during the past five years.

FIGURE 1: TOP 10 STATES, ACRES ENROLLED IN NEW CSP CONTRACTS

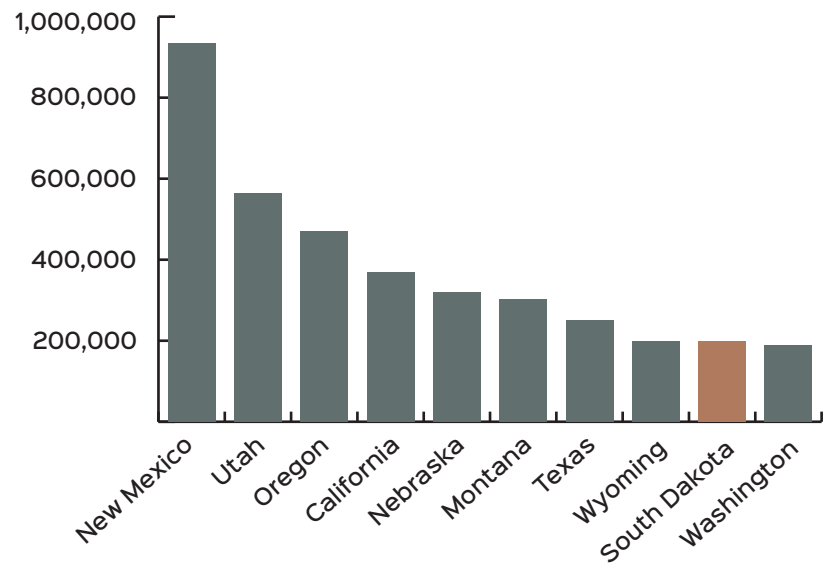


TABLE 1: CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN SOUTH DAKOTA, 2017 TO 2021

Year	New and renewed contracts	Acres	Obligations
2017	330	640,424	\$37,950,000
2018	421	902,967	\$46,800,000
2019	213	666,035	\$26,050,000
2020	90	196,369	\$16,300,000
2021	75	174,395	\$10,800,000

Source: USDA NRCS CSP National Data and South Dakota NRCS

*This chart varies from the Center's other Midwest state fact sheets in this series. Renewal contract data is excluded from above due to availability of data.

CSP gives producers the tools they need to be successful

This year, the Center for Rural Affairs surveyed CSP users in five Midwestern states. A majority expressed overwhelming support for the program.

- **81%** of all respondents reported they intend to renew their CSP contracts.

Current CSP users had this to say about the program:

“ I really like the program. It has allowed me to put conservation practices on the land I normally would not have. Very pleased. ”

“ The CSP program folks I worked with at our local NRCS office are excellent and were incredibly helpful to me. ”

“ CSP has increased my awareness of the health of pastures and erosion control practices. It has been a kick-start to my five-year improvement plan. I will continue to grow in management, [information], and skills of monitoring and managing. ”

Notes & sources

1 Unless otherwise indicated, written years refer to the federal fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30.

2 “Natural Resources Conservation Service.” U.S. Department of Agriculture, nrcs.usda.gov. Accessed November 2022.

3 Personal communication, Jennifer Wertz, South Dakota U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oct. 12, 2022.

4 “RCA Data Viewer.” U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, nrcs.usda.gov/resources/data-and-reports/rca-data-viewer. Accessed November 2022.

