

SOUTH DAKOTA WEED AND PEST COMMISSION

FY 2026 Competitive Weed and Pest Grant for County Priority Weed Control Projects April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

Objective: The South Dakota Weed and Pest Commission offers a competitive grant to promote the development and dispersal of new information regarding the control of noxious weeds or pests in South Dakota. Proposals may be submitted to fund efforts to control noxious weeds or pests, evaluate tools or techniques for control, print and disperse information on identification and control, or offset costs needed to develop management partnerships with other individuals or organizations. This grant will provide county weed and pest programs funds to implement innovative pest management programs in their county, weed management area, federal lands, or other entities.

Targeted projects:

Technology development: New control information may be gained by evaluating tools that may include pesticides, mechanical tools, biological control agents, or other means of controlling weeds or pests. Evaluation could be completed by establishing side-by-side comparisons and would not need to include replicated treatments. However, comparing tools or tactics is not always necessary. If a noxious weed or pest is identified, information could be gained through an effort to control that organism even though multiple tools are not being compared. It is not required that the noxious weed or pest being evaluated is on the state or local noxious lists but must be an emerging invasive weed/pest of concern to the county and be clearly articulated and justified as such in the project narrative. Implementing alternative control options, such as establishing biological control agents, could also provide opportunities to gain information even if that control agent is well established in other parts of South Dakota. Proposals for projects that build partnerships with individuals or organizations, such as weed management areas, are also encouraged.

Technology transfer: Proposals may also be submitted for efforts to deliver information to the community. Examples may include publications, mailing, advertising, or hosting informational meetings or field days.

Funding: The Commission will be granting **\$200,000**. There will be no standards set for the number of projects that will be funded, but it will be most desirable to fund more than one project in the state. Proposals may request funds for supplies that will only be used directly for the proposed project, such as pesticides, biological control agents, or equipment rental, whereas requests for purchasing equipment is discouraged. Matching funds will not be required, but may increase the probability of the proposal being approved. Cash and in-kind work will be considered as an in-kind match. Documentation of matching funds must be provided for reimbursement of grant funds.

Project requirements:

- a. Counties shall have prior year's inspection, fiscal, and annual reports filed with the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources by February 1, 2025.
- b. County Weed & Pest Supervisor and/or a county representative must attend at least one training session per year if provided by the department. (1 county personnel must attend)
- c. County Weed & Pest Supervisor and a county representative or board member must attend the annual weed and pest conference. If the representative isn't a board member, they must be a resident of the county. (2 county personnel must attend)
- d. A husband and wife will not be considered two representatives from a county.
- e. Results of this grant must be presented at the next SD Annual Weed and Pest Conference after the project funds have been awarded. Results must be presented in such a way that others can learn from the project efforts. Failure to present the results will jeopardize

future grant awards. Therefore, it will be important to document the progress of the project with pictures or data.

A. STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

The Commission may expend weed and pest control funds through grants or contracts to weed and pest county boards, governmental agencies or other entities it considers appropriate for weed and pest control projects for the following (SDCL 38-22-38):

1. Employment of a new and innovative weed and pest control project or development, implementation or demonstration of any weed and pest control project that may be proposed, implemented or established by local, state or national organizations, whether public or private. Such expenditures shall be on a cost-share basis with such organizations;
2. Weed and pest control cost share programs with the county weed and pest boards;
3. Special grants to county weed and pest control boards to eradicate or contain significant weeds or pests newly introduced into the county. These grants may be issued without matching funds from the board;
4. Assist county weed and pest boards in purchasing pesticides and application equipment and hiring labor necessary to protect against expansion of noxious weeds and declared pests;
5. Support multi-county weed and pest control and eradication efforts;
6. Promote landowner responsibility to control noxious weeds and pests in South Dakota;
7. Support educational and research efforts to find new and better ways of controlling noxious weeds and declared pests.

A project is eligible to receive funds only if the county in which the project occurs has funded its own weed and pest program. The commission may also expend funds to pay for the costs of administering the weed and pest control fund not to exceed three percent of the allowable expenditure for each fiscal year and for administrative expenses incurred by the commission.

Proposal requirements: Each submitted proposal shall be for one year funding for a state or locally listed noxious weed or pest, or an emerging invasive weed/pest of concern to the county. There is no page number requirement or limitation, but proposals should be just long enough to convincingly state the need for the project and how it will be implemented. A budget must also be submitted for expected costs of supplies, labor, vehicle rental or mileage, land rental, and so on. **Please note: requests for educational meetings will be allowed, but only meeting room expense and coffee will be reimbursable.** The intent of the competitive grant is not to replace current operational budgets for ongoing control activities and expenses. Applications proposing to fund pickups, trucks, supervisor's wages, or supervisor's benefits with grant funds will not be considered. Supervisor's wages and benefits, when properly documented, can be used for in kind match. If a county is planning to use their own equipment for a project and wants to be reimbursed for the use of their equipment instead of using it for in kind work, the reimbursement rates will not be allowed to exceed the following: Tractor - \$60 per hour; ATV (including 4Wheelers and Rangers) - \$50 per hour; Pickup/Truck Sprayer - \$60 per hour. The Weed and Pest Control Commission has determined that indirect costs are unallowable under this program and no funds will be approved for this purpose.

Evaluation criteria: Projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- 1) Importance will be based on the potential of the targeted weed or pest to spread or cause economic hardship.
- 2) Innovation will be based on the ingenuity of the proposed project to bring new options to controlling weeds or pests, creating new partnerships, or developing new and effective means of promoting weed and pest control.
- 3) Success potential will be based on the expected probability of providing educational information and having a positive response. In many cases, even unexpected or negative results can be educational, but projects with an unsuccessful history or high probability of failure will not likely be funded.

Deadline: Proposals must be sent to the Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Resource Conservation & Forestry Division – Plant Industry Program, and postmarked or emailed no later than **November 15, 2024**. **Original application forms must follow if emailed** and **must be postmarked no later than November 15, 2024**.

**APPLICATION FOR
FY2026 COMPETITIVE WEED AND PEST GRANT**

PART I. Applicant/Project Identification

ID. NO.: WP-_____

1. APPLICANT:

Legal Name:

Organizational Unit:

Address (city, state, and zip code)

2. NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE CONTACT PERSON:

3. DESCRIPTIVE PROJECT TITLE:

4. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (cities, counties, states, etc.):

5. PROJECT PERIOD: STARTING DATE: 4-1-2025 ENDING DATE: 3-31-2026

6. REMARKS:

**7. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA AND INFORMATION IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT.
THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT.**

TYPED NAME OF APPLICANT _____

(County Weed & Pest Board Chairman or Head of Organizational Unit)

TITLE OF APPLICANT _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____

DATE SIGNED _____

1.) OBJECTIVES TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.

2.) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (NARRATIVE)

3.) WORK PLAN:

ACTIVITY

RESPONSIBLE PERSON

DATES

1) BUDGET CATEGORIES

Categories	State Weed & Pest Fund	Applicant	Other	Program Income	Total
<u>Personnel</u>					_____.
<u>Fringe Benefits</u>					_____.
<u>Travel</u>					_____.
<u>Equipment</u>					_____.
<u>Equipment Use</u>					_____.
<u>Supplies</u>					_____.
<u>Contractual</u>					_____.
<u>Construction</u>					_____.
<u>Other</u>					_____.
<u>Totals</u>					_____.