

FY2026 CALL FOR GRANTS & CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS

To be considered, all grant applications **must** be received by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Resource Conservation and Forestry – Plant Industry Program, postmarked or emailed on or **before November 15, 2024**. The Commission will act on these applications on February 19, 2025, at the Crossroads Hotel and Huron Event Center, Huron, SD.

Specific **REQUIREMENTS, PRIORITIES, and EVALUATIONS CRITERIA** are enclosed. The application forms to be used are also enclosed. If awarded a weed and pest grant, funds must be expended between July 1, 2025 through May 20, 2026. The grant fund dollars, if approved, cannot be spent prior to July 1, 2025.

Weed & Pest Fund Grant Requirements for FY2026 are:

- a. Counties must have prior year's inspection, fiscal, and annual reports filed with the Department of Agriculture & 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) (See note below**)
- d. 50/50 cost share is required
- e. A husband and wife will not be considered two representatives from a county.

**** NOTE ****

- If only one person (supervisor or designee) attends the conference they are qualified to receive grant funds.
- If a grant is awarded, the breakdown of funds will be:
 - Full amount of the grant will be awarded if the county meets all the requirements, including 2 attendees at the Conference
 - One half of the full amount of the grant will be awarded if the county meets all the requirements, but has only 1 attendee at the Conference
- If in the event that a county or counties don't qualify for funding, the remaining funds will be divided equally to the nearest \$100, amongst those remaining counties that have met the requirements, without exceeding spending authority.

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.

B. COMMISSION POLICY

The Commission has established the following as characteristics for available funding.

1. Continue and increase public information and education programs.
 - a. Mass media involving television, radio, newspapers, magazines, and newsletters.
 - b. Weed and pest booths at major agricultural trade shows.
 - c. Educating youth via programs integration with FFA, 4-H, Ag in the Classroom, etc.
 - e. County noxious weed management seminars, workshops, etc.
2. Continue to support large scale cooperative noxious weed management projects.
3. Continue and expand County Weed & Pest Supervisor training and certification.
4. Continue and expand research on noxious weed and declared pest management.
5. The commitment by documentation of other resources by the applicant is required to ensure successful completion of the project. The Commission does require a 50/50 cost share for the project.
6. Allocate a pool of money equally between all eligible counties requesting funds. Based on evaluation criteria below

C. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications shall be evaluated on the following:

1. Program accomplishments by the applicant during the past year; copy of bills submitted to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources prior to reimbursement showing how money was spent, i.e..chemical or equipment.
 - a. Prior year's inspection, fiscal, and annual reports have been filed with the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
 - b. County Weed & Pest Supervisor or a county representative must attend at least one training session per year if provided by the department.
 - c. County Weed & Pest Supervisor or designee must attend a district meeting and annual conference.
 - d. At least one County Commissioner, Weed and Pest Board member or county representative must attend a district weed meeting and the annual weed and pest conference.

These grants are intended to support the programs and policies established by the SD Weed & Pest Control Commission. The intent is to encourage new, improved, or innovative activities that will allow the program to become more effective. The intent is not to replace current operational budgets for ongoing control activities. The Commission has given priority to grant applications that are directed at thistle and leafy spurge control efforts. Grant applications that include pickup or trucks or supervisor's wages or benefits will not be permitted, however the purchase of chemical will be allowed. **Requests for educational meetings will be allowed, but only meeting room expense and coffee will be reimbursable.**

Applications must be postmarked or emailed no later than November 15, 2024. If emailed, the *original must still be sent* and *must be postmarked* no later than November 15, 2024.

WEED & PEST FUND GRANTS – FY2026

Date: _____

County: _____

Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Name & Telephone Number of Contact Person: _____

Please describe in the space below what the grant funds will be used for. (If additional space is needed, please add additional pages to this application.)

Signature of Applicant: _____

Please return form to the following address:
South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Resource Conservation & Forestry
Plant Industry Program
523 E. Capitol Ave., Foss Bldg.
Pierre, SD 57501-3182

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