



Riparian Buffer Initiative (RBI) Fact Sheet



Use of Riparian Buffer Initiative American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to buffer waterbodies are intended to improve water quality in South Dakota by using riparian buffers in the floodplain. Rules for enrollment into the practice are as follows.

Requirements for pastureland:

1. Waterbody must be listed in ARSD 74:51:03 or ARSD 74:51:02:04 or locally designated by the local board county commissioners as outlined in SDCL 10-6-116 or designated by DANR.
2. Minimum buffer width of 50 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
3. Max average buffer width of 120 feet.
4. Vegetation may not be harvested or mowed between May 1 through August 1.
5. Vegetation may not be grazed between May 1 and September 30.
6. If cattle are present from October 1 through April 30, alternative water shall be available away from the stream.
7. A minimum vegetative stand of 4 - 6 inches shall be maintained.
8. Must agree to enroll ground for ten years.

Project payments to Producers:

1. Payment rates are based on the most current USDA "Pasture Cash Rent Paid Per Acre for South Dakota" publications. The rate will be 250% of the county rate to make a consistent payment across the Project. A link to the current county rates is at:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/South_Dakota/Publications/County_Estimates/25SDcashrents.pdf
2. A onetime upfront payment will be determined per acre for eligible acres. Cost-share of alternative water from enrolled pasture would be available at 75% maximum cost share. Fence materials excluding cattle from enrolled pasture would be available at 100%. Grass seed would be available at 100%. Payment would be completed upon installation of materials and seeding.

Requirements for cropland:

1. Waterbody must be listed in ARSD 74:51:03 or ARSD 74:51:02:04 or locally designated by the local board county commissioners as outlined in SDCL 10-6-116 or designated by DANR.
2. Ground must be converted to grass.
3. Minimum buffer width of 50 feet from the ordinary high-water mark.
4. Max average buffer width of 120 feet.
5. Vegetation may not be harvested or mowed between May 1 through August 1.
6. Vegetation may not be grazed between May 1 and September 30.
7. If cattle are present from October 1 through April 30, alternative water shall be available away from the stream.
8. A minimum vegetative stand of 4 - 6 inches shall be maintained.
9. Must agree to enroll ground for ten years.

Project payments to Producers:

1. Payment rates are based on the most current USDA “Non-Irrigated Cropland Cash Rent Paid Per Acre for South Dakota” publications. The rate is 250% of the county rate to make a consistent payment across the Project. A link to the current county rates is at:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/South_Dakota/Publications/County_Estimates/25SDcashrents.pdf
2. A onetime upfront payment will be determined per acre for eligible acres. Cost-share of alternative water from enrolled pasture would be available at 75% maximum cost share. Fence materials excluding cattle during the recreation season from the enrolled buffer would be available at 100%. Grass seed would be available at 100%. Payment would be completed upon installation of materials and seeding.