



# FY2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES RESOURCE CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

### 2022 Conservation Speech Contest

#### “Rivers and Streams Benefit South Dakota”

The 61<sup>st</sup> annual Resource Conservation Speech Contest State Finals were held at the State Capitol in Pierre on Saturday, April 23, 2022. The contest theme was “Rivers and Streams Benefit South Dakota.”

Nine contestants competed in the 2022 state finals. Scholarships were provided by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of South Dakota. The contest is co-sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

South Dakota high school students first participated in a local contest sponsored by their Conservation District. Two students from each District were then eligible to participate in an area contest. From there, the top two winners from each of the designated areas were eligible to advance to the state finals.

Winning first place and a \$1,100 scholarship was Breanna Wollman.

Breanna was sponsored by South-Brown Conservation District and is a sophomore at Aberdeen Central. She is the daughter of Joyce and Tony Wollman from Bath.

Winning second place and a \$750 scholarship was Autumn Lentz. Autumn was sponsored by Davison Conservation District and is a sophomore at Mitchell High School. She is the daughter of John and Heather Lentz from Fulton.

Winning third place and a \$450 scholarship was Calister Grimsley. Calister was sponsored by Lawrence Conservation District and is a sophomore at Spearfish High School. He is the son of Ron and Misty Grimsley from Spearfish.



To view all 2022 contest winners visit <https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation>

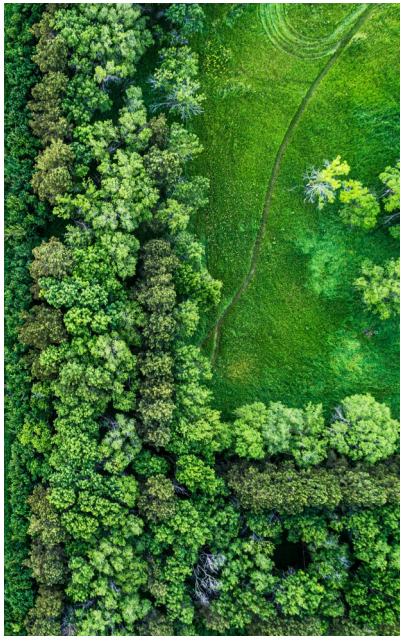


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### Resource Conservation

The purpose of the Resource Conservation Program is to provide for the conservation of soil and water resources within the state; to prevent or control soil erosion; to prevent or minimize flood damage; and to conserve, develop, utilize, and preserve the natural resources of this state. In addition, the Program provides administrative and technical assistance to the State Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts to implement the goals within the Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources Conservation (Coordinated Plan).



### Conservation Grants and Loans

In FY2022, 41 grant applications were received requesting \$1,166,546.10. The Conservation Commission awarded funding to 36 projects for a total of \$693,123.61. For more information, see the attached grants table.

Projects included best management practices targeting improvements to grasslands, cropland, wetlands, and shelterbelts, as well as other surface and ground water quality improvements. Other projects included multi-district resource conservation information and education.

*Our Mission is “to protect and preserve South Dakota’s agriculture, environment, and natural resources through effective regulator services, natural resource conservation, and financial and technical assistance”*

In FY2022, nine producers nominated by five Conservation Districts received the Soil Conservation Award.

In addition to the grant program, the State Conservation Commission administers a loan program. Under this program, loans can be made to conservation districts for securing, by purchase or otherwise, necessary equipment, trees and other plant materials, and supplies needed to further their programs. Loans are made at three percent interest per annum. During the 2022 State Legislative Session, \$3 million was added to the fund via HB 1277. Loans made in fiscal year 2022 included:

- ◆ Grant Conservation District was awarded \$45,000 for a pickup; and
- ◆ Kingsbury Conservation District was awarded \$7,500 for a no-till drill.



**Conservation Commission Grants Funded in FY2022**

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Award Amt</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>
Beadle	Shelterbelt Program	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 19,450.00	\$ 29,450.00
Bennett/Badlands	Tree Planting	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 14,548.00	\$ 27,048.00
Bon Homme	Conservation Enhancement	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 37,806.00	\$ 57,806.00
Butte	Multi-County Ditch to Pipe Conversion	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
	Multi-County Ditch to Pipe Conversion	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 32,500.00	\$ 55,000.00
Charles Mix	Brush Management	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 28,700.00	\$ 48,700.00
	Shelterbelt	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 42,000.00
Clark	Shelterbelt	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 32,990.75	\$ 47,990.75
Corson	Tree Grant	\$ 6,123.81	\$ 6,535.02	\$ 12,658.83
Davison	Multi County Brush Management	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
	Tree Planting	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
	Awareness & Outreach	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
	Cover Crop/Grazing	\$ 15,615.44	\$ 34,384.56	\$ 50,000.00
Day	Northeast Glacial Lakes	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 259,042.00	\$ 274,042.00
Edmunds	Conservation Education	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
	North Missouri Cover Crop Initiative	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
Gregory	County Projects	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
	Gregory County Projects 8	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 110,000.00
Hamlin	SDACDE Conservation Awareness	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 16,500.00
Hamlin/Codington	Multi-Use Projects	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 39,149.00	\$ 59,149.00
Hanson	2022 Brush Management Project	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 10,800.00
	Hanson Shelterbelt Project	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 16,500.00
Hyde-Faulk	Hyde/Faulk Enhancement Project Phase 2	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 54,230.00	\$ 89,230.00
Jerauld	Windbreak Tree Planting	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Jones	Multi Practice Grant VII	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 76,350.00	\$ 136,350.00
Kingsbury	General Conservation	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
	Urban Infrastructure	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Lincoln	Building Community Through Conservation	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 234,620.00	\$ 249,620.00
Marshall	Multipurpose/Multi-County	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 132,495.00	\$ 182,495.00
McCook	Shelterbelt	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 25,000.00
Miner	Public Awareness of Conservation	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 4,500.00
Perkins	NW Area Tree Planting	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 61,048.00	\$ 94,048.00
	2022 Seeding and Pipeline Grant	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 26,547.00	\$ 38,547.00
Roberts	Conservation Outreach and Promotion	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Spink	2022 Workshops and Promotion	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Todd	2022 TC Multi-Practice Grant	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 683,739.25</b>	<b>\$ 1,436,695.33</b>	<b>\$ 2,120,434.58</b>

## Community Forestry Programs

Tree City USA recognizes communities who demonstrate a commitment to maintaining and growing their trees. This year, we had 29 approved Tree City USA applications. One of the requirements for this designation is to proclaim and celebrate Arbor Day. Resource Conservation and Forestry hosted 34 presentations on Arbor Day highlighting the benefits of trees to communities. RCF also administered the Arbor Day poster contest, This contest is open to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The top 12 posters are featured in the annual SD Arbor Day poster calendar. First place receives a \$125 cash prize plus their teacher receives \$175 to purchase school supplies. This year's theme was "Trees are terrific in all shapes or sizes".

The FY22 Arbor Day Poster Contest winner was Carter Rosse from Frontier Elementary School in Sioux Falls, SD



### 2021 CHRISTMAS AT THE CAPITOL

This Colorado Blue spruce was donated by Jessica Damjanovich from Pierre.

The theme was Winter Wishes. In honor of the 40th anniversary for Christmas at the Capitol, the Christmas Capitol Committee decorated the tree.

## Community Forestry Grant\*

*\*Formally known as the Comprehensive Challenge Grant*

Recipient	Project	Grant Funds	Total Project Cost
Bristol Park	Tree Planting & Maintenance	\$5,000	\$10,000
Aberdeen	Tree Signage	\$2,000	\$4,000
Belle Fourche	Tree Planting & Maintenance	\$5,000	\$10,000
Chamberlain	Tree Planting	\$2,500	\$5,000
Murdo	Tree Planting	\$1,400	\$2,800
Piedmont	Tree Planting	\$2,000	\$4,000
Wall	Tree Planting	\$2,500	\$5,000
Western Dakota Tech. College	Tree Planting	\$2,500	\$5,000

RCF offers the Community Forestry Grant Program geared toward helping communities promote their forests and to solve forestry problems within the community. This year 8 projects were completed and approximately 77 trees were planted across the state.

## Forest Health Technical Assistance

Combined technical assists related to forest health totaled 1,829 in FY2022. This year, the three most common tree genus from which samples were submitted or inspected during site visits included pine, ash, and spruce. Other common tree genera submitted as samples included maples, elms, catalpa, hackberry, honey locust, and walnut. Pathogens made up nearly 45% of site visits and samples received during FY2022, followed closely by insect/mites. Disorders and abiotic issues accounted for the remaining 15% of technical assists. Foliage diseases such as apple scab, ash rust, dothistroma needle blight and tar spot accounted for approximately 80% of pathogen visits while shoot/stem/vascular diseases like Dutch elm disease, fire blight, and pine wilt disease filled in the other 20%. Winter injury and drought were common abiotic stress agents during 2022, dieback and premature leaf drop were observed in trees like maple and honey locust.

**“The information shared with us will help us care for our trees for years to come, Thank you!”**

**- Grateful Tree Owner**



### EAB UPDATE

In 2022 Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found in the communities of Brandon and Crooks, joining Sioux Falls (2018), Canton and Worthing (2020) to make 5 communities with known EAB infestations. These confirmed findings are still within the original quarantine areas of Minnehaha, Turner, and Lincoln counties. Many communities in this part of the state are taking proactive measures to reduce the impact of this invasive pest’s inevitable spread. Such measures include removing ash trees, treating remaining ash trees within 15 miles of known infestations, and planting alternate species of hardwoods to promote biodiversity and forest health.



Staff examining a *Catalpa* tree during Insect & Disease Training in Pierre

## Invasive Plant Program

Five organizations were awarded US Forest Service Weed and Pest grants in FY2022 for six projects;

- ◆ Meade County Weed and Pest’s Elk/Bear Butte Creek Watershed Enhancement
- ◆ Fall River Weed and Pest’s Fall River-BGNG Invasive and Fall River BHFS Invasive,
- ◆ Lyman County Weed and Pest’s Grassland Road Spray, and
- ◆ Pennington County Weed and Pest’s Pennington Co. Invasive Weeds.
- ◆ Custer County Weed and Pest’s CCWP Noxious Weed Chemical

\$29,000 in funds were authorized with \$21,776.88 spent.

These funds were used to treat approximately 1,600 acres for the management of noxious weeds like Canada thistle, hoary cress, absinth wormwood, and common mullein on land adjacent to national grasslands or national forest lands.

## 2022 REGION 2 FIELD TOUR



In August of 2022, the South Dakota RCF and the Wyoming State Forestry Division hosted a three day event attended by the USFS Region 2 Forest Stewardship and Forest Legacy Coordinators, along with state and federal program managers, representatives from USFS Region 1, local Farm Service Agency and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel, and James Wright and Marvin Brown from the National Association of State Foresters. This joint field tour and meeting was based out of Spearfish.

The first day of the event included a tour of a project being completed on private timberland north of Rapid City that was affected by the October 2021 Auburn Fire. The work accomplished was a result of the Farm Service Agency's Emergency Forest Restoration Project (EFRP) which was created under the 2008 Farm Bill. The EFRP provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest land to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. Eligible forest restoration practices covered by this program include but is not limited to, debris removal, site preparation, planting materials, labor to replant, restoration of forestland roads, fuel breaks, erosion control measures, fencing, tree shelters, wildlife enhancement projects, and sensitive area reseeding. This program has not been utilized in Region 2 for at least the past 10 years; South Dakota was asked to showcase the work being done and to discuss the difficulties identified with implementation so other states can learn from and start utilizing this underutilized program for future events. This project was a success in part due to the established relationship between the private landowner and RCF staff. This landowner had an active timberland management plan which allowed the process to go more smoothly than if they had not had a plan in place or an established relationship with RCF staff.



Later in the day, the American Family Forests – American Tree Farm System National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year (2021) LaHood/Burns Family Forest was visited. This family forest has been an actively managed forest property since the 1970's with assistance provided at different times from the DANR RCF staff. The diversity of age classes and structures throughout their ponderosa pine and burr oak forests demonstrates the benefits of sustainably managed private forest/ timber land in the Black Hills.

The willingness of both landowners to participate in the regional field tour was appreciated. The open conversations that occurred the first day between all of the attendees was greatly appreciated and showcased the differences between programs, ideas, and how well we work together in South Dakota.

The following day was a closed-door meeting talking about both programs and identifying issues and opportunities in each state. Wyoming's 2021/2022



## Forest Stewardship

Staff was very adaptive in 2022 to private landowner concerns and staff changes. The Rural Forestry staff was able to perform 388 landowner assists along with completing or accepting 16 new forest stewardship plans totaling 3,895 acres. Forest stewardship plans were completed throughout Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, and Pennington counties. Three forest stewardship plan updates were completed totaling 2,743 acres in Custer and Lawrence counties. Currently, there are 56,472 acres covered by forest stewardship plans in South Dakota. RCF also presented on carbon markets, cost-share opportunities for private landowners, and forestry best management practices (BMPs) at logger education courses across the state.

In addition, Rural Forestry staff provided technical assistance to private landowners by completing pre-commercial thinning projects on 763 acres throughout South Dakota. RCF staff also recorded 160 technical assists and assisted in completing 31 of the South Dakota Family Forests Association/American Family Forests American Tree Farm System inspections for 2022.

## Good Neighbor Authority

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) projects started in South Dakota in September of 2019. The goal of the GNA projects is to allow the state to assist the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) to increase the pace and scale of forest management on National Forest System lands. Through the agreement with BHNF; Hell Canyon, Mystic and Northern Hills ranger districts have completed projects consisting of timber sale unit layout, boundary marking and geospatial mapping, leave-tree marking, timber inventory collection, and timber stand improvement. For FY2022, most of the work was completed in Hell Canyon on a stewardship project and remarking timber in a timber sale. In addition, some fuel mitigation work was completed for the Mystic District.

The Pennington Conservation District provides a crew to implement the GNA projects.

By the Numbers- FY2022	
Total Units	92
Unit Boundary Painted (Acres)	2,975
Leave-Tree Marking Completed (Acres)	935

Project Name	Dates Worked
Doty Fuel	7/19/2021-8/3/2021
Solomon Fuels	8/4/2021-8/9/2021
Chipmunk Fuels	8/10/2021-9/9/2021
Freeland Timber Sale	9/13/2021-6/13/2022
Dillweed Timber Sale	6/14/2022-6/30/2022

### Agroforestry

- ◆ 19 Wildlife Habitat Assists
- ◆ 2 Living Snow Fence Assists
- ◆ 27 Farmstead/Feedlot Wind-break Assists
- ◆ 19 Field Windbreak Assists
- ◆ 1 Christmas Tree Assist
- ◆ 20 T&E Species Assists
- ◆ 89 Commission Grant plan reviews
- ◆ 52 Other



## Plant Industry

The Plant Industry Program encompasses apiary, weed and pest – including the SD Weed and Pest Control Commission, biological control, Cooperative Agricultural Pest Surveys (CAPS), quarantine, export, seed, and nursery.

## Apiary Program



The apiary inspection staff inspected 257 apiaries belonging to 129 beekeepers during the 2022 inspection season. Three colonies with American foulbrood (AFB) were detected during the routine inspections. The staff also performed 1,026 ether roll inspections for varroa mite, of which 744 were positive, or 72%. The range of those samples was 1 mite to 67 mites per ether roll. Beekeepers still reported problems of getting good mite control during the fall of 2022. The apiary inspection staff did not conduct routine nosema testing during the 2022 inspection season.

We continue to monitor for small hive beetles. We made a few detections of small hive beetles during the 2022 inspection season. The primary concern regarding small hive beetles is how to protect weakened colonies, supers of honey, empty supers and wax cappings in the honey house. The beetles can damage supers of honey while waiting in the hot rooms to be extracted and make the honey unsuitable for human consumption. Small hive beetles have not been a problem in the apiaries but they raise management concerns in the honey house.

The apiary inspection staff continued to look for red imported fire ants in bee colonies during routine apiary inspections. No red imported fire ants were observed.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources again participated in a USDA / APHIS National Honey Bee Survey in 2022. The sample results provide valuable information regarding bee viruses.



Looking at test plots on Laframboise Island in Pierre



### BY THE NUMBERS

- 7,061 Apiaries registered
- 344,147 Colonies registered
- 407 Registered Beekeepers
- 187,081 Colonies Certified out
- 326,645 Colonies Certified in
- 96 Entrance permits issued
- 50 Health Certificates issued
- 257 Apiaries Inspected
- 1,304 Colonies Inspected

### HONEY BEE FUN FACT

Bees heat and cool their own hive to keep it between 93 and 95 degrees year-round. Bees are cold-blooded and must keep their hive at a constant temperature. In cold weather, bees keep the hive warm by swarming together to generate body heat and by sealing cracks in the hive with propolis. In warm weather, the bees collect water and line up in a circle around the hive entrance. Using their wings, the bees fan the water so that it evaporates into the air. They then fan the cool air so that it circulates around the hive as a sort of central air conditioning.



## Biological Control Program

In 2022, DANR participated in the release and redistribution of various biological control agents on leafy spurge, poison hemlock, and yellow toadflax. Cooperative efforts involved APHIS-Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), County Weed and Pest programs, tribal land managers, state, and federal land managers, South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Services (CES), and USDA– Agricultural Research Service (ARS). Our highlight of the year was finding that the *Rhinusa pilosus* that were released in 2021 on yellow toadflax in Brown County had overwintered and reproduced. We are currently one of the leading states using this agent. DANR made two releases of this agent this year. The first release was done in the existing site in Brown County and the second release was in the Black Hills in Lawrence County. The department also received 3,000 *Mecinus janthinus* and released 1,400 agents in Lawrence County with the remaining 1,600 agents released in Edmunds County on a Game Production Area. With the Yellow Toadflax populations growing in South Dakota, we continue to make it a priority for releasing agents to control it.



## Nursery & Seed Inspection

The 2022 nursery spring season had a slow beginning but gained much momentum as the cold conditions gave way to warmer mild May/June weather. Drier than normal conditions throughout the year allowed for above average landscaping/construction projects throughout the entire state. Many projects continued well into the late fall finally ending just days before Christmas. Trees and perennials remain in high demand for home, yard, and shelterbelt plantings. Evergreen species of all varieties continue to have lower than normal inventory as demand for these trees remains higher than ten-year averages. Many growers and retail outlets simply cannot meet the increased demand, selling out by mid-season. Declining tree populations due to pine wilt, emerald ash borer, fire-blight, and other insects/diseases will continue the need for more diverse and resistant tree species. Statewide nursery inspections conducted by DANR in fiscal year 2022 totaled 124 permitted sites.



Staff conducted seed inspections at approximately 112 locations in FY2022, including seed belonging to seedsmen, seed producers and seed dealers. Inspections included examinations of documents, labels, and seed samples. One hundred seventy-eight seed lots were sampled. The samples selected represented over 25 different agricultural and vegetable crop varieties. There were 30 samples that did not pass laboratory analysis, resulting in 30 warning letters and 21 stop sale orders. The most common violations were germination and weed seed out of tolerance infractions. Warning letters were sent to those without seed permits as well as those with seed advertising violations. DANR also conducted investigations to determine compliance with seed laws.

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## Pest Survey Program

The South Dakota internal quarantine for EAB continued to generate questions from the public and compliance agreements. This is the fifth year for the internal quarantine, and no new counties added in 2022. The external EAB quarantine remains in place, but there were no specific incidents in 2022. USDA continued to work with the bio control releases but experienced disappointing results. In response to the deregulation of EAB by the USDA-APHIS-PPQ, we requested participation in the Federally Recognized State Managed Phytosanitary Program in 2021. This program would direct the Customs and Border Patrol to continue regulating EAB in shipments destined to South Dakota. APHIS has yet to issue a decision on that request.

Purple prism traps and green funnel traps, and lures, were obtained through USDA-APHIS-PPQ. DANR placed traps at business parks and key pathway locations across the state. Traps and lures were also shared with cooperators, including city parks & recreation departments, and one USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service employee. Although SDSU Extension focused trapping within the quarantine area in Sioux Falls, most of the traps were in communities outside of the quarantine area. No EAB beetles were discovered by this effort outside of the quarantine area in 2022.



Staff conducted a visual inspection of Christmas trees, covering 64 retail vendors located in 22 counties. No spongy moth egg masses were discovered. We continued the policy of explaining to vendors that although the pine shoot beetle is deregulated and the destruction requirements no longer applied, continuing to inspect is a best practice which may reduce the risk of a new pest moving into our state. The pathway survey resulted in four velvet long-horned beetles captured at three locations in three counties. Two of the locations were in counties where this insect had not previously been detected. During the Christmas tree inspections, we monitored wreathes and trees for the elongate hemlock scale. We did find scale on fir trees from North Carolina this year. However, since the level of infestation was very low, we did not conduct any regulatory action, except the vendor was asked to destroy two trees.

A cooperative truck inspection was conducted with USDA-APHIS-PPQ and USDA-APHIS-Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) this year. The inspection was conducted at two ports of entry with no violations or situations requiring a follow-up inspection.

Several states are dealing with an unusual invasive pest – jumping worms. We had a short scare with it this year when a sample was found in an imported plant at a nursery. However, the sample was identified as a species native to the northern parts of the US & Canada.

One DANR employee traveled to Fargo, ND to attend a Tabletop Exercise of the Incident Command System, used by the USDA-APHIS in events where significant regulated pests are found. Other attendees included USDA-APHIS, ND Dept of Agriculture, NDSU Extension, and representatives from the seed industry and producers.



Programs	Traps	Positive
Karnal Bunt samples	42	0
Japanese Beetle traps (111 locations in 33 communities surveyed)	184	58*
Oriental Beetle traps (26 beetles at 2 locations)	7	0
Lymantria dispar Moth traps (1 moth captured for SDDANR, 7 moths statewide)	147	1**
Small Grain Commodity Survey Fields (41 counties)	326V, 48T	0
Pathway Detection Survey Locations (10 counties, +VLHB in 2 counties)	25	3***
Khapra beetle traps (8 counties, samples in progress)	87	0
Emerald ash borer traps (not all cooperators returned data)	19	0

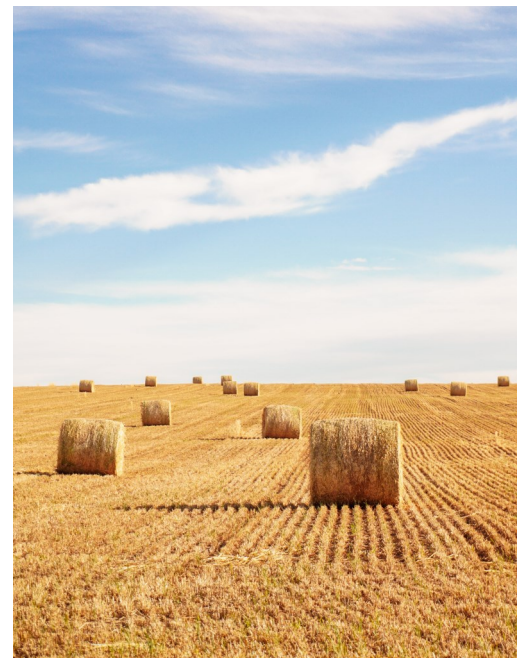
\*Historically, 28 communities have confirmed presence of Japanese beetles in traps placed by DANR. 12 communities confirmed Japanese Beetle presence with trapping in 2022

\*\*One spongy moth confirmed in traps placed by DANR, 7 confirmed in traps in 2022

\*\*\*Four confirmed velvet long-horned beetles at three locations in 2022

### SD Weed & Pest Control Commission

The SD Weed and Pest Control Commission is authorized in SDCL 38-22-38, to expend weed and pest control funds it considers appropriate for weed and pest control projects. The Commission had spending authority of \$450,000 for the FY2022 grants. Fifty-eight counties received funds for their regular cost share grants available to them. In addition, eighteen competitive grants were also funded for special projects. Funds for the weed and pest control fund are derived from a portion of the pesticide product registration fees paid yearly when companies register their products in the state.



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### Weed Free Forage

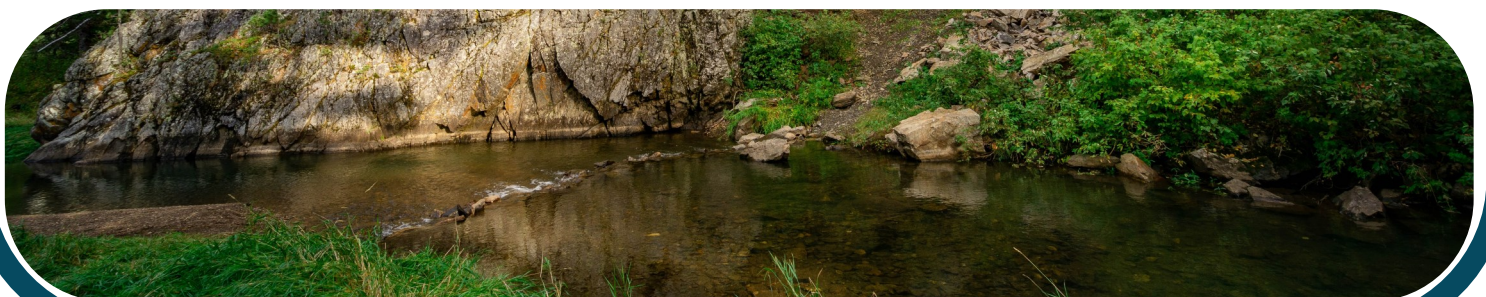
In 2022, Weed Free Forage inspections were conducted for 11 different producers of grass, alfalfa, and small grain straw fields, for a total of 1,296 acres inspected, with 1,078.5 acres certified. Most of the hay will be used in the Black Hills National Forest and the Badlands National Park. A total of 5,129 tags were requested, though not all hay bales produced were tagged. Most of the small grain straw certified was used for out of state construction projects

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### Watershed Protection

The Watershed Protection Program’s primary focus is to assess, improve, restore and maintain the health of South Dakota waters by providing local government bodies, natural resource management agencies, and the general public with information, funding, and technical assistance for watershed assessment and restoration projects. The Program’s FY2022 Annual Report can be found at:

[https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation/WatershedProtection/ReportsPublications/SDDANR\\_2022\\_IR\\_approved.pdf](https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation/WatershedProtection/ReportsPublications/SDDANR_2022_IR_approved.pdf)



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