



NATIVE PRAIRIE RESTORATION GRANT



FUNDING FOR NATIVE PRAIRIE ESTABLISHMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

Native plants provide multiple benefits to water quality, soil health, and pollinators. Grant funding is available for the installation of native vegetation in Dakota County that protects surface waters and groundwater, reduces erosion, or provides wildlife habitat. Project funds are also available for projects that enhance existing native vegetation.

Funding is sponsored by Dakota County through the Environmental Legacy Fund.

FUNDING DETAILS:

Apply for the Native Prairie Restoration grant program and you could receive up to 85% funding for eligible costs with the below limitations:

- \$4,000 per acre for projects that establish native grasses **and** pollinator-friendly species (flowering forbs).
- \$2,500 per acre for the establishment of native grasses.
- \$1,500 per acre for the enhancement of existing native grass plantings through the addition of pollinator-friendly species (forbs, sedges, & rushes).
- Maximum grant payment of \$15,000 per project.
- **Projects must be a minimum of 1/2 acre in size to qualify.**

All funding based on availability, SWCD Board Approval, and on percentage of actual installation costs.

APPLICATION TIMES:

- Applications are accepted all year and will be reviewed and ranked on a monthly basis.

PROJECT PRIORITIES:

- Stabilizing erodible soils
- Filtering runoff to waterways or wetlands
- Protecting groundwater
- Improving wildlife habitat, particularly for pollinators

PROJECT EXAMPLES:

- Site preparation, seed, and planting of native vegetation
- Enhancement of existing native vegetation with pollinator species

For more information, call the
Dakota County Soil and Water
Conservation District at
(651) 480-7777

HARVESTABLE COVER INCENTIVES



WHAT ARE HARVESTABLE COVERS?

Harvestable covers are vegetative cover on cropland for protection from erosion and reduction of nutrient losses to groundwater. Harvestable covers are intended to provide soil and groundwater protection throughout as much of the year as possible. Harvestable covers allow for harvesting of a crop, which can provide income while protecting water resources. Examples of harvestable covers include winter camelina, intermediate wheat grass, winter wheat, or other crops that provide overwinter cover. One or more cover crop species may be selected based on specific goals.

INCENTIVE PAYMENT PROGRAM

Apply under the Incentive Payment Practices Program and you could be eligible to receive:

- \$25 per acre under a 1-year contract using a winter annual (max \$4,000 or 160 acres)
- \$35 per acre per year under a multi-year contract using a winter annual (max \$16,800 or 160 acres)
- \$35 per acre per year under a multi-year contract using a perennial (max \$16,800 or 160 acres)

Applications are prioritized for funding based on their potential to provide surface water and groundwater benefits. The number of applications approved may be limited by the funding and staff time available. Please contact the SWCD for specific eligibility requirements and program details.

APPLICATION TIMES:

- Applications are accepted year-round

POTENTIAL BENEFITS:

- Reduced soil erosion
- Groundwater protection
- Reduced soil compaction
- Enhanced ability of soil to infiltrate water
- Reduced weed growth
- Increased nutrients in the soil
- Increased numbers of desirable insects and micro-fauna
- Ability to generate income while protecting surface and groundwater

CONTACT:

- For more information, call the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District at (651) 480-7777

SOIL HEALTH INCENTIVES



Stacking Conservation Practices

This program is well suited to fit with crop rotations and further conservation goals for healthy soils. Applicants must select a primary practice (cover crops, harvestable cover, or no-till/strip-till) in order to be eligible for a secondary practice (N-inhibitors, planting green, split rate N application, and irrigation water management). Contracts can be for one to three years. SWCD staff will work with applicants to best plan and schedule practices.

Applications are prioritized for funding based on their potential to provide water quality benefits. The number of applications approved may be limited by the amount of funding and staff time available.

APPLICATION TIMES:

- Applications are accepted year-round

CONTACT:

- For more information, call the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District at (651) 480-7777

Primary Practices



Cover Crops
\$45/acre/yr (multi-year)
\$35/acre (single year)



Harvestable Cover
\$35/acre/yr (multi-year)
\$25/acre (single year)



No-Till/Strip-Till
\$20/acre/yr (multi-year)
\$15/acre (single year)

Secondary Practices



Nitrogen Inhibitors
\$5/acre/yr



Planting Green
\$10/acre/yr



**Split Rate
Nitrogen Application**
\$5/acre/yr



**Irrigation Water
Management**
\$5/acre/yr

COVER CROP INCENTIVES



SEEDING PLANS & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Cover crops are used to accomplish many goals such as reducing compaction, fixing nitrogen, suppressing weeds, reducing erosion, or providing additional forage. Common cover crops in Dakota County are cereal rye, oats, tillage radish, clover and winter wheat. One or more cover crop species may be selected based on specific goals.

SWCD staff can help you create a cover crop seeding plan with your goals in mind. Staff can also provide technical assistance and information on planting methods, termination timing, and herbicide and pest control decisions.

INCENTIVE PAYMENT PROGRAM

Apply under the Incentive Payment Practices Program and you could be eligible to receive:

- \$35 per acre under a 1-year contract (max \$5,600 or 160 acres)
- \$45 per acre per year under a multi-year contract (max \$21,600 or 160 acres)

Applications are prioritized for funding based on their potential to provide surface water and groundwater benefits. The number of applications approved may be limited by the funding and staff time available. Please contact the SWCD for specific eligibility requirements and program details.

APPLICATION TIMES:

- Applications are accepted year-round

POTENTIAL BENEFITS:

- Reduced soil erosion
- Reduced soil compaction
- Enhanced ability of soil to infiltrate water
- Reduced weed growth
- Increased nutrients in the soil
- Increased numbers of desirable insects and micro-fauna
- Potential yield increases

CONTACT:

- For more information, call the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District at (651) 480-7777