



Second Century Habitat Program

Frequently Asked Questions | June 11, 2019

The focus of the program is to provide a working lands habitat alternative to cropping marginal land. Participants agree to establish grass and forbs on cropland for 5 years and receive free seed and a one-time \$150/acre payment at the beginning of the contract. No haying or grazing is allowed until after August 1st of the second growing season. Between August 1 and March 1, haying is allowed every 2 years or on 1/2 of the enrolled acres each year; grazing will be allowed annually.

1.) Who is administering the agreements for the Second Century Habitat working lands program?

Participants who enroll in this habitat program will be executing an agreement with the Second Century Habitat Fund. The Second Century Habitat Fund is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to wildlife habitat. Incentive payments will be provided to participating landowners from the Second Century Habitat Fund.

2.) What area of the state is this program available?

All cropland located in eastern South Dakota as well as in Stanley, Jones, Lyman, Tripp, and Gregory counties in western South Dakota.

3.) How many acres can be enrolled?

Minimum size of an individual planting must be 10 acres. The maximum acres each participant can enroll in the program is 160 acres.

4.) What acres are eligible to be enrolled in the program?

The focus of this program is to enroll marginal cropland such as saline and moist soils, field edges, other less productive soil types or areas producers want to manage as wildlife habitat.

5.) How do participants receive the free seed?

Upon execution of agreement seed will be shipped directly to participating producers for free. Seed mixes will consist of grasses and forbs that provide good ground nesting bird habitat and forage for livestock.

6.) Who will plant the seed?

It is the responsibility of the enrolled participant to assure the acres are planted. If a participant does not have a tractor and no-till seed drill or are unable to plant it themselves, they should consult with a Habitat Advisor. Habitat Advisors can put them in contact with local vendors who participants can rent a drill from or hire to plant enrolled acres.

7.) Where can participants rent a drill?

Most local Conservation Districts around the state have either a grass drill to rent or in some instances provide a full service operation to plant habitat acres. Habitat Advisors will be able to direct participants to these resources.



8.) When should the seed be planted?

It is anticipated the majority of seeding will occur in late fall, however there may be exceptions in which plantings will not occur until the spring. For more details on planting, participants are encouraged to visit with a Habitat Advisor.

9.) Do participants have to hay or graze the land enrolled in the Second Century Habitat Program?

No. If the participant would like to leave the cover, they can do so. The seeding may need to be mowed during its 1st growing season to control weed competition.

10.) Are there other management recommendations to maximize the habitat value of this program?

Participants are encouraged to enroll areas adjacent to or near existing habitat such as wetlands, woody habitat, or food plots. When enrolled acres are hayed, consider cutting at 10" or higher to maintain residual nesting cover for the following year.

11.) Are there any other obligations of the program participant?

Participants will be responsible for seed bed preparation, planting and weed control during establishment of the conservation planting.

12.) Will the land be open to public hunting access?

No. Hunting access to land in the Second Century Habitat Program will be by landowner permission only and it will not be shown in the Public Hunting Atlas. If the participant would like to allow public hunting access, they can contact SD Game, Fish & Parks and place it in the Walk-In Area or the Controlled Hunting Access Program.

13.) Is land enrolled in the program open to public hunting if supported by bighorn sheep auction funds?

Acres enrolled in the Second Century Habitat Program which are supported by funds generated through the auction of a bighorn sheep auction license shall allow reasonable hunting access to non-family members who obtain proper permission.

14.) Can the participant charge people to hunt their land?

No. Participants in the Second Century Habitat Program are prohibited from charging any person or entity any fee or payment for hunting access to any property under their ownership or control. Commercial fee hunting establishments are not eligible for the program.



15.) Who should interested landowners contact to sign up for the Second Century Habitat Program?

Contact your local Habitat Advisor shown below or on the Habitat Pays website habitat.sd.gov/advisors

SD Game, Fish and Parks

Tim Olson | Pierre | 605-773-3658,
Matt Grunig | Huron | 605-353-6699
Brian Pauly | Huron | 605-353-7185

Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologists

Emmett Lenihan | Aberdeen | 605-216-6281
Eric Flanigan | Faulkton | 605-212-8815
Isaac Full | Gettysburg | 817-701-6707
Tom Zinter | Mound City | 605-216-0104
Eric Magedanz | Watertown | 605-880-2651
Catherine Beall | Webster | 605-464-4541
Alisha Grams | Woonsocket | 320-905-3540

Nick Goehring | Chamberlain | 605-216-4390
Cody Rolfes | Flandreau | 712-260-8653
Derek Hartl | Murdo | 605-209-4003
Nate Cirillo | Parkston | 262-370-8554
Ben Lardy | Webster | 605-461-8249
Joe Mayrose | Winner | 712-541-9190

16.) What other role will Habitat Advisors have in the Second Century Habitat program?

Habitat Advisors will provide technical assistance, inspect and assure planting fulfilled terms of agreement.