



South Dakota Agricultural Land Trust
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*Our mission is to
conserve South
Dakota's agricultural
heritage and working
landscapes for the
benefit of future
generations.*

The South Dakota Agricultural Land Trust (SDALT) is a non-profit agriculture-based land trust providing South Dakota farmers and ranchers with a conservation organization that understands their business. SDALT offers conservation solutions to producers throughout the state, assisting landowners in achieving their conservation and operational goals. SDALT works to conserve agricultural landscapes and economically viable farms and ranches through voluntary, incentive-based methods; the land trust does not actively solicit conservation easements from producers.

PARTNERS:

South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts
South Dakota Grassland Coalition
South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation

MISSION STATEMENT:

Conserve South Dakota's agricultural heritage and working landscapes for the benefit of future generations.

ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

- **Heritage** – We are dedicated to the agricultural families we were founded to serve and to promoting and preserving the agricultural heritage, private land stewardship, and rural way of life that has always defined South Dakota.
- **Leadership** – We advocate for agriculture and agricultural families to ensure that the primary focus of land conservation in South Dakota is conserving the land and working with the families that produce the food and fiber that feeds the world.
- **Transparency** – We are committed to operational and financial transparency while recognizing the sensitive nature of our work and protecting the privacy of our landowners and donors.
- **Discipline** – We remain steadfast in our commitment to create and implement conservation strategies that work for agricultural lands and agricultural producers.
- **Creativity** – We strive to be an innovator in conservation and conservation policy with a focus on the human elements of land conservation.
- **Result Driven** – We base our success on results. Our metrics will be rooted in the working lands that are permanently conserved (i.e. the land that remains available for agricultural production), achieving the goals of the agricultural families with whom we work, and the overall outreach to the general public about the importance of conserving agriculture, productive land, agricultural families, rural communities and our heritage.
- **Perpetuity** – We operate and make decisions based on our perpetual obligations to the conservation easements we steward and the agricultural lands and families we serve.

NEED/DEMAND:

A feasibility study completed in 2017 concluded that development an agriculture-based land trust with a leadership who understands production agriculture could serve current needs and meet the future conservation goals of producers in South Dakota. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) received more than 200 landowner inquiries about the Agricultural Land Easement conservation funding program in 2017. Due to statutory limitations that require a third-party entity to hold the ALE easement, NRCS generally is not able to service the ALE demand in South Dakota. IN addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service receives approximately 500 applications for wetlands easement programs each year but can only service 100 to 120 landowners each year.