

19-06 - North Dakota Department of Agriculture's Soil Health Cover Crop Grant Program

Application Details

Funding Opportunity: 14877-Outdoor Heritage Fund May 2021 - Round 19
Funding Opportunity Due Date: Sep 2, 2021 11:59 PM
Program Area: Outdoor Heritage Fund
Status: Under Review
Stage: Final Application

Initial Submit Date: Aug 27, 2021 2:47 PM
Initially Submitted By: Jeannie Jacobs-Kopp
Last Submit Date:
Last Submitted By:

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes

Type: External User

Name: Salutation Jeannie Middle Name Jacobs-Kopp
First Name Last Name

Title: Grants & Contract Officer

Email*: jacobskopp@nd.gov

Address*: 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 602

Bismarck North Dakota 58554
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (701) 328-1962 Ext.
Phone
####

Fax: (701) 328-4567
####

Comments:

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Organization Type*: State Government

Tax Id:

Organization Website:

Address*: 600 E. Boulevard Ave. - Dept. 602

Bismarck North Dakota 58505-0020
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (701) 328-4723 Ext.
####

Fax: (701) 328-2240
####

Benefactor:

Vendor ID:

Budget

Objective of Grant

Objective of Grant:

The primary objective is to protect and improve soil health through the planting of cover crops across ND. The presence of cover crops on the landscape also provides water quality benefits and quality wildlife habitat. By providing a cost share incentive, it encourages producers to plant cover crops.

Summary

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Grant Request: | \$400,000.00 |
| Matching Funds: | \$852,800.00 |
| Total Project Costs: | \$1,252,800.00 |
| You must have at least 25% match | |
| Percentage of Match: | 68.07% |

Project Expenses

| Project Expense Description | OHF Request | Match Share (Cash) | Match Share (In-Kind) | Match Share (Indirect) | Other Project Sponsor's Share | Total Each Project Expense |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cover Crop Seeding | \$400,000.00 | \$300,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$552,800.00 | \$1,252,800.00 |
| | \$400,000.00 | \$300,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$552,800.00 | \$1,252,800.00 |

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

Cover Crop Contracts: NDDA is requesting \$400,000 from the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund to provide producers with cost share for cover crop plantings. It is NDDA's intent to encourage producers to plant cover crops. Individual producer contracts are eligible up to 50 acres per applicant. The rate of cost share will be \$15 per acre. Using the federally approved EQUIP rate for cover crops of \$35.73, the landowner match for remaining seed costs, labor, equipment, and other related expenses will be valued at \$20.73 per acre. NDDA estimates approximately 533 producer contracts supported by OHF funds with approximately 1,000 producer contracts total.

Bid Attachments

| Description | File Name | Type | Size | Upload Date |
|-------------|-----------|------|------|-------------|
|-------------|-----------|------|------|-------------|

No files attached.

Match Funding

| Match Amount | Funding Source | Match Type |
|---------------------|--|------------|
| \$552,800.00 | Landowner | Cash |
| \$300,000.00 | Agriculture Commissioner's Operating Funds | Cash |
| \$852,800.00 | | |

Description

Directives

- Major Directive*:** Directive B
Choose One
- Additional Directive:** Directive C
Choose All That Apply
- Type of Agency*:** State Agency
Choose One

Abstract/Executive Summary

Abstract/Executive Summary*:

NDDA's SHCCG program is a directive by the 67th Legislative Assembly to protect and improve soil health by providing financial incentives for producers to plant cover crops. The program will provide funding to producers through a lottery system in the fall of 2021. As directed by the ND Legislature, NDDA is requesting \$400,000 from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The duration of the project is planned for September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023.

Farmers and ranchers in ND care about soil and water quality on their operations. By incorporating cover crops into their cropping systems, they have the ability to enhance productivity within their operations. Producers will not only increase soil health, they will also develop grazing opportunities for livestock.

The primary goal of NDDA's SHCCG program is to protect and enhance soil health, as well as water quality by planting cover crops in a voluntary manner. The practice of planting of cover crops is just starting to grow in ND. To encourage producers to plant cover crops, a financial incentive is being offered to cost share the expenses, such as seed and labor. NDDA plans to provide cost share to approximately 1,000 producers during this period.

One of the initial objectives of the program is informing producers about the program. NDDA has developed a program web page which provides guidance and technical information to assist producers with planting recommendations, as well as how to apply for the program and requirements. NDDA will issue press

releases to inform producers of the program and how to apply. In addition, NDDA will send informational emails about the program to all Soil Conservation Districts/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices and 319 watershed coordinators. To provide producers with technical assistance, a list of providers is listed on the website; including NRCS, county Soil Conservation staff, watershed coordinators and NDSU county agents. Finally, NDDA will provide informational handouts to promote the SHCCG program.

In conclusion, NDDA's final objective is to successfully implement a soil health program for the producers of ND; therefore, NDDA has developed the following protocol to deliver the program. First, NDDA will develop an online application process for producers to apply for the program. Next, NDDA will review the applications and identify qualified applicants who will go into a lottery system. After the lottery is completed, the successful applicants will be notified, and payments will be processed.

Project Duration

Project Duration*:

NDDA plans for the SHCCG program to be a long-term commitment on the condition that funding is provided from the ND Legislature. NDDA is requesting funds for the period of September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

Narrative

Narrative

Briefly summarize your organization's history, mission, current programs and activities. Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement.

Organization Information*:

NDDA is a state agency administered by the Agriculture Commissioner. NDDA's primary responsibility is to promote a healthy economy, environment, and social climate for North Dakota agriculture and the rural community. NDDA's responsibilities include providing leadership in the formulation of policies affecting the state's agricultural industries, serving as an advocate for the needs and concerns of farmers and ranchers on the state and national levels, promoting and marketing ND products, and disseminating information concerning agricultural issues.

NDDA is responsible for:

- * Promoting improved marketing conditions for North Dakota products
- * Regulating dairy and poultry industries
- * Licensing and bonding livestock auction markets and individuals selling livestock
- * Controlling and eradicating bee diseases and licensing of beekeepers
- * Developing, supervising, and participating in programs to protect plant life from disease and insects
- * Administering state nursery laws
- * Administering a mediation service to resolve differences between financially distressed farmers and their creditors
- * Administering and enforcing state and federal pesticide laws
- * Administering noxious weed laws
- * Monitoring compliance with established standards by organic producers
- * Administering the Agriculture in the Classroom program
- * Cooperating with federal agencies in controlling animals that cause property damage
- * Administering the State Waterbank program
- * Promoting honey and honey products
- * Promoting the turkey industry
- * Registering and regulating livestock medicines
- * Registering and enforcing laws pertaining to fertilizers and soil conditioners
- * Licensing and inspecting anhydrous ammonia bulk facilities and enforcing laws related to anhydrous storage
- * Administering a state meat and poultry inspection program
- * Providing Export Certification of plant and plant products to assist in North Dakota ag trade
- * Livestock zoning ordinance review
- * Licensing and bonding grain dealers

Describe the proposed project identifying how the project will meet the specific directive(s) of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program.

Identify project goals, strategies and benefits and your timetable for implementation. Include information about the need for the project and whether there is urgency for funding. Indicate if this is a new project or if it is replacing funding that is no longer available to your organization. Identify any innovative features or processes of your project.

Note: if your proposal provides funding to an individual, the names of the recipients must be reported to the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund. These names will be disclosed upon request.

If your project involves an extenuating circumstance to [exempted activities](#) please explain.

Purpose of Grant*:

NDDA's primary goal is to protect and enhance soil health. By offering cost share assistance, NDDA believes this will encourage those producers to plant additional acres in critical areas. In particular, the SHCCG program is targeting cropland areas impacted with alkaline soils. In the next two years, NDDA would like to provide cost share to at least 1,000 producers. The presence of cover crops also provides habitat and nesting cover for many species of wildlife.

NDDA's SHCCG program is a new program beginning in the fall of 2021. NDDA has developed minimum qualifications, program requirements, guidelines, and eligible crops to be planted for the program as follows:

Minimum Qualifications

- * Cover crop must be planted by August 31st.
- * Complete online application by October 1st.
- * Minimum seeding rates must be followed (please see eligible seed mixes in guidelines and minimum seeding rates in the Midwest Cover Crops Council Cover Crops Decision Tool). Soil Conservation/NRCS county specific suggested plantings are also eligible for this program.
- * No fall tillage allowed if planting is done after harvest of cash crop.
- * Grazing is allowed on cover crops.
- * Must register as a vendor with the state of North Dakota to receive payment.
- * Must soil test before cover crop is planted.
- * Must provide previous crop planted/cropping rotation before cover crop.
- * Must identify cover crop/mix planted.
- * Must provide copy of seed bill in application.

Program Participation Requirements

1. Conduct field soil test prior to planting cover crop. (Results must be submitted with application.)
2. Select cover crop to be grown.
3. Plant cover crop. (prior to August 31st deadline)
4. Apply online at NDDA's website for SHCCG Program. (October 1st deadline)
 - Complete application
 - Copy of soil test
 - Copy of seed bill/receipt
5. Applications will be selected by lottery; successful applicants will be notified via email.
6. Successful applicants must register as a vendor with the State of North Dakota Office of Management and Budget's Vendor Registry and notify program contact by email when completed.
7. Once all previous steps are completed, payment for cost share will be processed beginning in November. (Payments may take up to 60 days for processing.)

Guidelines

- * Application for the program does not guarantee cost share reimbursement.
- * Applicants will enter a lottery system and successful applicants will be notified by email.
- * Cost share payment of \$15 an acre for applicants.
- * 50-acre cap per applicant per year.
- * Applicants should use Midwest Cover Crops Council Cover Crops Decision Tool to assist in the determination of the cover crop.
- * Applicants in need of further technical assistance for cover crop planting or planning should consult with NRCS, county Soil Conservation District or Watershed Program Coordinator in your county.

Eligible Cover Crop/Planting/Mixes

- * Soil Conservation/NRCS county specific suggested plantings are eligible for this program
- * Other eligible cover crop plantings include:

- o Turnips
- o Radishes
- o Cow peas
- o Field peas
- o Dry peas
- o Hairy vetch
- o Sunflowers
- o Millet
- o Sorghum
- o Grazing corn
- o Red clover

- * If cover crop will be planted before May 20, eligible grasses include:

- o Barley
- o Oats
- o Rye
- o Triticale

* Perennial Grasses and Legumes to address saline areas

- o Alfalfa
- o Western Wheatgrass
- o Intermediate Wheatgrass
- o AC Salt-lander

Cover Crop Benefits

- * Decrease soil erosion
- * Address and decrease salinity concerns in soils
- * Increase soil organic matter
- * Create and enhance microbial communities
- * Improved nutrient cycling
- * Increase moisture holding capacity
- * Increase infiltration rates
- * Nutrient storage
- * Weed Suppressant
- * Crop disease suppressant
- * Forage and feedstock opportunity for livestock
- * Protect water quality
- * Increase yields
- * Cut fertilizer costs and use

www.nd.gov/ndda/program/soil-health-cover-crop-grant-program

Please list the counties that would be impacted by this project:

Counties*: Statewide

Is This Project Part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?* No

If Yes, Please Provide Copy of Plan:

Does Your Project Involve an Extenuating Circumstance?* No

Please Explain:

Provide a description of how you will manage and oversee the project to ensure it is carried out on schedule and in a manner that best ensures its objectives will be met. Include a brief background and work experience for those managing the project.

Management of Project*:

NDDA's SHCCG program will be coordinated/managed by Jason Wirtz. Jason is a 21-year veteran of the NDDA, who has coordinated/managed a multitude of programs for the department. The primary program he manages is the Livestock Pollution Prevention Program which is a voluntary water quality program providing financial and technical assistance to livestock producers on a statewide basis. He has worked with over 1,000 producers providing technical and financial assistance to improve water quality by assisting producers with their manure runoff concerns.

NDDA has developed program guidelines and requirements, as well as attainable goals to ensure objectives will be met. NDDA has established an on-line application system for the producers to complete. NDDA will review applications, approve eligible applicants, and will issue payments.

Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years. Include information on the sustainability of this project after OHF funds have been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.

Sustainability*:

The SHCCG program has authority for two years of funding through NDDA. The intent of the SHCCG program is to encourage producers to utilize cover crops and the positive efforts in soil health. Hopefully, after the initial two-year period, it encourage and inspire producers for continued self implementation.

Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested.

Partial Funding*:

If the project is partially funded, the number of producers participating in the program and total acres cost-shared through this project will be reduced.

If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? * There must be signage at the location of the project acknowledging OHF funding when appropriate. If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be.

Partnership Recognition*:

NDDA will recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund as well as the agencies and organizations it works with to make the program a success on the NDDA website, in brochures, and handouts.

Do you have any supporting documents, such as maps or letters of support that you would like to provide? If so, please provide them in a single file.

Supporting Documents*: No

If Yes, Please Provide Copies in a Single File:

Awarding of Grants - Review the appropriate sample contract for your organization. [Sample Contract](#)

Can You Meet All the Provisions of the Sample Contract?* Yes

If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be:

Provisions Unable to Meet:

Tasks

Tasks

| Task | Start Date | Completion Date |
|--|------------|-----------------|
| Advertise and promote the program Year 1 and 2 | 08/15/2021 | 10/01/2022 |
| Hold lottery Year 1 | 10/20/2021 | 11/01/2021 |
| Hold lottery Year 2 | 10/20/2022 | 11/01/2022 |
| Issue payments Year 1 | 12/01/2021 | 12/30/2022 |
| Issue payments Year 2 | 12/01/2022 | 12/30/2022 |
| Notify Successful Applicants Year 1 | 11/15/2021 | 11/30/2021 |
| Notify Successful Applicants Year 2 | 11/15/2022 | 11/30/2022 |
| Receive applications Year 1 | 09/01/2021 | 10/01/2021 |
| Receive applications Year 2 | 09/01/2022 | 10/01/2022 |
| Review applications Year 1 | 10/01/2021 | 10/20/2021 |
| Review applications Year 2 | 10/01/2022 | 10/20/2022 |

Description of Tasks

Please Describe Tasks:

1. Advertise the program through news releases, department website, county soil conservation districts, county NRCS offices, county NDSU extension agents, and 319 watershed coordinators.
2. Receive applications for SHCCG program through an online application system
3. Review the applications to ensure minimum requirements
4. Electronic lottery held to select successful applicants
5. Successful applicants will be notified by email
6. Payments will be processed and sent to successful applicants

Deliverables

Deliverables

| Deliverable | Quantity | Unit of Measurement, if applicable |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Acres Seeded | 26650.000 | acres |
| Approximately 1,000 producers will be provided with cost share incentives to protect and enhance soil quality. | 1000.000 | |

Certification

Certification

Certification: Yes

Name: Kenneth S. Junkert
First Name Last Name

Title: Administrative Services Director
Title

Date: 08/27/2021

Internal Application Number

#/ID:
