

Contract No. 005-068

“Grassland Restoration and Retention Program”

Submitted by Ransom County, Wild Rice and Richland County Soil Conservation Districts

Principal Investigator: ~~Chris Nannenga~~ Bob Flath

Directives C & B

PARTICIPANTS

Sponsor	Cost Share	
NRCS EQIP	\$375,000	
Producers	\$216,000	
EPA 319	\$ 75,000	
Soil Conservation District	<u>\$ 7,500</u>	
Subtotal Cash Cost Share		\$673,500
Soil Conservation District	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	
Subtotal In-kind Cost Share		\$ 15,000
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$250,000</u>	
Subtotal Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) dollars		<u>\$250,000</u>
Total Project Cost		\$938,500

Project Schedule – 5 years

Contract Date – 8/6/2015

Start Date – 8/6/2015

Completion Date – 6/30/2020

Project Deliverables:

Status Report: December 31, 2015 ✓

Status Report: June 30, 2016 ✓

Status Report: December 31, 2016 ✓

Status Report: June 30, 2017 ✓

Status Report: December 31, 2017 ✓

Status Report: June 30, 2018 ✓

Status Report: December 31, 2018 ✓

Status Report: June 30, 2019 ✓

Status Report: December 31, 2019 ✓

Status Report: June 30, 2020 * ✓

Final Report: December 31, 2020* ✓

*Denotes change from original contract.

OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:

The purpose of this project is to restore or retain 2,000 grassland acres (and associated wetlands) within Ransom, Sargent and Richland Counties. The funding would be used to provide cost share assistance for conservation practices. Approximately 20 producers would be involved in the project. Producers will be required to implement wildlife friendly haying habitat. Haying must be rotated through the entire acreage. Rotational grazing management plans will be required on land to be grazed. Only expiring CRP acres or cropland seeded to grassland will be eligible.

STATUS:

The application was for \$1,938,500 with \$1,000,000 to be used for land rental payments. The Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board did not support using OHF dollars for rental payments. It is the intent of this funding to assist in the implementation of conservation practices with no OHF dollars being used for rental payments. Contract has been fully executed.

12/31/2015 - 87.9 acres of cropland has been restored to grassland in Richland County as of this reporting period. 69.9 acres of cropland is scheduled to be restored to grassland in Ransom County in the spring of 2016. Best practices that were funded include: fencing, pasture/hayland planting, trough and tank, well for livestock use only

6/30/2016 - 407.9 acres of cropland have been restored to grasslands. 13,158 ft. of fencing, 2 tanks and 1 well have been installed to facilitate rotational grazing systems on these acres. Additional practices will be installed this summer.

12/31/2016 - 10,250 linear feet of fence was installed to develop a rotational grazing system on 160 acres. The area fenced was expiring CRP.

6/30/2017 - 11,220 ft., 1 tank and 1 well are scheduled to be installed during the fall of 2017. 42.5 acres of cropland are scheduled to be seeded back to grass during the fall of 2017.

12/31/2017 - 41.5 acres were seeded back to native grass and 1,160 feet of fencing was installed since the last report.

6/30/2018 - 2 new parcels of land were signed up for the project. 108 acres of cropland were seeded back to native grass. 13,265 linear feet of fence, 1 tank, and 1 well were installed on 160 acres of expiring CRP acres to develop a grazing system.

12/31/2018 – Status Report received. The report states: 1 new parcel of land was signed up for the project since the last report. \$40,662.60 in BMPs are currently contracted for implementation for the spring/summer of 2019.

6/30/2019 – new parcel of land was signed up for the project since the last report. \$45,122.40 in BMPs are currently contracted for implementation for the summer/fall of 2019.

12/31/2019 – 10,115 ft of fencing and 1 well was installed since last report. \$31,704.60 in BMP's are currently contracted for implementation for the spring/summer of 2020.

A no cost extension to December 31, 2020 has been requested and granted due to extremely wet weather.

6/30/2020 – No implementation or cost share request took place since last report. There is \$31,704.60 currently contracted for implementation for the summer of 2020.

8/15/2020 – A well, solar pump, tank, and 16,350 ft of fence were installed since the last report. There is \$12,735 in BMP's contracted for implementation in the fall.

12/21/2020 – 318 acres of cropland was planted to grass, and 157 acres of CRP remained in grass after the CRP contract concluded. 59,545 feet of barbed wire fence and 4,750 of electric fence were installed to complete grazing management systems on the newly developed grassland areas. To support the grazing systems 4 wells, 3 trough/tanks, and one solar pumping system were installed. The result is 475 acres that will remain in grass for a period of at least 10 years and managed grazing systems will be supported on these same acres.

This contract is now closed with a returned commitment of \$139,013.55.

Updated: 2/5/2021