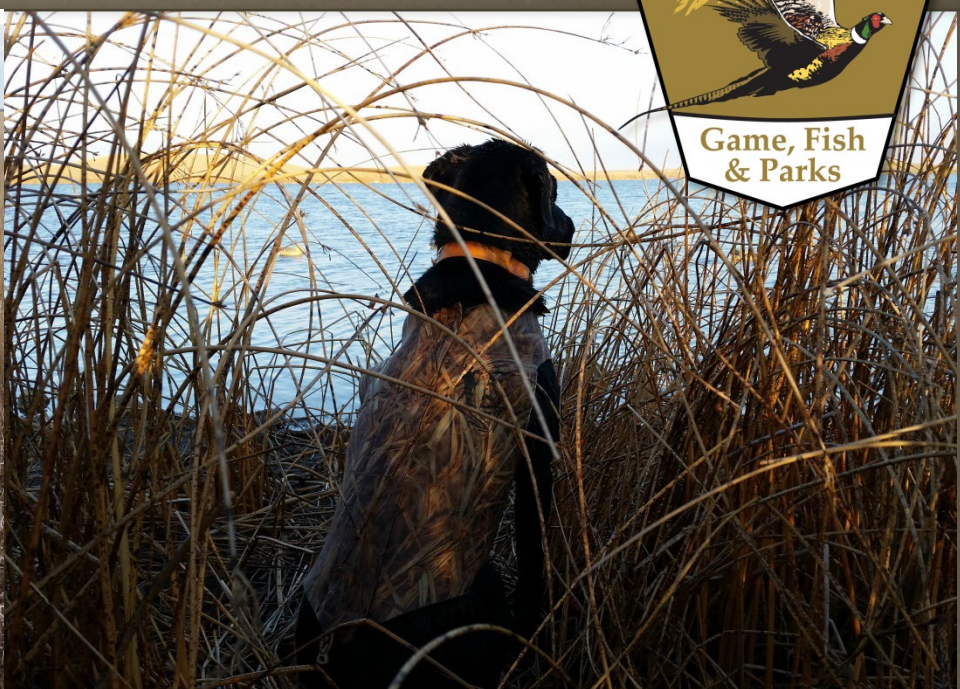




# SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH and PARKS

Mark Norton, Hunting Access and Farm Bill Coordinator





# 2018 Farm Bill Update

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019





# Priorities for 2018 Farm Bill

- **Increase the national Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage enrollment cap and improve management of enrolled lands**
- **Increase funding and provide greater flexibility for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**
- **Maintain and fully implement existing conservation compliance and Sodsaver provisions.**
- **Reauthorize the Voluntary Public Access & Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) with minimum funding of \$150 million.**



# 2018 Farm Bill

- The Ag Improvement Act was signed into law on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- The Conservation Title maintained the existing suite of conservation programs and overall title funding of \$6 billion/year
- **Conservation compliance provisions were maintained**
- **Sodsaver maintained** and now requires USDA to report native sod acres converted to cropland each January 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning in 2020
- **Increased funding for the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program** from \$40 to \$50 million



# Conservation Reserve Program



2018 Farm Bill CRP Acreage Cap Schedule (Millions)

FFY	General and Continuous CRP	Minimum Grassland CRP	Total
2019	23	1	24
2020	23	1.5	24.5
2021	23	2	25
2022	23.5	2	25.5
2023	<b>25</b>	2	<b>27</b>

- If less acres are enrolled in Grassland CRP than the minimum, the unenrolled balance can not be enrolled in General or Continuous CRP.
- If more acres are enrolled in Grassland CRP than the minimum, fewer acres will be available for General or Continuous CRP enrollment.



# CRP



- As of October 2018 there are 22.5 million acres enrolled
  - 1 million are Grassland CRP
  - South Dakota has 1.15 million acres
    - 142,225 are Grassland CRP

CRP Acreage Expiration Schedule		
	Nationwide (millions)	South Dakota
2019	1	70,620
2020	4.4	170,992
2021	3	111,582
2022	4	138,329
2023	2	78,844
Total	14.4	570,367





# CRP Change Highlights

- Annual Rental rates limited to 85% of county average for General CRP and 90% for Continuous CRP and rental rates must be updated annually
- General sign up held not less than once each year
- **Grazing allowed as a mid contract management practice on all practices**
- **Grazing allowed every other year with a 25% rental rate reduction**
  - Grazing also allowed during the primary nesting season (PNS) (May 1 to Aug 1 in SD) at 50% stocking rate
- **Haying allowed on up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a field outside the PNS once every 3 years with a 25% rental rate reduction.**
- Authorizes cost-share for fencing and water development



# CRP Change Highlights



- Establishes a pilot program to allow water quality CRP practices that expire to be re-enrolled in 30 year contracts
- Establishes the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) Pilot of 50,000 acres for Prairie Pothole Region States
  - Allows up to 15% of least productive cropland to be enrolled in perennial conservation cover with NO cost-share provided
  - 3 to 5 year contracts
  - Annual rental payment equal to 50% of the county average rental rate
  - Can be hayed or grazed outside the primary nesting season with a 25% rental rate reduction



# Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)



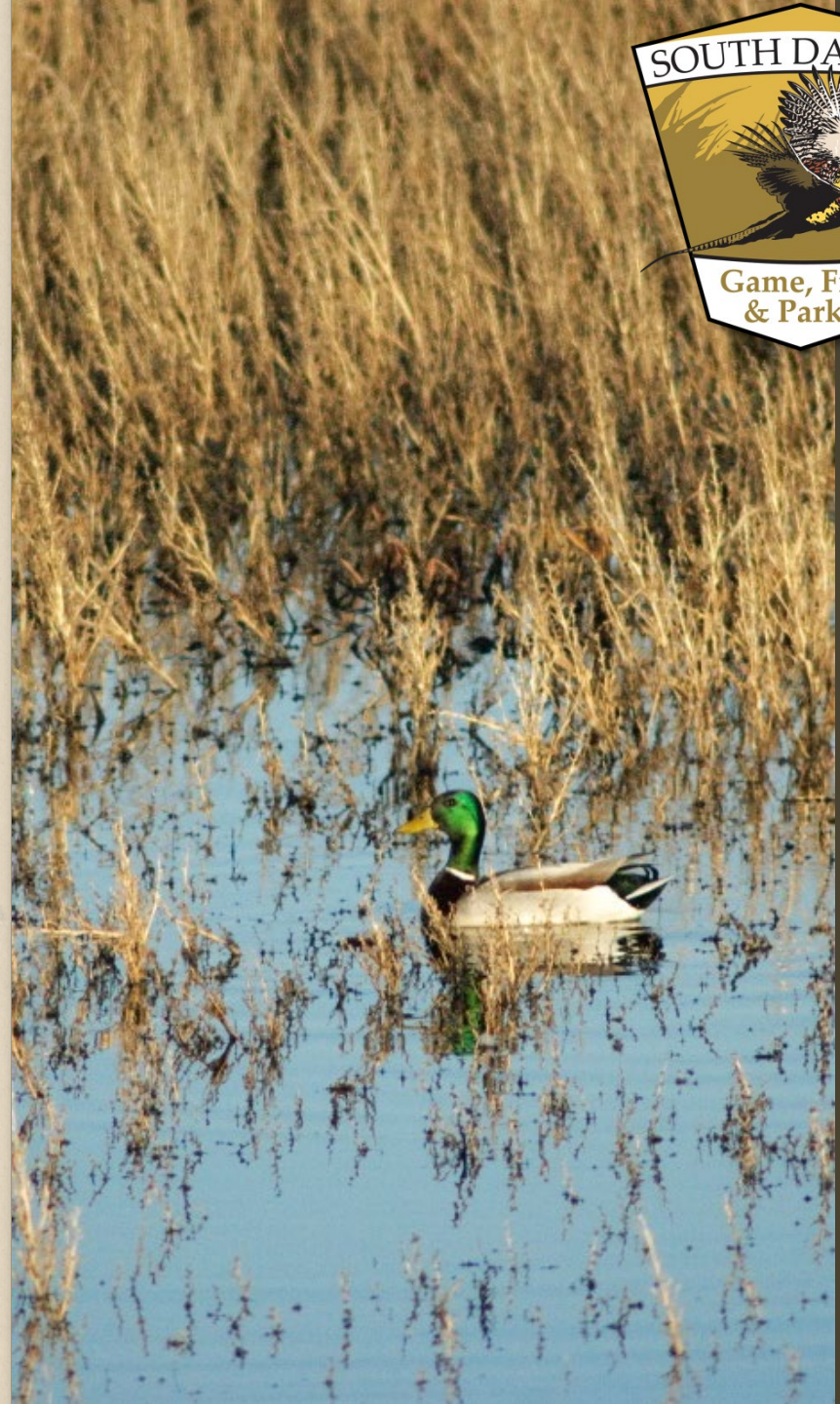
- Increased funding by \$425 million over next 5 years

Increases portion of EQIP funding that has to be spent on wildlife habitat from 5% to 10%



# Ag Conservation Easement Program

- **Restores Funding to \$450 million/year from \$225 in FFY2018**
- Broadens what is allowed as nonfederal match for Ag Land Easements





# Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- Increased funding from \$100 to \$300 million/year
- Adds CRP as a covered program
- Improved flexibility to accomplish conservation goals





# 2018 Farm Bill Implementation



- The Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency will be writing rules and regulations for all changes
- GFP will work with partners to provide comments on proposed rules as they become available for public comment.
- GFP will apply for VPA-HIP Funding
- GFP may partner on RCPP projects
- Work to promote programs to landowners





# Questions