

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Resident Landowner Preference

- One-half the resident licenses are set aside for the first choice in the first drawing for residents who qualify for landowner preference.
- To be eligible for landowner preference, a landowner or tenant must operate at least 160 acres of private land within the unit applied for as first choice.
- “Operate” means: to lease or hold fee title to farm or ranch real property and be directly involved in the management decisions made for agricultural purposes on the farm or ranch.
- “Agricultural purposes” includes the producing, raising, growing, or harvesting of food or fiber upon agricultural land, including dairy products, livestock, crops, timber, and grasslands.
- Land leased solely for hunting, fishing or trapping does not qualify for landowner preference.
- A landowner or tenant, but not both, may claim landowner preference for the same qualifying property.
- Immediate family members are eligible, and include the applicant’s spouse and the applicant’s children residing with the applicant.
- Employment on a farm or ranch alone does not qualify an individual for landowner preference.
- Shareholders of a corporation, members of a limited liability company holding a membership interest in the company, partners in a partnership, and beneficiaries of a trust entitled to the current income and assets held in trust; all organized and in good standing under the laws of South Dakota are eligible for landowner preference if:
 1. The entity holds title to 160 acres or more of private land located within the hunting unit applied for;
 2. The shareholder, member, partner, or trust beneficiary applying for landowner preference is a resident; and
 3. The shareholder, member, partner, or trust beneficiary has responsibility for making the day-to-day management decisions for agricultural purposes on the farm or ranch.
- **Nonresident landowners do not qualify for this preference.**