



NACD's Northern Plains Region Investments

Every year, NACD makes considerable investments in its membership across the country to further the work of locally-led conservation. Below is a compilation of some of the most recent areas of investment NACD has made specifically in the five Northern Plains Region states.

Conservation Planning Boot Camp

NRCS Conservation Planning Boot Camp is a three-week, intensive training course for technical employees that covers current conservation planning policy, procedures and guidelines as outlined in the National Planning Procedures Handbook. Each year from March - September, 75 conservation district employees will have the opportunity to participate in this program, which is held in Lincoln, Neb. District participants are trained in and out of the classroom – right alongside NRCS field staff – in the skills necessary for developing and implementing comprehensive conservation plans. District participation in the course ensures conservation technical assistance is provided to local landowners and operators in a consistent manner nationwide. Expenses associated with this training are reimbursable (e.g. travel, lodging, meals, laundry, etc.).

Number of participants in both 2017 and 2018

Kansas- 5 in 2018

Montana- 4 in 2018

Nebraska- 1 in 2018

North Dakota- 1 in 2017

South Dakota- 2 in 2017; 2 in 2018

In 2017, NACD sent 45 people for training, 3 were from the Northern Plains Region.

In 2018, NACD sent 53 people for training, 12 were from the Northern Plains Region.

Technical Assistance Grants

NACD has secured a \$10 million cooperative agreement with NRCS to further enhance conservation district technical assistance across the nation. Below is the breakdown of investments in the Northern Plains Region. The awards have been based on many variables including, but not limited to: the applications submitted, the priority areas within that state according to NRCS, the ability to find 20% match, the projected impact, etc.

Kansas

- \$250,000
- 1 grant
- 6 districts

Nebraska

- \$281,200
- 6 grants
- 6 districts

Tribal

- \$177,347
- 4 grants
- 4 districts/tribes

Montana

- \$139,504
- 5 grants
- 6 districts

North Dakota

- \$75,360
- 2 grants
- 1 district/1 statewide

Report submitted by: Laura Demmel, outgoing NACD Northern Plains Region Representative, NACD Northern Plains Region Board of Directors meeting on 8/5/18.

Out of the \$9 million that was awarded for EQIP and Conservation Planning, the Northern Plains Region received \$923,411.

Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants

The 2016 grant cycle ended last summer and the report from those grants is located at www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/what-we-do/urban-and-community/urban-agriculture-conservation-grant-recipients/. We are wrapping up the 2017 grant cycle this summer. Those that received grants in 2016 could not apply for additional funding in 2017.

Kansas

- 1 grant in 2017
- Common Ground community garden program

Nebraska

- 1 grant in 2017
- Project GROW (Growing Rotational Crops on Wellfields)

NACD Soil Health Champions Network

NACD created the Soil Health Champions Network in 2015 to promote soil health education and outreach among American farmers, ranchers and forestland owners and to get more acres managed with soil health practices. Today, the Network is comprised of more than 200 landowners and operators who are implementing conservation practices on their land and championing the benefits of soil health within their communities. Soil Health Champions have working relationships with their local conservation districts and USDA service centers and are often community leaders and early adopters of conservation practices.

Number of participants

Kansas- 4

Nebraska- 3

South Dakota-17

Montana- 1

North Dakota- 5

Other Investments

Not all of NACD's investments are quantifiable. Below is a list of many other areas of investment:

- Advocacy for Natural Resources Conservation – providing information, legislative representation and tools to assist members
- National Partnership Opportunities – provide national leadership and partnerships with other national conservation-focused agencies, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations
- Educational Opportunities – multiple webinars focused on soil health, urban agriculture and urban conservation; Stewardship and Educational materials and resources available online; a “Members Only” website with supplemental materials and resources for conservation districts and state associations
- News and Multimedia resources – The Resource, the eResource, Conservation Clips, Facebook, Twitter, NACD app for smart phones or other electronic devices, etc. All require subscription are free.

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