



*Conserving South Dakota's
agricultural heritage and
working landscapes for
the benefit of future
generations.*



South Dakota Agricultural Land Trust



*Registered as a Domestic
Nonprofit Corporation in
South Dakota and a
Charitable Organization
under Internal Revenue
Code 501(c)(3)*



Founding Member Organizations

- **SD Cattlemen's Association**
- **SD Association of Conservation Districts**
- **SD Farm Bureau Federation**
- **SD Grasslands Coalition**



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*A joint effort of the
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SD Grassland Coalition,
SD Association of
Conservation Districts, and
SD Farm Bureau Federation*



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By South Dakota
farmers and ranchers...



...for South Dakota
farmers and ranchers



SD Agricultural Land Conversion 2001-2016

American Farmland Trust

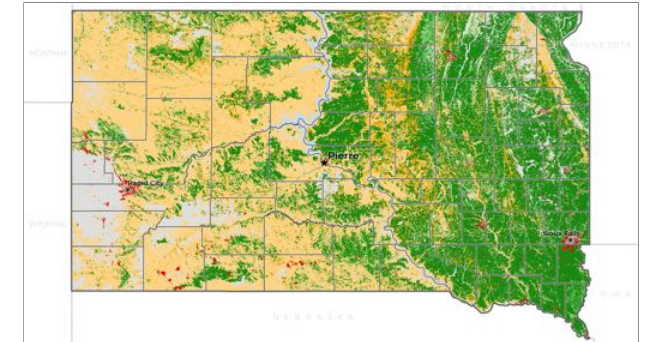


THE STATE OF THE STATES
Agricultural Land Conversion Highlight Summary

South Dakota

Farms Under Threat: The State of the States mapped agricultural land conversion and evaluated state policy responses. The spatial analysis identified the extent, diversity, and quality of each state's agricultural land—and where this land has been converted to both urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) land uses.

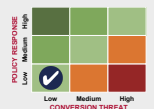
AGRICULTURAL LAND CONVERSION 2001-2016



Conversion of non-federal farmland and rangeland to UHD and LDR land uses from 2001-2016. The threat to working farms and ranches is pervasive, often claiming the most productive, versatile, and resilient lands.

- Conversion of agricultural land to UHD and LDR land uses
- Above state median PVR
- Below state median PVR
- Urban areas, Federal, forest, and other lands
- Farmland Rangeland
- Our productivity, versatility, and resiliency (PVR) index helps identify high-quality agricultural land (see page 2).
- Farmland is composed of cropland, pastureland, and woodland associated with farms.

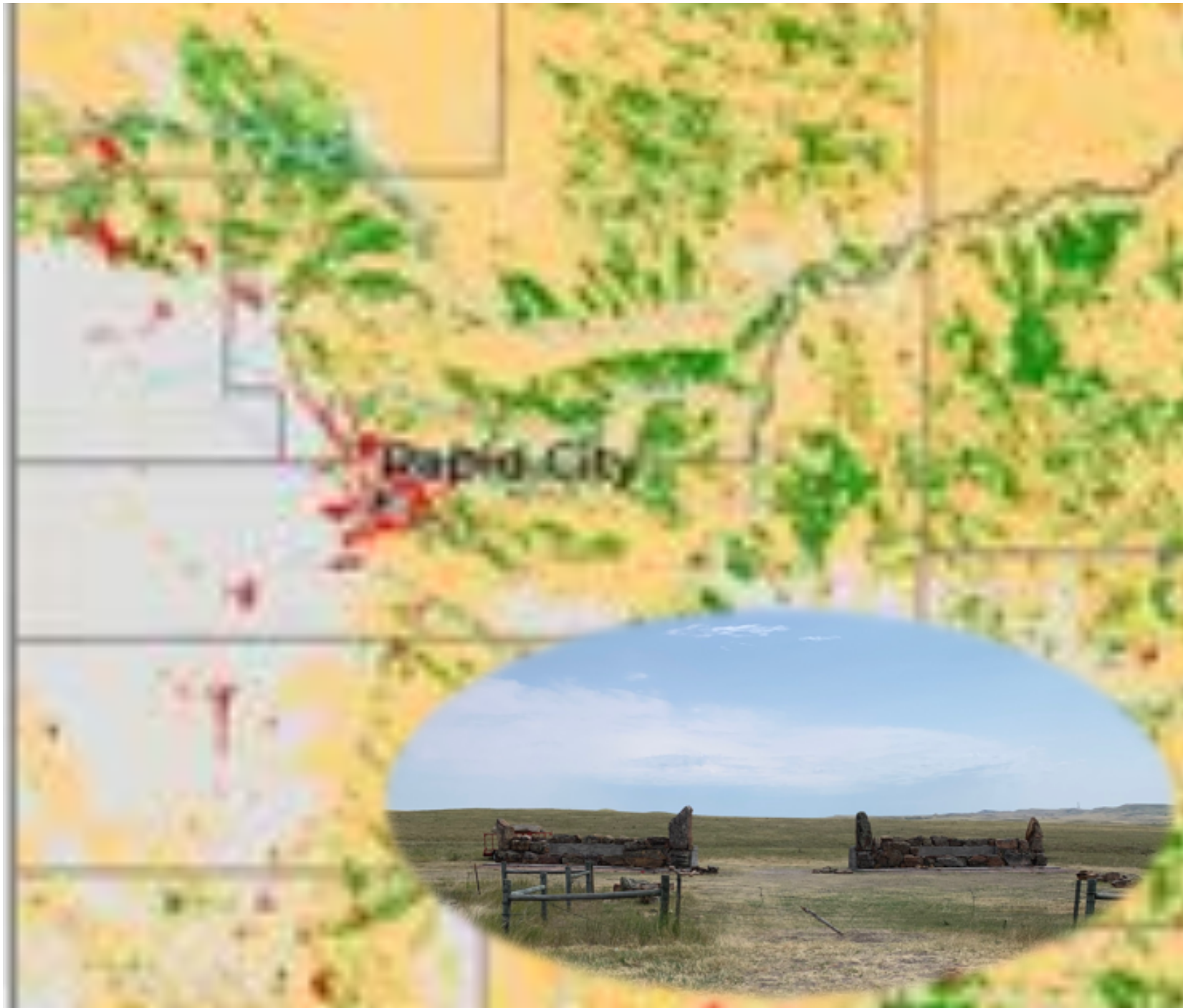
<p>RELATIVE CONVERSION THREAT</p> <p>LOW</p> <p>South Dakota scored among the lowest states for the conversion of agricultural land to urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) uses.</p>	<p>RELATIVE POLICY RESPONSE</p> <p>LOW</p> <p>South Dakota scored among the lowest states for policies and programs that protect agricultural land from development, promote farm viability, and facilitate the transfer of agricultural land.</p>	<p>HOW IS THIS STATE DOING?</p> <p>South Dakota is in a green box because its policy response is aligned with its conversion threat, relative to other states. Learn more at www.farmlandtrust.org/farmsunderthreat</p>
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American Farmland Trust



*American
Farmland
Trust*





Conservation Easements 101

(SD Codified Law 1-19B-56)

A voluntary legal agreement...

- Between a landowner and a legal entity
- Restricts development on farms and ranch land
- Protects the land's conservation values
- Preserves landowner ownership of working lands

What is a...

*Conservation
Easement?*





Why...

*Conservation
Easements?*



Benefits of Conservation Easements

- Preserve open spaces
- Protect native forests and grasslands
- Promote water quality
- Conserve wildlife habitat
- Support farm and ranch families
- Perpetuate agricultural production
- Sustain rural communities
- Viable alternative to development





*Oak Hills
Ranch*





Oak Hills Ranch





*Oak Hills
Ranch*



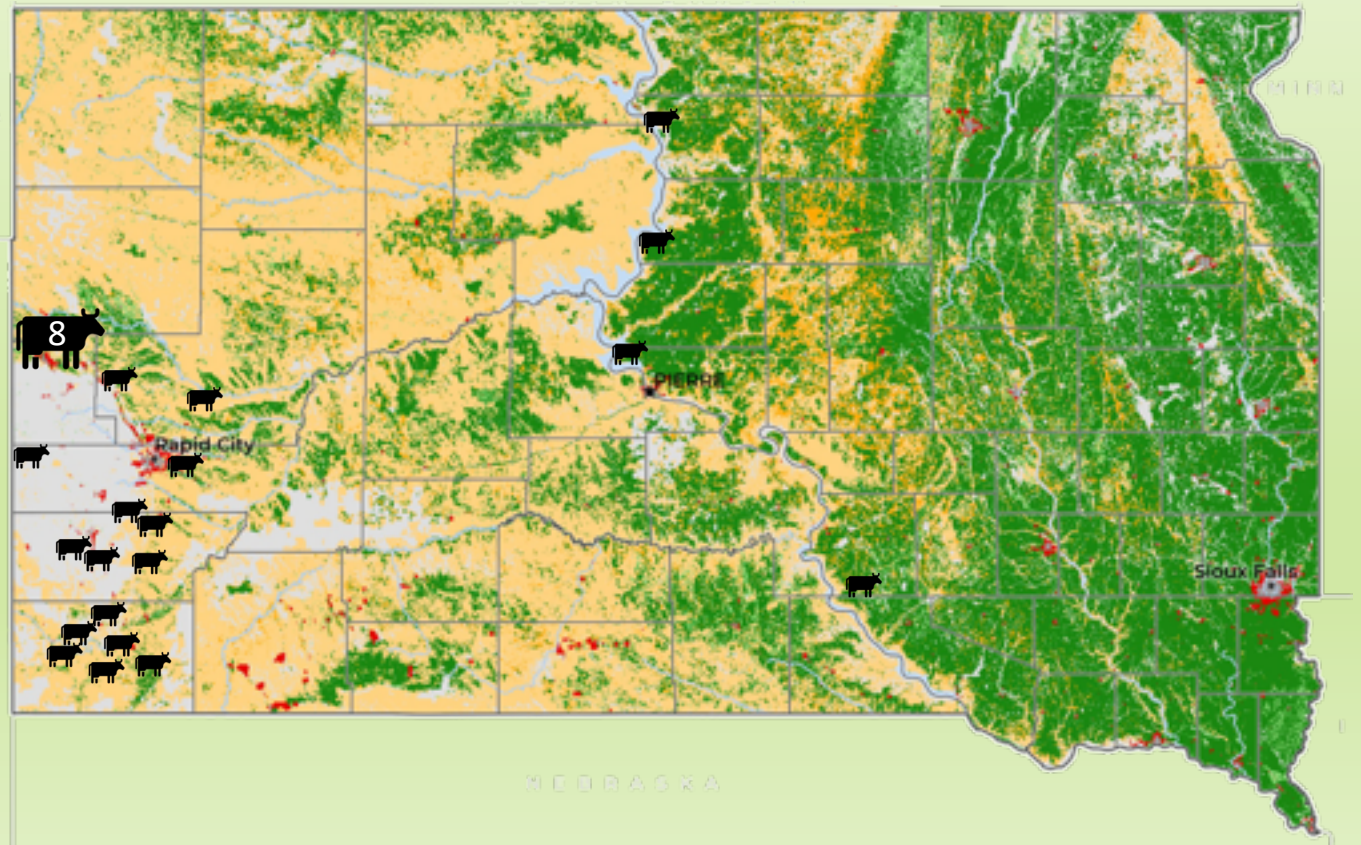


*Potential
Conservation
Easements*



Potential Easement Projects

1. Landowner inquiries – 56
2. Potential Project Properties – 27
 - ~56,000 acres; easement value: \$101 million
3. Primary Project Funding – NRCS: ACEP-ALE, RCPP





*Partnership
of SDALT
and NRCS*



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

1. \$4,245,454 for easements in the Black Hills
2. Accelerated rate of exurban growth
3. Multiple agricultural and environmental benefits
 - Protect soil and water on forest/grassland ecosystems
 - Retain these working lands in private ownership
4. Perpetuate agricultural heritage of this region



For the benefit of...



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