



# Policy Update

**July 8, 2022**

## **South Dakota Ag Wetland Exchange hosts first-ever auction of wetland mitigation credits**

South Dakota Ag Wetland Exchange conducted its first-ever auction of wetland mitigation credits, July 1, in Wentworth. A wetland mitigation credit equals one acre of restored wetlands. There were 16.1 credits up for auction Friday, with the biggest sale totaling 4.9 credits for about \$115,000, and the smallest being 0.9 for about \$15,000. The credits that were auctioned are usable in the Lower Big Sioux Geographical Service Area in the southeastern portion of South Dakota. South Dakota Farm Bureau is the sponsor of the South Dakota Ag Wetland Exchange and bank program through a USDA NRCS federal grant and partners with South Dakota landowners to create wetland credits for purchase. Click [here](#) for more information on wetland mitigation credits.

## **Legislature holds a summer study on property taxation**

On June 27, the Legislative Summer Study on Property Taxation met to look at the current property tax system and identify areas for improvement. The meeting included presentations from the Department of Revenue, Department of Education, SD Municipal League, the Fall River County Director of Equalization, and the SD Retailers Association. The study provided both legislators and other attendees the opportunity to learn more about the system and how property taxes provide for the operation of local government. As the summer continues, SDFB will continue to monitor these discussions and work to ensure that agriculture's voice is heard.

## **Disaster Declaration Issued for South Dakota Counties**

Governor Noem sent an official letter to the President earlier this month, due to the string of severe weather South Dakota experienced. In that letter, the Governor wrote that the storm resulted in two deaths, a preliminary number of 14 reported tornadoes, and wind gusts of more than 100 miles per hour. The President responded to the letter by issuing the declaration because of the tornadoes, strong straight-line winds, and the flooding on May 12. The declaration means that local governments and the state can now receive public infrastructure assistance from the federal government.

## **South Dakota Farm Bureau Attends Farm Bill Discussion**

President Scott VanderWal participated in a Farm Bill discussion with Representative Dusty Johnson and Ranking Member of the House Ag Committee, Representative Glenn "GT" Thompson of Pennsylvania. It was a great opportunity to voice Farm Bureau's priorities for the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill such as crop insurance, beginning farmer and rancher programs, a

unified Farm Bill, agriculture research and more. The 2018 Farm Bill is set to expire on Sept. 30, 2023.



Pictured above are the participants from the Farm Bill event in McCook County.

**Contact for Questions**

**Krystil Smit**

SDFB Executive Director

Email: [k.smit@sdfbf.org](mailto:k.smit@sdfbf.org)

Cell: (605) 261-2960

**Matthew Bogue**

SDFB State Public Policy Director

Email: [Matthew@sdfbf.org](mailto:Matthew@sdfbf.org)

Cell: (605) 377-8833