

**South Dakota Department of Agriculture  
FY2016 Budget Summary Responses  
(Programs under the supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture)**

***i. What are the major goals of your Agency (not mission statements, but major goals for FY16)?***

***State Fair***

- Guide to completion the construction of the Nordby Exhibit Hall and begin marketing of the facility to increase off season events on the fairgrounds.
- Complete other priority capital improvement projects.
- Continue positive growth in performance indicators associated with the State Fair

***Ag Services***

- The Division of Agricultural Services intends to increase customer service in FY16 by decreasing processing times for registration and licensing applications, and by decreasing time spent closing investigations.
- Ag Services plans to implement new Information Technology solutions to increase efficiency and decrease staff time spent on paperwork.

***Wildland Fire***

- Improve web-based Burn Permit program for a better customer service experience.
- Change existing state and federal law dealing with the Great Plains Interstate Compact to allow the inclusion of the Canadian provinces.
- Strengthen interagency and local government relationships with the Sioux Falls Fire and Rescue Department and small rural fire departments through a Cooperative Fire Agreement.
- Enhance the Fuels Program by use of mechanized equipment.
- Complete renovation on the upper shop facility at the Rapid City Campus allowing the Bear Mountain Handcrew to relocate.
- Progress to Wildfire Awareness Month by joining a multi-state (seven states) proclamation.
- While hosting another Wildland Fire Academy in Fort Pierre SD, the Division will work with Pennington County and other east river fire agencies to host smaller academy settings to meet training needs throughout the state.

***Resource Conservation & Forestry***

- Focus forestry and natural resources conservation on areas of need that maximize program effectiveness and delivery.
- Improve the management of forests, woodland, agroforests, community forests, and natural resources conservation within the state.
- Expand outreach through partnerships with federal, other state agencies, and private organizations in FY2016.

### ***Ag Development***

- With an estimated 30 counties complete by the end of FY15, the Division intends to secure funding and continue performing County Site Analysis work in at least 18 additional counties who have requested the work.
- Create a Site Certification process which local governments can adopt as a way to proactively identify and approve good development sites in their respective regions.
- Continue the Division's extensive "outreach to" and "education efforts for" local governments in their pursuit of successfully attracting new economic development opportunities.

### ***ii. What are some of the measures your Agency uses to judge your Success in meeting your Goals? Measures should tell efficiencies (e.g. percentages) and effectiveness (e.g rates)***

Relative to FTE and staffing, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture operates as one of the smallest state agriculture departments in the country. The wide variety of core functions that make up the South Dakota Department of Agriculture creates a wide ranging set of performance measures necessary to assess the Department's success.

- SDDA performance measures for the Division of Wildland Fire include but are not limited to the number of fires suppressed, measured by the number of fires vs. fires contained and suppressed.
- Resource Conservation & Forestry evaluates several service metrics annually that provide an estimate of the division's effectiveness in serving constituents. Examples of metrics that are tracked include:
  - Annual assists provided to landowners, conservation districts, communities, and to the public at-large as compared to those in the prior fiscal year.
  - The number of participants in outreach initiatives (such as the Arbor Day poster contest and the Conservation Speech contest) as compared to those in the prior fiscal year.
  - The number of Forest Stewardship Plans and acreage prepared by division staff annually as compared to those in the prior fiscal year.
  - The number of Tree City USA enrollments as compared to prior fiscal years.
- In Ag Development the division uses quantity, size, and financial investment amounts as some of its loan based performance measures. In recent years the number of counties interested in and participating in the "County Site Analysis" initiative has generated additional metrics for tracking progress.
- For the State Fair annual revenue growth, attendance, vendor/exhibitor participation, and sales tax collections are all used to measure annual performance.
- Performance measures within Ag Services include but are not limited to acres of invasive weeds treated, amount unused pesticides and

containers recycled by the disposal program, percentage of inspection performed in accordance with goals set by federal partners, days required to close investigations, time (days) required to register new products, and percentage of inspections performed on time in accordance with state law.

**iii. How did you do last year (related to performance measures)? Did your measures show improvement over the previous year? What do you intent to do differently?**

**State Fair**

- Performance indicators showed positive growth for a majority of performance areas. Exhibitor participation and entries at the State Fair in the open class static divisions decreased due to an aging population and changes in hobbies and interests with younger generations. Exhibitor participation and entries for 4-H static entries decreased due to lack of display space. Exhibitor participation and entries in the livestock department saw a small decrease due in large part to lower numbers in the pleasure horse and swine divisions. The lower numbers in the swine division can be attributed to disease concerns that impacted hog producers last year.
- The State Fair intends to incorporate new classes and competitions in the open class static exhibit divisions to make them more appealing to younger participants. The State Fair is developing a plan to better balance the horse division to increase participation.
- The 4-H static entries should rebound once the Nordby Exhibit Hall construction is complete and becomes the central hub for 4-H activity during the State Fair. Display space will be increased greatly.

**Ag Services**

- Routine pesticide inspections are reviewed within two days after being submitted by field staff and 95% of enforcement actions are initiated in that time frame. Turnaround time has improved to the point that 90% of cases are handled within SDDA policy established in accordance with the Division's Pesticide Work Plan.

**Wildland Fire**

- Completed an on-line campfire bum permit database for use by local 911 dispatch centers and fire departments.
- The inaugural Wildfire Awareness Week was proclaimed by Governor Daugaard in May. As a result state, federal, and local organizations were involved in planning efforts to produce approximately 15 educational events and activities.
- The Division received State Fire Assistance Grants of \$1.7 million to support the Fuels Reduction Program.
- The Division received a Cooperative Fire Protection Grant of \$85,000 to support the Fire Prevention Program.
- The SEAT (Single Engine Air Tanker) contract was appropriately shortened in 2015 to 60 days, resulting in cost savings of over \$25,000. SEATs flew four missions from the Hot Springs SEAT base in 2015.

### ***Resource Conservation & Forestry***

- Several example of measures that showed increases include:
  - i. An increase of 27 community forestry presentations to schools;
  - ii. An increase of 179 assists to conservation districts involving conservation programs;
  - iii. An increase of 99 participants in the annual Arbor Day poster submission.
- Several examples of measures that showed decreases include:
  - i. A decrease of 65 agroforestry tree plans were reviewed in FY2014, due to fewer tree planting projects funded by the State Conservation Commission;
  - ii. A decrease of 266 forest health technical assists (not including mountain pine beetle assists through the MPB suppression program) to private landowners, conservation districts, state parks, and cooperative personnel in FY2014. This decrease was likely due to “normal to wetter” precipitation conditions throughout the state in 2014.
  - iii. There were two fewer Tree City USA communities in FY2014. Division staff are working closely with current Tree City USA communities and attempting to recruit new communities for the program.

### ***Ag Development***

- The Division completed the Site Analysis work in 15 counties and will have another 15 completed by the end of FY15. The work has proven to be well received at the local level and resulted in very productive conversations between the state and local governments. Counties are now excited about potential projects and working to position themselves as attractive to future development opportunities.
- The County Site Analysis Program has continued to evolve as this new concept has been implemented. The overwhelming success of the program has resulted in unexpected challenges as the small number of Division staff are challenged to keep up with education, outreach, local meeting requests, and landowner follow-through. The Division uses these experiences to improve both the program and approach to successfully working with local governments after an analysis is complete.

#### ***iv. Does the FY16 Budget Recommendation address areas where outcomes were negative?***

- Yes, for the State Fair. Within the performance measures of the State Fair, participation levels in 4-H exhibits are used track the success levels of youth involvement. In 2014, due to space constraints specific steps were taken to limit the number of static entry submissions allowed for each 4-H member. Many exhibits were historically displayed in the 4-H Clover Hall that was demolished in late 2013. SDDA has submitted SB46 to the 2015 Legislature that provides for the necessary other fund budget authority and approval to begin construction of a new exhibit hall to be completed in 2016.

v. ***Federal Fund Disbursements: Attachment C:***

- Submitted by the Department as a separate document on January 9, 2015.