

## Join the Network! Want to learn more or connect with a mentor?

Established in 2016, the South Dakota Soil Health Mentor Network is available to agricultural producers across the state. The free service is available to anyone. Contact your local conservation district, NRCS staff, or the SDSHC Coordinator: Josh Lefers, Corsica, SD, at [joshlefers@hotmail.com](mailto:joshlefers@hotmail.com) or (605) 770-2989.

## Want to share your knowledge about soil health, sustainability and agriculture?

Join our mentor network! Mentors can volunteer a little or much of their time and talents. It's fun to connect with like-minded people. Contact any of the partnering organizations to let them know your interest area for improving the health of our soil resource. Get involved for the benefit of soil!

The mentor program is supported by many entities including the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (SDSHC), South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) and local conservation districts, Voices for Soil Health Volunteer Network, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), SDSU Extension, and the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

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## Building Connections

*“Once you learn to read you cannot unlearn it.  
Once you learn to read Soil Health,  
your eyes open to what we really need to focus on.”  
—Ray Covino, NRCS, CT*

# The Soil Needs You!

## Why this Mentor Program was Started:

A need was identified for an organized network to help producers interested in soil health management practices and who may have questions about transitioning.

This mentor network was established through the collective efforts of the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (SDSHC), South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD), Voices for Soil Health, and the South Dakota Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

## What is a Role of a Mentor?

Mentor-mentee roles are a relationship where people share knowledge, advice and resources and provide a stable supportive relationship. Mentors will help guide producers through their specific soil health topics.



## Areas of Mentoring:

- Crop Rotations
- Crop Diversity
- Cover Crops
- Grazing of Cover Crops
- No-Till Cropping Systems
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Equipment selection and modification
- Livestock management
- Nutritional benefits
- Economics
- Soil Biology
- Prescribed Grazing
- Grassland Soil Health
- And More!



## Goals for the Program:

The goals for the Mentor Network is to connect experienced producers to those who are new to soil health practices. By providing credible sources for questions and advice, we hope to encourage more people to use soil health practices with their operations, and with the added benefit of cultivating long lasting relationships between producers.

