Overview

On February 20, 2020, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced a Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) Pilot. The SHIPP pilot allows for a maximum of 50,000 acres to be enrolled in the prairie pothole states of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Payments

Annual rental payments will be made at 50 percent of the weighted average soil rental rate for the SHIPP offer, using the county average rental rate for the applicable county; the rate for beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers will be 75 percent. Cost-share is only available to beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers for practice establishment.

Land may be hayed or grazed outside the primary nesting season with no reduction, provided adequate stubble height of the cover is maintained to protect the soil as specified in the conservation plan. In exchange for a 25 percent reduction to the annual rental payment, and not being eligible to be insured or reinsured under the Federal Crop Insurance Act, the land may also be harvested for seed outside the primary nesting season as specified in the conservation plan.

How to Apply

Producers may apply for this limited time SHIPP pilot at their local FSA office from March 30 – August 21, 2020.

More Information

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or contact your local FSA office. For local USDA Service Center information, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.