

Who Is The Trust?

The ND Natural Resources Trust was established by Congress during the 1986 reformulation of the Garrison Diversion project.

Our mission is to “preserve, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and associated wildlife habitat, grasslands, and riparian areas in the state of North Dakota.”

As innovators in wetland conservation, we look for ways to merge sound natural resource conservation with family based agriculture in a way that is effective, fair, and comfortable for all parties.



Our Philosophy

Sound management of private land used for production agriculture is critical to the future of North Dakota agriculture. The young farmers and ranchers of today are the cornerstone of our agricultural heritage but they're having trouble getting started.

The ND Natural Resources Trust offers various incentives for wetland and related grasslands conservation practices on private land in exchange for financial assistance that will help qualifying young farmers and ranchers acquire farm and ranch property.

Beginning Farmer Assistance Program

The Trust's program works in concert with either Bank of North Dakota's Beginning Farmer Real Estate Loan program or the ND First Time Farmer Finance program. In order to qualify for assistance from the Trust you must first meet the eligibility requirements for one of these programs.

What can Trust assistance be used for?

- Real estate purchases.
- Agricultural improvements that have conservation benefits.

What type of financial assistance does the Trust offer for real estate purchases?

- Down payment assistance.
- Interest rate buy-down.
- Payment of loan fees and/or real estate transaction fees.
- Assistance with other fees on a case-by-case basis.

What types of conservation practices is the Trust promoting?

- 10-15 year private land conservation practices.
- Assistance in applying for USDA/Farm Bill conservation practices.
- Easements.
- Other conservation practices on a case-by-case basis.

How much financial assistance is the Trust willing to make available to an individual applicant?

- The Trust will provide lease or easement payments for conservation practices. In addition, we will assist, through Trust dollars and additional partnerships, with development of conservation practices. In general, the Trust's total financial commitment will not exceed \$25,000 per individual.

How do I further explore this option?

The Trust's program is a partnership between you, the Trust, your lender and, in some cases, the land seller.

1. Work with your lender to ensure you qualify for one of Bank of North Dakota's Beginning Farmer Real Estate or ND First Time Farmer Finance programs.
2. You or your lender call the Trust to discuss your interest. Be prepared to furnish all the details—land description, acreage, appraisal information, general management plan, etc., so we can determine if your proposal fits our program.
3. If your proposal meets our criteria, we will arrange a time to meet and explore some options. Each situation will be dealt with individually and the details will be customized to your particular situation. If all participants come to agreement on a course of action, necessary project agreements will be prepared and the transaction can take place with Trust financial assistance.

