

Due to the rising cases of Covid-19 across South Dakota, the Association of SD County Weed and Pest Boards has decided to cancel the District Weed Meetings that were scheduled for October 27th in Rapid City, October 28th in Pierre, November 4th in Redfield and November 5th in Mitchell. With this decision, the grant requirement for two in attendance at the District Meetings to qualify for the grants will not be in force, however all the other requirements to receive a grant are still in effect. This includes getting your Inspection Summary to the Department of Agriculture by November 1st, as well as getting in your Annual and Fiscal Reports by February 1st. Please see the information below on the regular/contractual grant requirements for FY2022.

Because there is important information that counties need to be aware of and may have questions on, we are planning a Zoom District Meeting for Wednesday, November 4th from 9 am to 12 noon. Though this meeting isn't required, it is *highly recommended* that you attend to gain insight and knowledge on important items that will affect your county weed programs. SDSU as well as SD Department of Agriculture Staff will be presenting the programs. Information to be presented include:

- Changes and Information on State and Locally Noxious Weeds
- Grant Information – Both Competitive and Contractual Grants
- Information on Inspection, Annual and Fiscal Reports
- Noxious Weed Review

Here is the Zoom Meeting information:

Weed and Pest Districts Meeting

Nov 4, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Webinar: <https://sdstate.zoom.us/j/93293669225>

Webinar ID: 932 9366 9225

Or join by telephone: US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592

For those who may have questions after the District Zoom Meeting or want additional assistance, we have scheduled another Zoom Meeting for Monday, November 9th at 2 pm. This meeting will last for one hour with the intention to answer any questions that you may have – grants, herbicide, reports, etc. We don't plan to follow a specific agenda for this Zoom meeting but want to be available to help you in any way we can.

Here is the Zoom Meeting Information:

Weed and Pest Grant Q&A

Nov 9, 2020 02:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://sdstate.zoom.us/j/96481147734?pwd=S3lacGZNV2pWVWcyeEdNTm1WdzVXZz09>

Meeting ID: 964 8114 7734

Passcode: GRANTS

Find your local number: <https://sdstate.zoom.us/u/acPz0nN1J>

Below are the requirements copied directly from the criteria to qualify for a Regular/Contractual Grant from the SD Weed and Pest Control Commission. Please remember that grant applications must be postmarked *no later than* Friday, November 13th.

Weed & Pest Fund Regular/Contractual Grant Requirements for FY2022 are:

- a. Counties must have prior year's annual reports, tours and summaries filed with the Department of Agriculture by February 1, 2021.
- b. County Weed & Pest Supervisor and/or a county representative must attend at least one training session per year if provided by the department. (1 county personnel must attend)
- c. County Weed & Pest Supervisor and a county representative or board member must attend the annual weed and pest conference. If the representative isn't a board member, they must be a resident of the county. (2 county personnel must attend) (See note below**)
- d. ~~County Weed & Pest Supervisor and county representative or board member must attend a district weed meeting. (2 county personnel must attend)~~
- e. 50/50 cost share is required
- f. A husband and wife will not be considered two representatives from a county.

**** NOTE ****

- If only one person (supervisor or designee) attends the conference they are qualified to receive grant funds.
- If a grant is awarded, the breakdown of funds will be:
 - Full amount of the grant will be awarded if the county meets all the requirements, including 2 attendees at the Conference
 - One half of the full amount of the grant will be awarded if the county meets all the requirements, but has only 1 attendee at the Conference

If in the event that a county or counties don't qualify for funding, the remaining funds will be divided equally to the nearest \$100, amongst those remaining counties that have met the requirements, without exceeding spending authority.

If you have any questions on the District Meetings, the planned Zoom Meeting, Grants, or other items, please feel free to contact me. We will do our best to answer your questions and guide you through this process. Please feel free to forward this to anyone else who may not have been included and will need the information. We want to make sure everyone knows about the cancellation of the District Weed Meetings.

Please stay safe and healthy!!



Brenda Sievers
Plant Industry Program Manager
South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Division of Agricultural Services
523 E. Capitol Ave., Foss Bldg.
Pierre, SD 57501-3182
Cell: 605.280.4463