

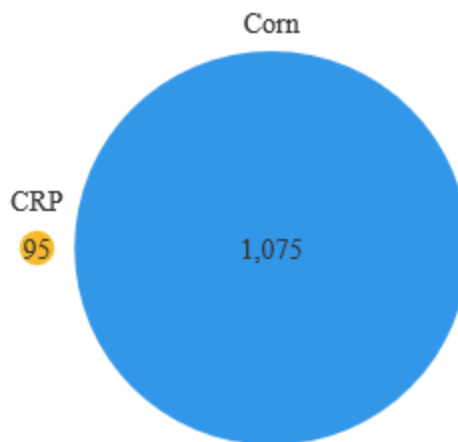


## CRP in Brown County, South Dakota

Corn and soybean farming is the major economic driver in Brown County, South Dakota. Corn farming alone contributed more than [\\$374 million](#) to the local economy in 2015. The majority of that economic activity – about \$207 million -- came from the inputs and services that contribute to corn production, including seed, fertilizer, labor, fuel, repairs and land rent.

The thousands of acres enrolled in the USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contributed around [\\$6 million](#) to the county’s economy that year. The government paid \$95 for an acre in CRP in 2015, but an acre planted to corn had the potential to generate \$1,075 of economic activity (including expenses and revenue).

Comparison of Brown County SD Direct Economic Activity for CRP vs. Corn (\$/Acre)



Even though CRP acres contribute far less to the local economy, in 2016, more than 67,500 acres were idled in the program. CRP’s intended purpose is to pay farmers to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production. When whole farms are enrolled in CRP as in Brown County, the local economy suffers and productive farmland – which could be enhanced with targeted conservation practices – is wasted.

The NGFA advocates for conservation practices that improve the resources needed for an agricultural economy to thrive – principally, soil and water. However, USDA data shows that a majority of the CRP acres in Brown County aren’t maintained with practices that directly improve soil and water quality.

In fact, just [6,323 acres](#) of the county’s more than 67,500 CRP acres are being preserved with practices specific to water and soil quality improvement. The vast majority are idled primarily for wildlife habitat.

While restoring wildlife habitat is an important aspect of conservation, there are already several USDA programs assisting the practice, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Moreover, Brown County already dedicates more than 199,000 acres to native grassland.

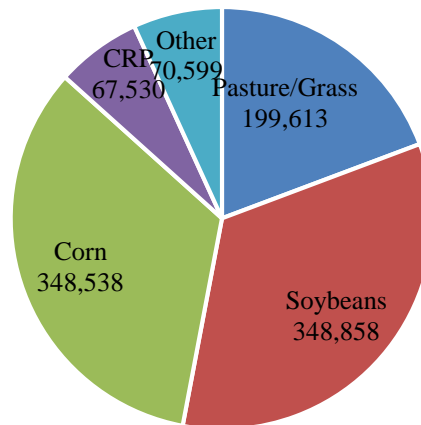


If CRP operated as a program that truly targeted the most environmentally sensitive land, Brown County would be allowed to more fully reap the economic benefits of its productive farmland while also conserving natural resources.

View more information about the NGFA and CRP at <http://www.ngfa.org/farm-bill/>

**\*Information last updated January 25, 2017**

Brown County SD Land Use in 2016 (In Acres)



**Table 1: Brown County South Dakota: Population, CRP Acres, CRP Rents, and Cash Rents**

Year	Population 1/	CRP Acres 2/	Avg. Gov't Paid CRP Rental Rate 2/	Avg. Farmer-Paid Cash Rental Rate 3/
1980	36,962	0	NA	NA
1990	35,580	65,398	\$44.35	NA
2000	35,460	80,728	\$44.33	NA
2010	36,531	70,816	\$54.42	\$74.00
2015	38,785	65,652	\$95.00	NA
2016	NA	67,530	NA	\$138.00

1/ Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

2/ Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.

3/ Source: USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This is the average rate paid by farmers to rent non-irrigated cropland.



**Table 2: Brown County South Dakota CRP Practices in 2016**

<b>Primary Focus on Soil Erosion &amp; Water Quality</b>	<b>Acres</b>
CP5 Field Windbreak Establishment	2
CP5A Field Windbreak Nonease	468
CP8A Grass Waterway Nonease	9
CP16 Shelterbelt Establishment	3
CP16A Shelterbelt Establishment Nonease	223
CP17A Living Snow Fence Nonease	7
CP18 Est Permanent Veg Reduce Salinity	5
CP18A Est Permanent Salt Tolerant Veg Cover	44
CP18C EST Permanent Salt Tolerant Veg Cover Non	829
CP21 Filter Strips	123
CP22 Riparian Buffer	468
CP28 FWP Buffer	3,638
CP30 MPL Wetland Buffer	502
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6,323</b>
<b>Primary Focus on Wildlife and Water Quality</b>	<b>Acres</b>
CP23 Wetland Restoration	14,353
CP23A Wetland Restoration Nonflood Plain	21,545
CP27 FWP Wetland	2,163
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>38,061</b>
<b>Primary Focus on Wildlife or Other</b>	<b>Acres</b>
CP1 Introduced Grass and Legume Establishment	843
CP2 Native Grass, Forb and Legume Establishment	64
CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat Nonease	1,437
CP10 Veg Cover, Grass Already Est	533
CP12 Wildlife Food Plot	98
CP20 Alternate Perennial	1
CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat	266
CP29 MPL Wildlife Habitat Buffer	178
CP37 Duck Nesting Habitat	18,682
CP38B State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Wetlands	2
CP38E State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Grass	1,042
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23,146</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,530</b>

Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.



**Table 3: Brown County South Dakota Top CRP Payment Recipients in 2014**

Rank	Residence of CRP Payment Recipient	CRP Payment
1	Non-local	\$144,152
2	Local	\$66,652
3	Local	\$58,570
4	Local	\$49,884
5	Local	\$49,021
6	Local	\$47,411
7	Non-local	\$46,238
8	Local	\$46,177
9	Local	\$44,906
10	Local	\$43,603

**Table 4: Brown County South Dakota Direct Economic Activity for Corn in 2015**

Item	Per Acre of Corn 1/	Corn Acres in Brown County 2/	Direct Economic Activity for Corn
Corn grain	\$479.96		
Corn silage	\$1.28		
Total Value of Production	\$481.24	348,538	\$167,730,355
Seed	\$99.60		
Fertilizer	\$116.13		
Chemicals	\$19.50		
Custom operations	\$18.72		
Fuel, lube, and electricity	\$21.58		
Repairs	\$29.30		
Purchased irrigation water	\$0.87		
Interest on operating inputs	\$0.26		
Hired labor	\$3.60		
Opportunity cost of unpaid labor	\$30.23		
Capital recovery of machinery and equipment	\$116.53		
Opportunity cost of land (rental rate)	\$106.53		
Taxes and insurance	\$11.51		
General farm overhead	\$19.72		
Total Cost	\$594.08	348,538	\$207,059,366
<b>Total Value of Production and Cost</b>	<b>\$1,075.32</b>	<b>348,538</b>	<b>\$374,789,721</b>

1/ Source: USDA's Economic Research Service.

2/ Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.



**Table 5: Brown County South Dakota Direct Economic Activity for CRP in 2015**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Per Acre 1/</b>	<b>CRP Acres 1/</b>	<b>Direct Economic Activity</b>
CRP Payments	\$95.00	65,652	\$6,236,940

Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.