

*Executive Proclamation*  
*State of South Dakota*  
*Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, People across South Dakota wish to live in harmony with the natural resources and leave better earth for our children and grandchildren; and,

*Whereas*, The Natural Resources Conservation Service and its predecessor, the Soil Conservation Service helped agricultural landowners in South Dakota meet their conservation goals for many decades; our agricultural industry is based on healthy soil and contributes \$17.8 billion to the state's economy; and,

*Whereas*, Natural Resources Conservation Service conservationists across our beautiful state work hand-in-hand with all citizens of South Dakota to conserve natural resources and to create a healthy land; and,

*Whereas*, South Dakota farmers are national leaders in managing residue for healthier soil through no-till farming systems and other methods saving over 45 million tons of valuable topsoil in the last two decades alone; and,

*Whereas*, South Dakota ranchers are using technology and new management techniques to improve the health of our grassland resource; and,

*Whereas*, South Dakota farmers and ranchers are protecting and restoring wetlands to improve water quality and wildlife habitat; and,

*Whereas*, Since 1992, over 3,800 private citizens across South Dakota have donated over 100,000 hours in support of natural resources conservation through the Earth Team; and,

*Whereas*, Leadership for conservation of natural resources on private lands is provided by a partnership that includes conservation districts, state conservation agencies, resource conservation and development councils, tribes, other federal agencies, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and,

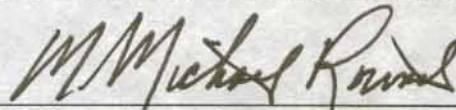
*Whereas*, Now is the time to recognize the contributions the Natural Resources Conservation Service and its partners to increase awareness among the state's citizens of the importance of natural resources:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 27, 2005, as*

*NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DAY*

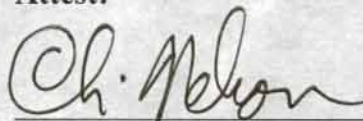
in South Dakota.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twentieth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.



M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:



Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

