The mission of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture is to **promote, protect** and **preserve** South Dakota agriculture for today and tomorrow.

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The SDDA **protects** forests, farm land and homes from fire by providing assistance to volunteer fire departments (VFDs) across the state to allow them to better fight fires in their communities. In 2017, using funds from the U.S. Forest Service, the SDDA provided assistance to 69 VFDs. The chart below displays the number of VFDs that received assistance from the SDDA:

![VFDs Receiving Grant Assistance](image)

**Goal:** The SDDA’s goal is to continue to grow our outreach efforts VFDs.

The SDDA **promotes** agriculture in the state by maintaining the State Fair Park year round in Huron, SD. In 2017, the State Fair Park hosted events on 254 days, a 92% increase over last year. The graph below tracks the number of days the State Fair Park hosted events on the grounds:

![Number of Event Days at the State Fair Park](image)

**Goal:** The SDDA’s goal is to continue to attract year-round events at the State Fair Park and increase event days on an annual basis by 3%.
The SDDA **preserves, protects** and conserves state forestland in Custer State Park so it can continue to be enjoyed by locals and tourists alike. The SDDA has worked collaboratively to mark infected trees in order to track the progression of mountain pine beetle in the park to prevent its spread. In 2017, SDDA marked 414 infested trees. The chart below displays the number of marked trees in Custer State Park:

Goal: The SDDA’s goal is to continue to responsibly manage the forests in Custer State Park so that the number of trees marked declines every year.

The SDDA **promotes** agriculture in the state by supporting and promoting value-added opportunities in South Dakota for our crop farmers. One measure of that is looking at the amount of a crop utilized in state compared to the amount shipped out. Some major commodities are shown below.

Goal: The SDDA’s goal is to increase the amount of crops utilized in state by 2% in the next five years by supporting and promoting the development of value-added opportunities for South Dakota’s crop producers.

The SDDA **promotes** agriculture in the state by supporting responsible growth of South Dakota’s livestock industry and encouraging diversification of operations to help producers mitigate risk. Below shows the economic impact of major livestock classes in South Dakota:

Goal: The SDDA’s goal is to increase the economic impact of livestock in the state by supporting the responsible growth of population sizes and processing opportunities by 2% over five years.
Footnotes:
* Information from The ProExporter Network courtesy of South Dakota Corn.
^ Information courtesy of South Dakota Soybean Association; previous data is not available.
*Numbers based on research by SDSU faculty using USDA NASS data.
**No more recent data is available for the sheep industry.
^Currently no South Dakota economic impact numbers from SDSU exist for the poultry industry. This value was calculated internally based on a national per head economic impact number from 2012 multiplied by the total poultry inventory. Previous data is not available.
^^No more recent data is available for sheep.