

# DEVELOPING A NATURAL RESOURCE WEB SITE AS A TRAINING TOOL FOR STUDENTS AND AGRONOMISTS

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## Introduction

South Dakota agronomists, agricultural workers, and students often require visual aids to demonstrate a field procedure or understand the interaction among natural resources that contribute to agricultural production. Suitable commercial products are available to serve this purpose, but they may be neither readily accessible to the public, nor particular to the state. An Internet site accessible to the public is required to display aspects of agricultural production, depict field operations, and serve as an image bank for the natural resources of the state (geology, crop agriculture, soil, and water resources).

## Methods and Materials

Images of South Dakota's natural resources and agricultural operations were either captured with a digital camera or accessed from state or federal government agencies and placed on an Internet site accessible to the public (<http://plantsci.sdstate.edu/woodardh/>). Text explanations of resources and agricultural operations and equipment were included. Web-page editing was accomplished with *Dreamweaver* and *Fireworks* software (Macromedia Inc., San Francisco, CA). Topical indexing was included to offer faster accessibility for modem users. Image links were imbedded in the text description or included as 'thumbnails' near the text description of a resource or operation. The links and thumbnails access full-screen images that include appropriate descriptions and location. In addition, separate tour maps of a specific natural resource were constructed to place the image in a geographical context on a state map accessible by a legend link.

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