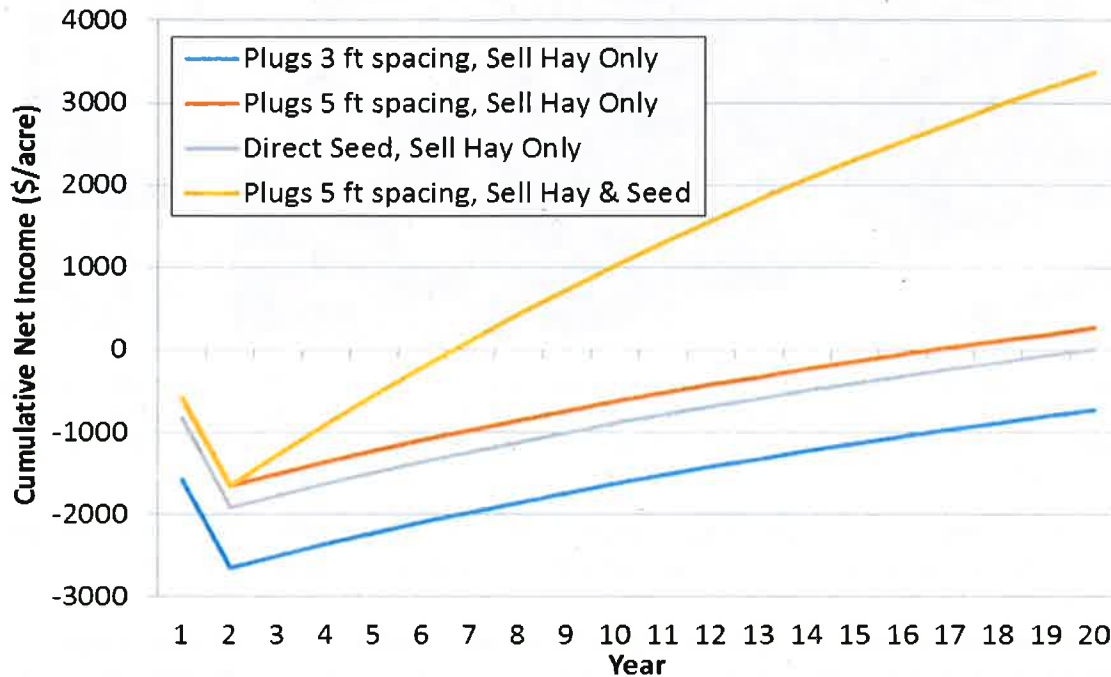


## Growing *Spartina pectinata* in previously farmed prairie wetlands for economic and ecological benefits

David Archer, ARS

While wetlands provide many wildlife and environmental benefits, wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region of the U.S. continue to be drained and converted to cropland. Profitable methods for restoring and producing income from wetlands could help recover lost ecosystem services.



Prairie cordgrass is a native plant that is often dominant in wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region and has commercial value as seed and hay.

An experiment was conducted to compare establishment of two types of prairie cordgrass using different planting methods and at different positions within a wetland landscape in east-central South Dakota.

Results showed that transplanting plants worked best in the wetland center, but either transplanting or direct drilling were effective above the wetland center. Results also showed that prairie cordgrass could provide positive net revenue for a farmer from hay and seed production.

The results of this research are important to farmers and those interested in wetland restoration as it showed methods for successfully restoring wetlands and producing income from the wetlands that were restored.

Zilverberg, C.J., Johnson, W.C., Boe, A., Owens, V., Archer, D.W., Novotny, C., Volke, M., Werner, B. 2014. Growing *Spartina pectinata* in previously farmed prairie wetlands for economic and ecological benefits. *Wetlands*. DOI: 10.1007/s13157-014-0548-8.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13157-014-0548-8/fulltext.html>