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POSTER 2

Reverse Auctions for Restored Wetlands: Low Participation on the Prairies

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Research on participation in conservation auctions is reviewed and interpreted through a cross-disciplinary lens. Data gathered from three reverse auctions in rural communities show low levels of participation. Failure to incent landowners by way of reverse auctions is concerning, as lack of participation prevents appropriate pricing for wetland restoration contracts. Participation in conservation auctions depends on a variety of landowner characteristics including personal, economic, social, and environmental values. Interpretation of transcripts along with a well-developed contextual foundation shows that landowners are incentivized to participate in conservation auctions on the basis of a perceived contribution to environmental conservation. Disincentives for participation include economic and control factors; these factors will be described in detail and used to hypothesize questions for future research. Results show that wetlands prove to be a difficult good for auctioning. This paper serves as valuable feedback for the agents of wetland restoration and helps clarify the issues of social desirability of wetland on the landscape.