

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=38278>

First Participants in Conservation Stewardship Program

The first participants of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) have from July 11 until September 12 to renew their contracts and make decisions on additional conservation activities that will benefit priority natural resource issues. CSP is offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is the Farm Bill program that helps farmers and ranchers take conservation investments to the next level. About 20,000 CSP contracts Nationwide are reaching the end of their initial five-year contract period and may be renewed for an additional five years where participants agree to take additional conservation measures. The program provides opportunities for farmers and ranchers who are already established conservation stewards, helping them improve water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat. CSP participants boost their operations' conservation benefits by installing new conservation activities that make positive changes in soil, water, air, and wildlife habitat.

To learn about technical and financial assistance available through CSP, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/FarmBill>, or your local USD. service center. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.