



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Conservation Security Program Washington 2005

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Consumers can see and taste the quality of the fruit grown in Mr. Limón's orchard.



Mr. Limón says the micro irrigation system has resulted in a more even distribution of water to his trees – resulting in a more consistent crop and even tree growth throughout the orchard.



Jesus Limón's innovation in conservation stewardship management helped him qualify as a Tier II participant in the Conservation Security Program (CSP).

Growing with conservation: Orchard grower reaps CSP rewards

The super market customers who buy Jesus Limón's apples and cherries will probably never walk through his orchards to see his micro irrigation system – a system controlled by state of the art electronics and embedded soil moisture monitors. They will probably never know that he performs annual soil tests and leaf tissue analysis to help him add just the right amount of nutrients for his apple and cherry trees – saving water and improving water quality in the process.

But those consumers will see and taste the difference in the quality of fruit that end up on their tables. For Mr. Limón and his fellow orchard growers in central Washington, it's that quality that can make the difference between success and failure in the increasingly competitive, global consumer market.

"You have to be an above average producer to make it in today's market," the 47-year-old producer from Orondo, Washington says. Many varieties of fruit are color sensitive, he says, and that means managing the resources to control the growing conditions that will yield the color, texture and tastes that consumers prefer.

As a result of his land stewardship efforts, Mr. Limón is now among more than 250 agricultural producers in Washington who have qualified for the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Conservation Security Program (CSP). The program, which provides producers with annual contract payments, is designed to reward producers for historic stewardship activities on working lands and to provide enhancement payments for

producers who agree to implement additional conservation measures.

As a result of his conservation management and practices on some 40 acres of orchard, Mr. Limón will receive an annual financial reward from the NRCS. Because he has addressed three resource concerns on his 40-acre operation, Mr. Limón has qualified as a Tier II participant, and will receive approximately \$2,000 annually for his conservation activities and enhancements.

CSP represents the latest chapter in conservation programs for Mr. Limón, who began farming in 1988. In 2004, a cost-share agreement through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program helped him convert 31 acres of his orchard from an impact sprinkler to a micro irrigation system.

Mr. Limón says the system has resulted in a more even distribution of water to his trees – resulting in a more consistent crop and even tree growth throughout the orchard.

A husband, and father of four, Mr. Limón has managed to make time to be an active participant in a Hispanic grower's education effort, sponsored by the Center for Agricultural Partnerships. His farm has been the site of several nutrient management and irrigation water management workshops, which are tailored to address the needs of the producers within the Hispanic community.

With more than 250 producers in 12 Washington watersheds qualifying for the program this year, CSP is a good fit for an increasing number of agricultural producers.

Washington CSP Quick Facts for 2005:

Watersheds: 12

- Banks Lake
- Colville
- Dungeness-Elwha
- Lower Grande Ronde
- Lower Skagit
- Middle Columbia-Hood
- Moses Coulee
- Nisqually
- Rock
- Upper Columbia-Entiat
- Upper Crab
- Willpa Bay

Watershed Acreage:

11,786,235

Estimated Number of Farms & Ranches: 2063

Cropland: 2,017,458 acres

Pasture Land: 170,997 acres

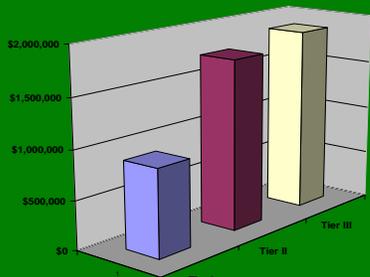
Forestland: 2,3701,583 acres

Range Land: 1,846,418,619 acres

CSP Participation:

Office Contacts: 542
 Attended workshops: 753
 Applied: 273

Tier Distribution:



Tier I: 889,979
 Tier 2: 1,743,196
 Tier 3: 1,875,418

Typical Enhancements:

- Soil quality
- Water management
- Wildlife habitat

Washington 2005 CSP Highlights Statistics in Washington 2005



Washington 2005 CSP Watersheds

Watershed	Total CSP Applications Approved	Tier 1	Tier II	Tier III
Banks Lake	37	\$202,832	\$92,387	\$291,324
Colville	9	\$11,903	\$52,620	\$0
Dungeness-Elwha	3	\$12,424	\$27,636	\$0
Lower Grande Ronde	2	\$1,654	\$0	\$6,197
Lower Skagit	13	\$34,347	\$206,944	\$0
Middle Columbia-Hood	8	\$659	\$0	\$129,490
Moses Coulee	3	\$9,919	\$0	\$0
Nisqually	4	\$16,074	\$960	\$0
Rock	45	\$173,636	\$220,514	\$113,433
Upper Columbia-Entiat	41	\$49,604	\$299,623	\$281,471
Upper Crab	101	\$367,888	\$816,183	\$1,037,352
Willpa Bay	7	\$9,039	\$26,329	\$16,151
TOTAL Contracts	273	111	93	69
TOTAL '05 Payments	\$4,508,593	\$888,979	\$1,743,196	\$1,875,418

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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