

Dear David McKay,

I am writing to suggest a few changes to the proposed rules for the CSP program. As a young person (now in college) who grew up on a farm in Iowa the CSP program is very important to me. If there is any chance that the people from my generation will be able to return to the farm and continue to be good stewards of the land the CSP program is crucial. I'll outline my concerns below.

* Please do not limit sign-up for CSP to select watersheds. Limiting access to the program violates the spirit of the law.

* Please make provisions to recognize producers who practice rotational grazing. This practice is essential to good stewardship on pasture land.

* Please make sure that payment rules direct money to *farmers* only. It would be a shame to see CSP become another payment program that benefits large land owners and not real farmers. Also I believe the current payment limitations should be preserved.

* I also believe that CSP contracts should be renewable.

(over)

Thank you for taking the time
to consider my comments.

Brian Depew

604 1/2 S. Grant
Fort Collins, CO 80521

8. All decisions by the agency should be able to be appealed.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

9. CSP participants should have a choice between using the administrative review process and use of the court system to satisfy disputes.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

10. The emphasis of the CSP practices should be to enhance the agricultural productivity of soil and water resources rather than for wildlife production.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

11. Producers should not be required to sign any permanent easements on their property in order to enroll in any portion of the CSP program.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

12. CSP contracts should recognize that some practices may not be able to be implemented or maintained due to natural disasters such as fire, flood, tornado, etc.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

13. Other Comments:

This is a Ag. STATE Not a wildlife reserve.

SIGNED: Lee Cunningham (Your signature, please)

NAME: Lee Cunningham

ADDRESS: 2325 85th N.W.

CITY: LANSDFORD STATE: ND ZIPCODE: 581750

Please note that UNSIGNED comments are not rated as highly as signed comments.

COMMENT FORM

This form may be helpful to you in making comments on the proposed rules for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Just circle the response below each statement that best mirrors your thought. Use the space below each statement to add any personal comments, or attach additional sheets of paper. This form is not intended to comment on all aspects of the program, but to provide a guideline for you in making comments.

The completed form should be mailed to: Conservation Security Program Comments, ATTN: David McKay, Operations Division, NRCS, PO Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013 BY MARCH 2, 2004.

You may access the full text of the proposed rules through the NRCS home page at "www.nrcs.usda.gov," then selecting "Farm Bill." Or contact your local soil conservation district.

Please feel free to make copies of this form for your friends and neighbors and ask them to comment as well.

1. All CSP contracts should be limited to five years in length, with annual payments.

Agree Disagree No Comment

2. Any technical assistance or monitoring should only be carried out by personnel approved by the landowner.

Agree Disagree No Comment

3. If some of the property under CSP contract changes ownership, the buyer should have the option of continuing the contract, regardless of the status of the rest of the buyer's operation.

Agree Disagree No Comment

4. If some of the property under CSP contract changes ownership, the seller should be liable for any charges, penalties, etc. IF THE BUYER CHOOSES NOT to continue the contract, but such financial penalties shall not exceed the total CSP dollars received under the contract.

Agree Disagree No Comment

5. If an operator with a signed CSP contract purchases or rents additional land that does not meet CSP guidelines, the operator should not be penalized.

Agree Disagree No Comment

6. If the property changes hands after the CSP contract has ended, the buyer shall not be required to maintain such practices for their lifespan and the buyer shall not be penalized.

Agree Disagree No Comment

7. Once the CSP contract has ended, operators should not be required to maintain such practices for their lifespan.

Agree Disagree No Comment

COMMENT FORM

This form may be helpful to you in making comments on the proposed rules for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). **Just circle the response below each statement that best mirrors your thought. Use the space below each statement to add any personal comments, or attach additional sheets of paper.** This form is not intended to comment on all aspects of the program, but to provide a guideline for you in making comments.

The completed form should be mailed to: Conservation Security Program Comments, ATTN: David McKay, Operations Division, NRCS, PO Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013 BY MARCH 2, 2004.

You may access the full text of the proposed rules through the NRCS home page at "www.nrcs.usda.gov," then selecting "Farm Bill." Or contact your local soil conservation district.

Please feel free to make copies of this form for your friends and neighbors and ask them to comment as well.

1. All CSP contracts should be limited to five years in length, with annual payments.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

2. Any technical assistance or monitoring should only be carried out by personnel approved by the landowner.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

3. If some of the property under CSP contract changes ownership, the **buyer should have the option** of continuing the contract, regardless of the status of the rest of the buyer's operation.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

4. If some of the property under CSP contract changes ownership, the seller should be liable for any charges, penalties, etc. **IF THE BUYER CHOOSES NOT to continue the contract, but such financial penalties shall not exceed the total CSP dollars received under the contract.**

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

5. If an operator with a signed CSP contract purchases or rents additional land that does not meet CSP guidelines, the operator should not be penalized.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

6. If the property changes hands after the CSP contract has ended, the buyer shall not be required to maintain such practices for their lifespan and the buyer shall not be penalized.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

7. Once the CSP contract has ended, operators should not be required to maintain such practices for their lifespan.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

8. All decisions by the agency should be able to be appealed.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

9. CSP participants should have a choice between using the administrative review process and use of the court system to satisfy disputes.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

10. The emphasis of the CSP practices should be to enhance the agricultural productivity of soil and water resources rather than for wildlife production.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

11. Producers should not be required to sign any permanent easements on their property in order to enroll in any portion of the CSP program.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

12. CSP contracts should recognize that some practices may not be able to be implemented or maintained due to natural disasters such as fire, flood, tornado, etc.

Agree

Disagree

No Comment

13. Other Comments:

SIGNED: Rodney A Bertsch (Your signature, please)

NAME: Rodney A Bertsch

ADDRESS: 2306 Plymouth Dr.

CITY: Champaign STATE: IL ZIPCODE: 61821

Please note that UNSIGNED comments are not rated as highly as signed comments.