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**nrCS**

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**From:** Melissa Bailey [melissa.bailey@tufts.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2004 9:21 AM  
**To:** FarmBillRules  
**Cc:** mnoble@msawg.org; Kathleen Merrigan  
**Subject:** Comments on Conservation Security Program (CSP) Interim Final Rule

**Attachments:** CSP\_NRCS.doc



CSP\_NRCS.doc (29  
KB)

Please see attached public comment on the Conservation Security Program (CSP) Interim Final Rule for consideration.

N029

Craig Dickerson, Program Manager  
Financial Assistance Programs Division  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 2890  
Washington, DC 20013-2890

RE: Comments on Conservation Security Program Interim Final Rule

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

As an academic in the agriculture/environmental field and a concerned citizen, I respectfully submit the following comments on the Conservation Security Program Interim Final Rule.

I believe that limiting the eligibility of watersheds and thus participation of farmers in CSP will simply shift poor environmental practices to other parts of the U.S. where farms are ineligible to participate. I strongly recommend removing these geographical barriers and making CSP available to all farmers that would like to choose environmentally-friendly agricultural practices.

In addition, the size and rent cost of a farm should not preclude the eligibility of farmers to maximize their available benefits from CSP. In fact, small farmers likely represent a stakeholder group with a vested interest in sustainable farming as they often live with their families on the farm. To this end, CSP should continue to support the existing and evolving environmental practices at the small-farm level by removing the 'per acre' cap on contract payments.

I urge NRCS to consider the immense value of incorporating these changes in the interim final rule. Not only will it benefit farming communities regardless of geography and size, we will see CSP reach the potential that will preserve the environment and our precious natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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