

nracs

From: Keck, Kathy [kathy.keck@rodaleinst.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2004 12:46 PM
To: FarmBillRules
Subject: Conservation Security Program

Attachments: tmp.htm



tmp.htm (6 KB)

I'm writing to express our concerns regarding the provisions of the Conservation Security Program Interim Final Rule. Specifically, I would like to address the provision concerning the establishment of complex management systems and practices providing a high level of environmental and resource benefits. As I understand it, enhancement payments are weighted heavily in favor of simple conservation tillage systems, while ignoring other systems and practices which may require more management but provide higher returns to the public in terms of environmental and natural resource benefits.

Research here at The Rodale Institute(r), specifically in our 24 year The Rodale Institute Farming Systems Trial(r), shows conclusively that conservation practices such as organic management using cover cropping, crop rotation, use of compost and biological control methods, etc. serve the conservation security aims very well and can prove to be equal or superior results compared to emphasis on tillage practices alone.

We respectfully request that enhancement payments should be made available for farming system practices by all farmers-conventional, sustainable and organic farmers with small, medium and large scale operations. It is critical that this provision be included in the Final Rule for the Conservation Security Program.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Haberern

John Haberern

President

The Rodale Institute

611 Siegfriedale Rd.

Kutztown, PA 19530

ph# 610.683.1413

fx# 610.683.8548

john.haberern@rodaleinst.org <mailto:john.haberern@rodaleinst.org>