



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation
Service

Conservation Security Program New Jersey 2005

220 Davidson Ave. 4th Floor, Somerset NJ 08873 (732) 537-6040 www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov



Permanent vegetation between tree rows helps reduce soil erosion and improve water infiltration.



Micro-irrigation of the peach crop has reduced water use by 7.5 million gallons per year. Water-mark sensors read soil moisture levels to guide irrigation schedules.

Stewardship has its rewards: Springdale Orchard One of New Jersey's First CSP Contract Holders

This 46.8 acre peach orchard has been selected among 8 CSP applicants within the Cohansey-Maurice River Watershed for existing conservation stewardship and enhancement activities. It has been approved as a Category A, Tier II contract, meeting soil and water benchmark criteria on the entire agricultural operation.

Best management practices on this farm include nutrient, pest, and irrigation water management as well as permanent cover crop between rows, field borders, and filter strips. These practices and activities serve as the basis to meet CSP benchmark criteria; and address the primary resource concerns of water quality and quantity. Through this stewardship agreement, Rolf will continue to maintain and improve soil and water quality, wildlife habitat, and water quantity on this New Jersey farmland preserved property.

Rolf is currently utilizing a micro-irrigation system and practicing irrigation water management. His system has reduced water use by 50 %, resulting in a savings close to 7.5 million gallons/year, as well as an energy and cost savings at the pump. In addition, orchard rows are maintained in grass cover and no tillage is practiced; field borders will be managed to encourage refuge habitat for beneficial insects; farm lubricants and motor oils are being recycled; Nutrient applications are applied only as needed based on leaf tissue analysis and soil tests; and pesticides are applied based on pest scouting recommendations. Pesticides used have a lower risk of leaching, runoff, and toxicity. Through these stewardship activities Rolf has seen a significant increase in peach yields and higher quality fruit production.

According to Rolf, practicing stewardship on the land and managing his resources wisely is the best choice for successful farming in New Jersey.



Rolf De Cou signed New Jersey's first CSP contract with NRCS Natural Resource Specialist Michelle Pedano

New Jersey CSP Quick Facts for 2005:

Watersheds: 1
Cohansey-Maurice

Watershed Acreage:
685,243

Estimated Number of Farms: 1658

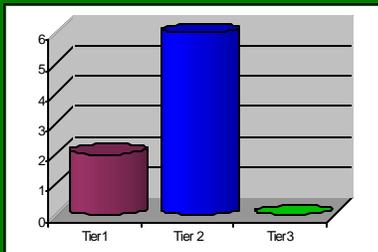
Cropland: 159,900 acres

Pasture Land: 15,400 acres

CSP Participation:

Sought info on CSP: 92
Attended workshops: 44
Applied: 10
Enrolled: 6

Tier Distribution:



Tier I: 2
Tier 2: 6
Tier 3: 0

Typical Enhancements:

- Soil quality – soil conditioning, reduced tillage
- Air quality – managing windbreaks
- Wildlife habitat – buffers, deferred mowing
- Energy Management – recycling used oil
- Water quality – nutrient management, pest management
- Water quantity – irrigation water management

New Jersey 2005 CSP Highlights



Watershed	Total CSP Applications Approved	Tier 1	Tier II	Tier III
Cohansey-Maurice	6	1	5	0
TOTAL '05 Payments	\$63,021	\$2,674	\$60,347	\$0

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NJ CSP 2005