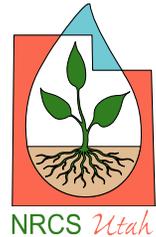




Natural Resources Conservation Service
32 South 100 East
PO Box 639
Monticello, UT 84535-0639



January 4, 2005

Dear Farm/Ranch Operator:

The Montezuma Creek and McElmo Creek Watersheds have been selected for funding for the Conservation Security Program (CSP) for fiscal year 2005. This new voluntary conservation program was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill to support ongoing stewardship on privately owned agricultural lands. The program is designed to reward farmers and ranchers who are already applying sound conservation practices on their land.

CSP identifies and rewards farmers and ranchers who currently maintain high standards of soil and water conservation on their lands. Participating farms and ranches are expected to be using good soil quality practices (crop rotations, cover crops, reduced tillage, prescribed grazing) and good water quality practices (conservation tillage, grassed waterways, managed livestock access to streams, nutrient and pest management, and irrigation water management) on cropland and pastureland. Qualifying farms and ranches are eligible for financial and technical assistance to maintain and enhance their conservation efforts. Good record keeping will play an important part in this program and will be required to substantiate Program eligibility.

The enclosed CSP brochure will provide additional information, which may also be obtained on line at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp. Further information will be coming out shortly. This is a heads up for anyone interested in this program.

You are invited to attend a CSP public information meeting in Monticello on January 20th at 7:00 pm in the commissioners room at the county court house.

Sincerely,

*Don Andrews
NRCS District Conservationist
Monticello FO*

Enc: brochure