

GREG NETTEKOVEN | CSP CONTRACT HOLDER

Grain

Black Creek, Wisconsin



Photo by Bob Nichols, USDA NRCS

Greg Nettekoven signed up with CSP in pursuit of improving the environmental benefits of his farming practices. “I had an interest in learning what they had to offer, and the program has forced me to do some things I’ve been thinking about for a long time,” he says. “It’s been a good mechanism to push me to try new practices.”

Greg currently practices mulch tilling, no-till and nutrient management planning on his 800 acres, and wants to try techniques such as green manure when he can afford the extra seed cost and time. What is nice about CSP, he notes, is that it gives farmers needed funds while helping them to improve yields in an ecologically responsible way.

“I want to grow better crops without unnecessary fertilizer, and preserve good soil for the next generation,” says Greg, which is why he signed up to use slow-release nitrogen and cover crops through CSP. He will also start recycling all of the farm’s waste oil. “I take a lot of pride in growing a safe, healthy crop for the public, but much of that’s due to mother nature,” he notes, which is why he believes programs like CSP are important to help get modern farming in sync with natural processes.

Ultimately, Greg recommends that farmers look into the program—in his experience, the sign-up was quick and the compensation is working out well. Greg did not sign up for as many improvements as he would have liked, however, because in several cases he was unable to make a five-year commitment; because of this he recommends that applicants be prepared to know their five-year rotations.

CONTRACT SNAPSHOT

Previous On-Farm Conservation Practices:

- Mulch tilling
- No-till
- Nutrient management planning

Conservation Improvements through CSP:

- Waste oil recycling
- Slow-release nitrogen
- Cover crops (winter rye and red clover)

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