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NEWS RELEASE

Release number: 2010_05_11

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USDA NRCS in Alaska Urges Landowners to Sign-Up Now for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Applications Accepted Through June 11, 2010

Palmer, May 11, 2010 – The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) invites landowners and operators to apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, CSP offers payments to landowners and operators who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. CSP offers payments for adding conservation practices and maintaining and managing existing conservation practices. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and non-industrial forestland.

CSP is offered through continuous sign-ups with announced cut-off application dates for ranking periods. The deadline to be considered for the next ranking period is Friday June 11, 2010. Applicants compete nationally.

"Voluntary conservation practices by producers are an essential part of our effort to improve soil and water quality," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Potential applicants should use the CSP self-screening checklist to determine if the new program is suitable for them. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential payments. It is available on the NRCS Web site at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html or by contacting an NRCS field office. The Alaska NRCS office phone numbers are: Aniak (907) 675-4578, Copper Center (907) 822-4484, Delta Junction (907) 895-4241, Dillingham (907) 842-3240, Fairbanks (907) 479-3159, Homer (907) 235-8177, Juneau (907) 586-7220, Kenai (907) 283-8732, Kodiak (907) 486-5598, Nome (907) 443-6096, and Wasilla (907) 373-6492. Contact information for the offices in Alaska is also available at www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/fieldoffices.html.

For more information about CSP, please visit http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html.

Helping People Help the Land