

NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service • P.O. Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458 • Phone: (701) 530-2000 • Web: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/nd/home>

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tanya Koch, State Public
Affairs Officer, 701-530-2096

Conservation Stewardship Program Applications Due by June 14

BISMARCK, ND May 28, 2013 – The Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) will provide about \$175 million in funding for up to 12.6 million of newly enrolled conservation acres this year.

Although applications are accepted all year, farmers, ranchers and forestland owners interested in CSP should submit applications by June 14 to their local NRCS office to ensure they are considered for this year’s funding.

The voluntary program allows producers to go the extra mile in conserving natural resources while also maintaining or increasing the productivity of their operations.

“CSP is different than our other financial assistance programs,” said NRCS Acting Chief Jason Weller. “It offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. It’s about conservation activities on the entire operation, focusing on multiple resource concerns.”

Playing a significant part in conserving and improving our nation’s resources, producers enrolled an additional 12.1 million acres in CSP last year, bringing the total number of acres to more than 50 million.

“The Conservation Stewardship Program incentivizes our conservation-minded farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to be more innovative in conserving natural resources,” said NRCS State Conservationist Mary Podoll. “This program leads to cleaner air and water, enhanced wildlife habitat and healthier soil, among many other benefits.”

CSP is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to address various resource concerns by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving and maintaining existing conservation systems. Many of the CSP enhancements improve soil quality, which helps land become more resilient to extreme weather.

Because of the extreme weather in 2012, more interest and participation in the cover crop enhancements is expected this year, according to NRCS experts.

“All told, CSP is an excellent conservation program for producers looking for opportunities to conserve and enhance their land’s natural resources,” stated Ms. Podoll. “Judging by the success of past CSP application periods, we fully expect this application period to invoke a high level of interest among producers throughout the state.”

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, stewardship threshold requirements and payment types.

For the checklist and additional information, visit the CSP website (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>) or visit your local USDA NRCS office.

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer