

Conservation Security Program

A new way to think of conservation

Conservation Security Program

A new way to think of conservation

- Rewards farmers practicing good conservation
 - Other programs used to fix problems
- Incentives to improve further
- Concentrates on working lands
- Voluntary program authorized in 2002 Farm Bill

Managed Grazing



Residue Management: No-till



Grassed Waterway



2004 Summary

- 18 pilot watersheds in 22 states
 - \$41.4 M in funding (TA=15%)
- Lower Chippewa and Kishwaukee in WI
 - 219 contracts
 - Over \$2 M in payments
- Fast-tracked
 - Sign-up in July, payments in September

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Lower Chippewa River



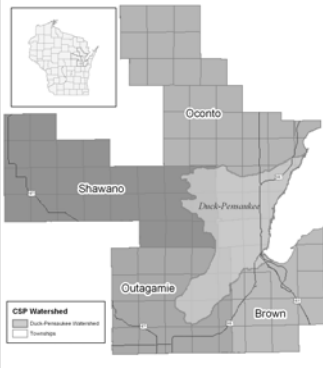
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Nationwide in 2005

- No longer a pilot program
 - In all 50 states, \$202 M
- 202 new watersheds plus 18 prior year
- More time to prepare, sign-up, and process
- Program tweaks and improvements

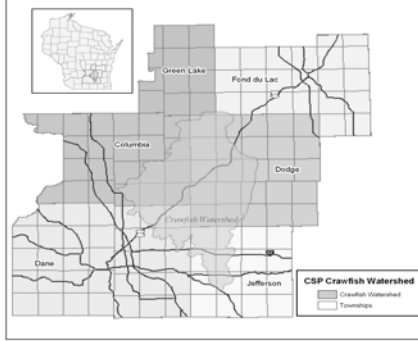
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2005 Wisconsin Conservation Security Program Duck-Pensaukee Watershed



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2005 Wisconsin Conservation Security Program Crawfish Watershed



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2005 WI CSP Outcomes

- 273 Contracts
 - 179 Tier I, 62 Tier II, 32 Tier III
- 84,800 acres
 - 11% to 17% of watershed ag. land
- \$7233 average payment in 2005
- \$1.94 M statewide (plus payments on 2004 contracts)

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CSP: Application Process

Eligibility Requirements

- Privately owned or Tribal lands
- Majority of operation within CSP watershed
- In compliance with HEL/wetland provisions
- Own or rent land
- Applicant shares risk and is entitled to share of crops/livestock

Defining the CSP Operation

- Applicant defines the operation
 - Can be owned or rented but applicant needs to control for length of contract
 - Only one contract per applicant
- Change in ownership or loss of rented land
 - Request a modification, a transfer or withdraw
 - Only refund NRCS when practices paid for but not yet in place

CSP: Application Process

Eligibility Requirements, cont'd

- Eligible lands include
 - Cropland, orchards, vineyards, pasture
- Lands that are not eligible include
 - Land in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, or Grasslands Reserve Program cannot receive stewardship payments
 - Recently converted cropland
 - Forest land

CSP: Application Process

- Key practices for eligibility (already in place)
 - **Nutrient management and pest management**
 - **Maintaining or improving soil condition**
 - Residue management, cover crops, etc.
 - **Minimum requirements for pasture condition**
 - **Requirements vary with soil, slope, crop, etc.**

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- **Tier Structure**
- **Payment Components**

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Tier Structure

Tier	Resources Treated	Scope	Contract
Tier 1	Water & soil quality	Part of operation	5 years
Tier 2	Water & soil quality	Entire operation	5 to 10 years
<i>Plus: Agree to address one add'l resource concern</i>			
Tier 3	All resources	Entire operation	5 to 10 years
<i>Plus: Agree to additional activities</i>			

CSP: Four Payment Components

- An annual stewardship payment for the benchmark (existing) conservation treatment.
- An annual existing practice payment for maintaining conservation practices.
- An enhancement component for exceptional and innovative conservation effort.
- One-time new practice component for additional practices

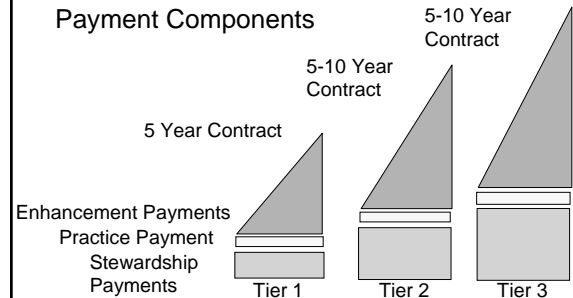
CSP: Enhancement Components

Enhancement examples:

- Wildlife Habitat (general or declining species)
- Soil Conditioning Index (from RUSLE2)
- Energy audit, renewable energy
- Irrigation efficiency
- Organic pest management

Conservation Security Program

Payment Components



"We've always been conservation minded because the soil is so important to us. The soil is our strength, as our sign says."

Nancy Kavazanjian, Dodge County CSP Participant

Greg and Judie Sage Farm



Conservation Security Program

"Conservation has been the premise of our farm. With CSP, we're happy to be rewarded for our practices."

Greg Sage, Buffalo County CSP Participant

Prissel Valley Farm



Conservation Security Program

"I guess that's really what I like about CSP because I'm just doing things the way I've done them and it happens to fit CSP. So like I say it is a good reward for conservation things we've had in place on the farm."

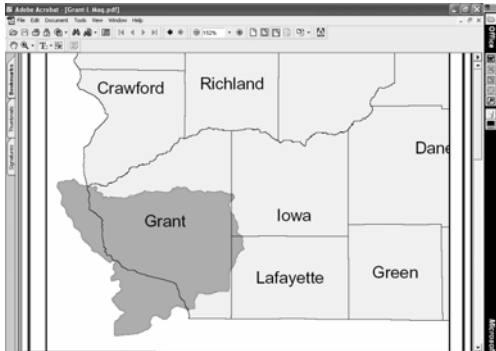
Brian Prissel, Pepin County CSP Participant

CSP in 2006

- Wisconsin Watersheds
 - Grant-Little Maquoketa
 - Shared with Iowa
 - 714,000 acres, 80% in farms
 - Lake Dubay
 - 1.2 M acres, 39% in farms
- Expect a winter sign-up period

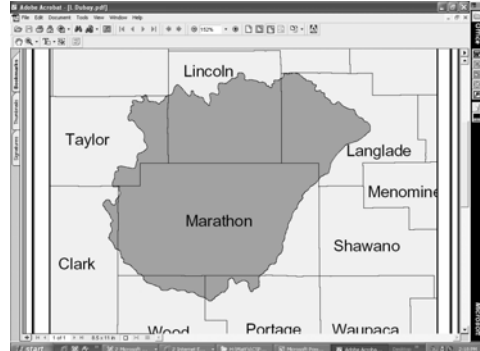
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Grant-Little Maquoketa River



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Lake Dubay



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Getting Farmers Ready for CSP

- What can farmers do to prepare?
 - Implement or update nutrient and pest management plans
 - Keep good records
 - Update conservation plans
 - Waterways in place
 - Riparian areas treated
 - Positive Soil Conditioning Index (SCI)

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Thank you!

- Questions or comments?
- For more information, visit the WI NRCS website:
 - <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp.html>