

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=9410>

High Program Signup Shows Producers' Commitment to Conservation Stewardship
State Conservationist Eric B. Banks announced that U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kansas received 586 applications for the first Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) ranking period of the fiscal year.

Nationwide, NRCS received 17,654 applications for CSP. NRCS expects to enroll a total of 10.8 million acres into the program in fiscal year 2012.

“Farmers and ranchers in Kansas who are deeply committed to being even better stewards of natural resources have proved once again that the Conservation Stewardship Program works for them,” Banks said. “We are very pleased with this great interest in the Conservation Stewardship Program and look forward to working with those who are selected to bring the benefits of quality conservation to their operations.”

CSP offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland, and non-industrial forestland.

CSP is offered in all 50 states, tribal lands, and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups. Administered by NRCS, this Farm Bill program provides many conservation benefits including improved water, soil, and air quality, decreased soil erosion, and enhanced wildlife habitat.

Learn more about CSP and find links to other NRCS programs and initiatives at <http://go.usa.gov/nvU>.