

At a Glance:
**Cooperative Conservation
Partnership Initiative**

November 2008

Overview

The Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) provides targeted assistance to producers for enhancing conservation outcomes on agricultural and nonindustrial private forest land. Areas of CCPI assistance are selected competitively through applications of eligible partners. Eligible partners include State, local, and Tribal governments, producer associations and cooperatives, institutions of higher education, and nongovernmental organizations.

The purpose of CCPI is to:

- Address conservation priorities on a local, State, multi-State, or regional level;
- Encourage producers to cooperate in meeting regulatory requirements;
- Encourage producers to cooperate in the installation and maintenance of conservation practices that affect multiple operations; or
- Promote the development and demonstration of innovative conservation practices and delivery methods.

CCPI is administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Legislative Changes

CCPI is implemented through multi-year agreements, not to exceed 5 years, with partners selected through a competitive application process.

Priority is given to applications that:

- Involve a high percentage of producers;
- Significantly leverage non-Federal financial and technical resources and coordinate with other local, State, or Federal efforts;

- Deliver high percentages of applied conservation to address water quality, water quantity, or State, regional, or national conservation initiatives; and
- Provide innovation in conservation methods and delivery that include performance measurement.

Funding for CCPI is provided by reserving 6 percent of the funds and acres from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). Funds are provided to participating producers in accordance with applicable program rules. Any funds or acres reserved from a program that are not obligated by April 1 may be used to carry out other activities under that program during the remainder of that fiscal year.

Ninety percent of funds will be allocated to projects based on the discretion of State Conservationists. The remaining 10 percent of funds will support projects based on national competition. Overhead or administrative costs of partners may not be covered by funds provided through CCPI.

More Information

For more information and updates about the CCPI and other Farm Bill topics, please refer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ccpi>.

