



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Rhode Island State Office

60 Quaker Lane, Suite 46  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886  
401-822-8816, fax 401-828-0433  
[www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov)

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Joseph Bachand  
CSP Manager  
[joseph.bachand@ri.usda.gov](mailto:joseph.bachand@ri.usda.gov)  
401-822-1818

## **NRCS EXTENDS SIGN-UP PERIOD FOR CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM** *Applications Will Be Accepted Through January 27, 2012*

WARWICK, RI (January 12, 2012) – USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Dave White announced that the cut-off date for the current Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) ranking period has been extended to January 27, 2012. Producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship are eligible for CSP payments.

“We want to make sure that people who want to be considered for CSP during this first ranking period have the time they need to complete their applications,” White said. “CSP is a very popular program and I encourage interested producers to apply at their local NRCS office as soon as they can.”

According to R. Phou Vongkhamdy, NRCS State Conservationist, “CSP is especially applicable to agricultural and forest landowners who have implemented conservation plans on their private lands. Under CSP, participants receive an annual land use payment for the environmental benefits they produce on their operation. Under CSP, participants are paid for conservation performance - the higher the operational performance, the higher their payment.”

CSP is offered in all 50 states, tribal lands and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups. Administered by NRCS, CSP provides many conservation benefits including improved water and soil quality, enhanced wildlife habitat and conservation activities that address the effects of climate change.

Producers are encouraged to apply for CSP throughout the year to be considered for current and future application ranking periods. Those who apply by January 27, 2012, may be eligible for current available funding. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and nonindustrial forestland.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if CSP is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contracts obligations and potential payments. It is available from local NRCS offices and at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp>.

Learn more about CSP and other NRCS programs at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs>.