

# NEWS RELEASE



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Contact: *Patrick B. McGrane*  
Phone: *(402) 437-5328*  
Address: *100 Centennial Mall N. Rm. 152*  
*Lincoln, NE 68508-3866*  
*pat.mcgrane@ne.usda.gov*

Date of Release: Aug. 29, 2005  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov)

---

---

## Landowners in 13 counties eligible for next Conservation Security Program sign-up

LINCOLN ---Farmers and ranchers in all or part of 13 Nebraska counties are eligible for the next Conservation Security Program sign-up this fall said Steve Chick, State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

USDA Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner announced the eligible watersheds and enrollment at a farm bill forum August 25 in Alaska. Nebraska has three eligible watersheds, which include the counties of: Adams, Cheyenne, Clay, Deuel, Fillmore, Franklin, Harlan, Jefferson, Kearney, Nuckolls, Phelps, Thayer, and Webster.

Landowners in these counties will soon be able to visit the NRCS website at [www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov) to view local maps specific by township to determine if their land is eligible. A landowner must have at least 51 percent of their operation in the targeted watershed to be eligible.

In Nebraska, more than 2.3 million acres and 3,120 farmers and ranchers will be eligible. In 2004 and 2005, more 1,100 farmers enrolled 368,000 acres into this program. While the 2005 contracts are still being finalized, payments to landowners in 2004 and 2005 should exceed \$6 million dollars.

“The Conservation Security Program recognizes farmers and ranchers who are true stewards of the land. The program offers payments to landowners who have been applying conservation practices on their lands for healthier soil, cleaner air and water and improved fish and wildlife habitat,” said Chick. There are also incentives to convert to renewable energy fuels like bio-diesel and ethanol, for recycling are lubricants, or implementing wind, solar, geothermal and methane energy production, he added.

A sign-up announcement will be made later by USDA along with specific program requirements in the watershed. The program is offered each year on a rotational basis in as many watersheds as funding allows. Landowners in these targeted watersheds who do not apply for the program may not have another opportunity for several years.

-MORE-

#

(NOTE TO EDITOR: Statewide (see below) and area maps of the selected watersheds are available at [www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov). The maps are in pdf, jpeg, and emf formats for your choice. There is also a link to national data if desired.)

