

# Conservation Security Program

Dry Cropland Fact Sheet

Utah, 2005

What is the Conservation Security Program (CSP)?



CSP is a unique new program that offers payments for topnotch conservation farmers and ranchers. Unlike other programs that help producers fix resource problems, CSP rewards those who already act as model conservationists. It also pays qualified producers to do further environmental enhancements, such as additional conservation treatments, evaluation, on-farm demonstrations and more.

CSP is a three-tiered program with different requirements for each tier. All CSP producers, regardless of the tier at which they participate, must ultimately address minimum treatment criteria for soil quality and water quality. Techniques to achieve these soil and water quality criteria will vary depending on your farms slope, climate, soil texture and other characteristics. Typically, sound resource management will include activities such as those shown below and will result in fertile soil with valuable organic matter that is protected from erosion. Additionally, pesticides and nutrients will be managed to help keep surface and groundwater clean to protect human and environmental health. For dry cropland, consider the following checklist.

Do you currently . . .

- **Rotate your crops?**
- **Control erosion or soil loss?**
- **Test soils and apply fertilizers appropriately?**
- **Keep written records of fertilizer and pesticide applications?**
- **Scout for insects or weeds and apply pesticides appropriately?**
- **Are you willing to pursue additional conservation enhancements?**

Producers in the three selected Utah watersheds may qualify for CSP if they are addressing natural resource concerns on their dry cropland by:

- Using mulch till or a reduced tillage system that leaves crop residues on the soil surface.
- Using a conservation crop rotation that includes high residue crop or alfalfa in the rotation
- Collecting soil test information and keeping records of fertilizer and pesticide applications.
- Controlling wind, water and ephemeral gully erosion

For more information . . .

Contact your local USDA Service Center, listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture, or your local conservation district. Information is also available on the Internet at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farnbill/2002>.