

NRCS NEWS RELEASE

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Deadline for Conservation Stewardship Program is January 13

ST PAUL, MN, Jan. 5, 2012 –January 13, 2012 is the cut-off date to have an application submitted for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Producers interested in submitting a CSP application need to meet the deadline so that their application can be considered for the first ranking period of 2012.

“CSP continues to be one of Minnesota NRCS’ most popular conservation programs, and to-date, Minnesota has already accepted over 800 applications,” NRCS State Conservationist Don Baloun said. “I encourage all farmers who are interested in applying to contact their local NRCS office in Minnesota as soon as possible so they can meet the CSP application deadline.”

CSP provides many conservation benefits including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habitat enhancements and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help potential applicants determine if CSP is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential CSP payments. It is available from their local NRCS offices in Minnesota and can be found on the [CSP Web page](#).

During the first three sign-ups in 2010 and 2011, over 2,300 Minnesota applicants enrolled in CSP, putting additional conservation on 1.4 million acres in Minnesota.

For more information about NRCS conservation programs, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov> or visit your local USDA service center.

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