



## About Participating in the Conservation Security Program

### Pasture Land

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.



*Applying a grazing plan that guides you in maintaining and improving pasture health is one criteria for ranchers who wish to participate in CSP.*



*Participating in a cooperative watershed project is one type of possible conservation enhancement eligible under CSP.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

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 criteria will vary depending on your farm or ranch's 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. Consider this checklist. Do you currently...

- **Share in the risk of producing crops or livestock?**
- **If you are a renter could you show in writing that you are likely to have control of the land for at least a 5 year period?**
- **If you have been a USDA program participant, is your land in compliance with the highly erodible and wetland conservation provisions?**

Producers in Blue Earth River Watershed may qualify for CSP if they are addressing natural resource concerns by:

- \* **Using a grazing plan allowing for periods of rest**
  - \* **Keeping records of livestock/grazing production**
  - \* **Managing livestock access to water**
- Pursuing additional conservation enhancements?**