

# NEWS RELEASE



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600 St. Paul, MN 55101-1854  
Phone: (651) 602-7900 Fax: (651) 602-7914

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**Contact:** Julie MacSwain  
Public Affairs Specialist

## **Be Ready when CSP Comes to your Watershed!**

**St. Paul, MN** – Producers in five Minnesota watersheds are currently eligible to apply for the Conservation Security Program (CSP) in 2005. The five watersheds include, the Red Lake, Redeye, Redwood, Root, and Sauk watersheds. Officials expect that every farmer and rancher will have the opportunity to apply for the CSP within the next eight years.

CSP is a voluntary program which supports ongoing stewardship of working agricultural lands by providing payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources. This type of resource conservation improves water, air, and soil quality, and promotes healthier landscapes and wildlife habitat.

In order to be eligible for CSP, producers need to implement proper nutrient management practices, such as, soil testing every four years, analyzing manure nutrients every year, and follow the University of Minnesota fertilizer recommendations. Of the producers that were not eligible for CSP in 2004, the majority of which were applying nutrients above the University of Minnesota recommended rates for nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) or applicants might have lacked current soil text results.

To find out more about the University of Minnesota fertilizers recommendations for crops go on the web at [www.soils.umn.edu/](http://www.soils.umn.edu/) click on “Extension and Outreach,” click on “Publications,” and locate “Fertilizing Corn in Minnesota.”

For additional information about CSP, check out [www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov), and click on Conservation Security Program. Producers are also encouraged to stop by their local NRCS office located in the USDA Service Center.

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