



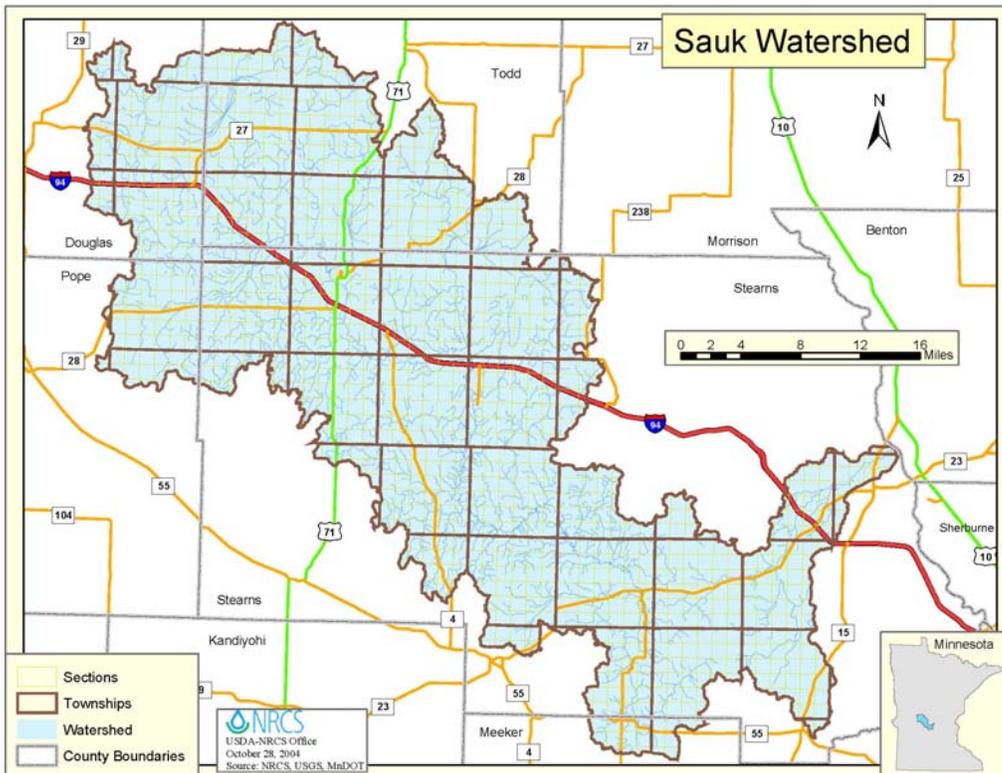
Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Security Program

January 2005

Stearns County, Minnesota

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is a unique new program that offers payments for topnotch conservation farmers. Unlike other programs that help farmers correct resource problems, **CSP rewards those who already act as model conservationists**. It also pays qualified farmers to do further environmental enhancements, such as additional conservation treatments, monitoring, on-farm demonstrations and more.



How CSP Works

1. The CSP sign-up will be offered in the Sauk River watershed in Stearns, Douglas, Pope, Todd and Meeker counties.
2. Farmers complete a **self-assessment workbook** to determine eligibility.
3. Eligible farmers within these watersheds submit an application.
4. Based on the application and conservation activities, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will determine applicant eligibility and payments.

NRCS will provide the necessary materials for farmers to complete and document the benchmark inventory.

Payments

The final CSP rule will determine payment levels by tier of participation. It is anticipated the CSP rule will be finalized in January of 2005. When NRCS determines the payment level for each watershed, farmers will be notified.

Attend one of the informational meetings listed on the reverse side to pick up your CSP self-assessment workbook.



