

NRCS **NEWS RELEASE**

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street • Suite 600 St. Paul, MN 55101-1854 • (651) 602-7900
Web: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov>

Contact:

Russell Kleinschmidt, District Conservationist, 320-732-6618 ext. 3

USDA Extends Deadline for CSP Applications

Long Prairie, MN, Jan 13, 2014 – [USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) is extending the deadline for new enrollments in the [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#) for fiscal year 2014. Producers interested in participating in the program can now submit applications to their local NRCS office through Feb. 7, 2014.

“Extending the enrollment deadline will make it possible for more farmers and forest landowners to apply for this important conservation program,” said Minnesota NRCS District Conservationist Russell Kleinschmidt. “Through their conservation efforts, these good stewards are ensuring that their operations are more productive and sustainable over the long run.”

CSP is offered through a continuous signup, but NRCS periodically makes funding selections. Last year, Minnesota NRCS obligated more than \$10,047,837 million through 552 contracts covering 387,331 acres.

The program emphasizes conservation performance — producers earn higher payments for higher performance. Through CSP, producers install conservation enhancements to make positive changes in soil health, soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, air quality, plant resources, animal resources and energy.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, stewardship threshold requirements and payment types.

To access the self-screening checklist or to learn more about CSP, visit the [Minnesota NRCS website](#) or your local NRCS field office.

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.