



United States Department
Of Agriculture
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

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USDA Media Release

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USDA to Announce Land Stewardship Payments

Conservation Security Program to Yield over \$2.5 Million in West Michigan

EAST LANSING, Mich. – July 28, 2005 – Farmers who practice good land stewardship will see their efforts rewarded when contracts under the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Conservation Security Program are announced in Oceana County on Monday.

“The farmers who have been awarded contracts under the Conservation Security Program are good stewards of the land and are protecting the water and soil for all of us as well as future generations,” said Jack Bricker, state conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

CSP is a voluntary conservation program that supports ongoing stewardship of private agricultural lands by providing payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources. NRCS financial and technical assistance promotes the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes. CSP will be available each year on a rotational basis in as many watersheds as funding allows.

In 2005, farmers in five watersheds in Michigan are eligible to receive CSP contracts. The watersheds include the Carp-Pine River, Kawkawlin-Pine River, River Raisin, St. Joseph and the Pere Marquette-White River. The Pere Marquette-Pine River Watershed includes portions of Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ottawa and Oceana counties.

In the Pere Marquette-White River Watershed, 157 farmers were selected to receive CSP contracts. The contracts provide payments for five or 10 years based on the type of farm land enrolled in the program and the conservation practices in place. In Oceana County, 102 farmers will receive payments totaling an estimated \$1.6 million annually. Farmers enrolled in the program will receive annual payments of up to \$45,000. The first payments will go out in fall 2005.

Event Information

What: Announcement and recognition of farmers selected for the Conservation Security Program

When: 10 a.m. Monday
Aug. 1, 2005

Where: Lewis Orchards
4138 W. M-20
New Era, Mich.

Who: CSP participants, local agricultural leaders and USDA-NRCS, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Michigan State University Extension Service representatives.

**The Natural Resources Conservation Service works hand-in-hand with the
American people to conserve natural resources on private lands.**

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