

This is the program that many of you have been waiting to see go nationwide. Here it is, the Conservation Stewardship Program.

This program recognizes producers who have been doing conservation.

CSP offers incentives to do more. The operator of the farming operation must be the one to apply for the program. If producers are eligible and have records to support their conservation efforts, then this is the program for them.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations.

CSP is a new voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance for producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land.

CSP provides opportunities to both recognize excellent stewards and deliver valuable new conservation.

Through five-year contracts, payments will be made as soon as practical after October of each year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year.

For all contracts, CSP payments to a person or legal entity may not exceed \$40,000 in any year, and \$200,000 during any five-year period. Each CSP contract will be limited to \$200,000 over the term of the initial contract period.

Producer meetings are scheduled for:

Grant—308-352-4776 x3—Wednesday, Aug. 26, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Midwest Electric Meeting Room.

Benkelman—308-882-4263 x 3—Monday, Aug. 24, 10 a.m.—1:30 p.m., Farm Bureau Meeting Room;

Hayes Center—308-286-3297 x3—Wednesday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m., Hayes Center Ag Building;

Imperial—308-882-4263 x3—Tuesday, Aug. 25, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Mid Plains Community College, Imperial Campus;

Ogallala—308-284-2048 x3—Tuesday, Aug. 25, 10 a.m., Grey Goose Lodge.

Talk with the local NRCS office for a sign-up packet to know what will be required for application.