

POLICY MINUTE

CSP Ready for Kansas Producers for 2005

Bradley D. Lubben¹
March 21, 2005

Last week, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns announced that the nationwide sign-up would begin soon for the 2005 Conservation Security Program (CSP). Sign-up will begin March 28 and run through May 27.

This is the second year of implementation of the CSP. In 2004, a total of just 18 watersheds across the country were eligible for enrollment including two that covered parts of Kansas. Back in December 2004, before the 2005 program was ready to begin, USDA identified 202 new watersheds for eligibility in 2005. Seven of those 202 watersheds include parts of Kansas.

Recall that this process of naming just a limited number of watersheds each year was a rule-making decision by USDA to target the program eligibility based on the limited funding available to implement CSP each year. However, in announcing the sign-up period for 2005, USDA has also announced that the eligible watersheds from 2004 will again be eligible in 2005. That is, producers in the 18 watersheds from 2004 that were not already successfully enrolled in the CSP will be eligible along with producers in the 202 watersheds identified for 2005.

This alleviates a potential political problem created by the targeted CSP enrollment process. Based on the limited funds for CSP in the first year, not all applications were approved, meaning some applications did not rank high enough in terms of the enrollment category to be accepted. With more funding available in 2005, it is conceivable that an application could be accepted at a ranking in 2005 that would not have been acceptable in 2004. By opening up the process to include the watersheds from the first year, this problem is avoided and all new applications from either the 2004 or the new 2005 watersheds will be considered. All of the nine eligible watersheds are listed in Table 1 and

are shown in Figure 1.

Table 1. CSP Watersheds in Kansas - 2005

Watershed	Counties Included
Lower Big Blue	Clay Marshall Nemaha Pottawatomie Riley Washington
Delaware	Atchison Brown Jackson Jefferson Nemaha
North Fork Ninescaw	Kingman Kiowa Pratt Reno Sedgwick Stafford
Upper South Fork Solomon	Graham Rooks Sheridan Sherman Thomas
Upper Walnut	Butler Chase Harvey Marion Sedgwick
Middle Arkansas - Lake McKinney	Finney Greeley Hamilton Kearny Scott Wichita
Arikaree	Cheyenne
Lower Little Blue	Marshall Republic Washington
Lower Salt Fork Arkansas	Barber Harper Sumner

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Extension Agricultural Economist, K-State Research and Extension, 3311 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506. Phone: 785.532.2276; fax: 785.532.6925; e-mail: blubben@ksu.edu. This publication is designed to provide information about developing agricultural policy issues and farm programs. The document does not necessarily represent the views of Kansas State University. This publication and other agricultural policy resources are available from Kansas State University at www.agmanager.info while program information is available from USDA at www.usda.gov.

The CSP program is worth careful consideration for those producers in the eligible watersheds. In just the two Kansas watersheds that were eligible in 2004, a total of 84 CSP contracts were approved, covering 46,676 acres and providing \$807,866 in first-year payments. With the new additional watersheds eligible for FY 2005, the number of producers involved could grow substantially with payments likely to reach several million dollars annually.

Additional Resources

There are several resources on the web or in local NRCS offices to assist producers in the eligible watersheds. A self-assessment workbook available in the office or on the web is the first step in looking at conservation issues and practices to be addressed in the CSP:

www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/pdf_files/CSP_SelfAssess_Workbook_F.pdf

The self-assessment can also be completed online at the following website:

csp.sc.egov.usda.gov/

Additional program information from NRCS is available on the national or state websites for CSP or via links on the Conservation Programs page of the Policy section of AgManager:

www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/

<http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/2005/csp2005.html>

agmanager.info/policy/conservation/default.asp

Figure 1. CSP Watersheds in Kansas - FY 2005

