

SIGN-UP CONTINUES FOR NEW CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan recently announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP.) CSP encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations.

The 2008 Farm Bill authorizes CSP, which is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Congress renamed and revamped the former Conservation Security Program completely to improve its availability and appeal to agricultural and forestry producers.

Although USDA is finalizing the program's policies and procedures, it is advised that every Carroll County agricultural and forestry producer consider submitting an application for this program before September 30. This applies even if the producer has an existing Conservation Security Program contract.

Producers will need to submit an application (form NRCS-CPA 1200) to their local NRCS district conservationist.

For more information about CSP, including a self-screening checklist and the CSP activity list, visit http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html or contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center. The Carroll County USDA Service Center is located at 1523 N US Hwy 421 south of Delphi. The office telephone number is 765-564-2849, Extension 3.