FACT SHEET:
IMPACTS OF THE CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN NEBRASKA

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has helped Nebraska farmers achieve conservation goals on their operations for two decades.

Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), CSP provides financial and technical assistance for producers to maintain agricultural production on their land, and simultaneously address resource concerns with conservation practices.

In 2021, 433,298 acres in Nebraska were enrolled in CSP, including both newly enrolled and renewed acres.

Helping producers achieve their conservation goals

CSP contracts are five years in length with a one-time renewal. In 2021, 184 CSP contracts were active in Nebraska.

Of the new contracts awarded in 2021, approximately 52% were awarded to producers new to the program and 48% were existing contract renewals.

In 2021, 34 active CSP contracts were held by beginning farmers and ranchers.

Top five CSP practices in Nebraska (ranked by the number of contracts utilizing the practice)

1. Prescribed grazing
2. Use of body condition scoring for livestock on a monthly basis to keep track of herd health (CSP enhancement)
3. Pest management conservation system
4. Cover crops
5. Nutrient management

Protecting the state's water, soil, and natural resources

When enrolled in a CSP contract, producers develop conservation plans with their local NRCS technicians. These plans include an assortment of practices and enhancements they can implement on their operations to benefit natural resources, such as water quality and soil health.
Nebraska is a top CSP participant

In 2020, Nebraska ranked **No. 5** in total acres enrolled in CSP.

**Decreases in CSP funding affect producers**

Due to lowered funding for the program, the number of CSP contracts for Nebraska producers has decreased steadily during the past five years.

**TABLE 1: CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN NEBRASKA, 2017 TO 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>New and renewed contracts</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Obligations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>1,397,157</td>
<td>$53,380,777</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>1,297,882</td>
<td>$49,758,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>429,300</td>
<td>$20,729,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>495,955</td>
<td>$19,696,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>433,298</td>
<td>$19,690,041</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Nebraska NRCS

**CSP gives producers the tools they need to be successful**

This year, the Center for Rural Affairs surveyed CSP users in five Midwestern states. A majority expressed overwhelming support for the program.

- **81%** of all respondents reported they intend to renew their CSP contracts.

Current CSP users had this to say about the program:

- “I really like the program. It has allowed me to put conservation practices on the land I normally would not have. Very pleased.”
- “The CSP program folks I worked with at our local NRCS office are excellent and were incredibly helpful to me.”
- “CSP has increased my awareness of the health of pastures and erosion control practices. It has been a kick-start to my five-year improvement plan. I will continue to grow in management, [information], and skills of monitoring and managing.”

Notes & sources

1. Unless otherwise indicated, written years refer to the federal fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30.