

FACT SHEET:

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:

WORKING LANDS CONSERVATION IN IOWA'S 4TH DISTRICT

Iowa farmers are stewards of the land. Working lands conservation programs, such as the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), help farmers achieve conservation goals on their farms within the 4th Congressional District.

Iowa's 4th District plays a pivotal part in supporting the state's role as a leading agriculture-centric state. To increase productivity and protect the value of the land for future generations, it is imperative that conservation programs continue to receive funding in the upcoming 2018 farm bill.



IOWA FARMS RELY ON CSP TO SUPPLEMENT LAND STEWARDSHIP

Working lands conservation programs, like CSP, provide necessary tools for farmers and producers to maintain agricultural production on their land, simultaneously addressing resource concerns within their operations. Funding and strengthening working lands conservation programs ensure farmers and producers are supported and rewarded for their land stewardship.



WHAT IOWANS ARE SAYING IN THE 4TH DISTRICT

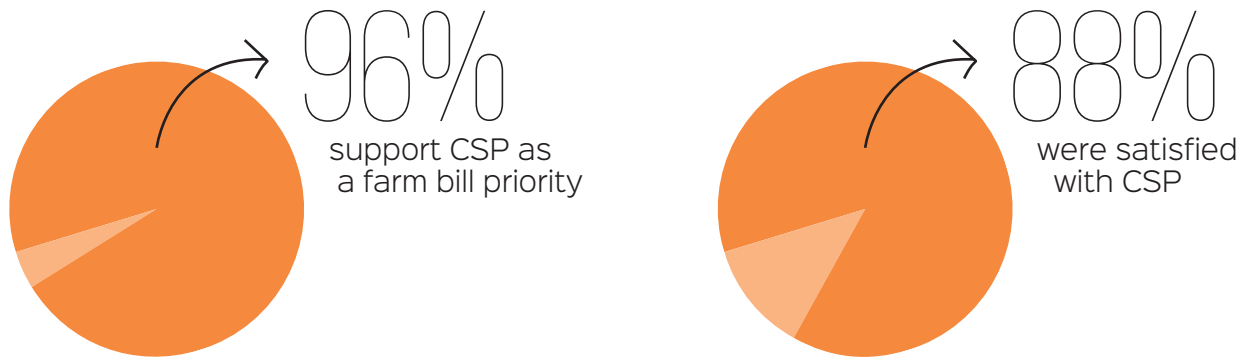
“ I have, for 38 years, worked to save soil and improve my soils. I feel CSP is rewarding me for my efforts. ”

“ CSP is a valuable source of income for my farm operation... CSP enhancement activities contribute toward the goals of resource conservation, reducing nutrient loss, and improving water quality. ”



IOWA FARMERS AND PRODUCERS SUPPORT CSP AS A FARM BILL PRIORITY

In 2017, the Center for Rural Affairs surveyed constituents in the 4th District who have used CSP.



WHAT IS CSP?

CSP is a widely utilized land management tool focused on working lands in the U.S. The program encompasses 70 million total acres of productive agricultural and forest land nationally.

The program incentivizes conservation practices on Iowa farms through education and contract payments. This provides farmers with foundational knowledge and funding to implement conservation practices in their farming operations. CSP promotes environmental stewardship and sustainability that not only benefits the productivity of the farm, but also improves water quality, air quality, and wildlife habitat.



Farmers want to enroll in CSP: in 2016, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was only able to accept **51.5 percent** of all eligible applications for CSP in Iowa.

CSP ADDRESSES RESOURCE CONCERNS IN IOWA

According to NRCS, there are five targeted resource concerns in Iowa:

1. Wildlife habitat;
2. Livestock management;
3. Soil erosion;
4. Soil quality; and
5. Water quality.

NRCS has also identified non-targeted concerns:

1. Air quality;
2. Plant condition;
3. Energy use; and
4. Water use.

CSP not only affects land management, but the positive environmental effects impact all constituents in Iowa's 4th District.

The program addresses each of these concerns by accepting applications on a year-round basis and developing individualized conservation plans for participants.

