

# FACT SHEET:

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:

### WORKING LANDS CONSERVATION IN NEBRASKA'S 1ST DISTRICT

Nebraska's 1st District plays a pivotal part in supporting the state's role as a leading agriculture-centric state. In order 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.



## NEBRASKA FARMS RELY ON CSP TO SUPPLEMENT LAND STEWARDSHIP

Working lands conservation programs, such as the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), provide the 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 environmental stewardship.



### WHAT NEBRASKANS ARE SAYING IN THE 1ST DISTRICT

“CSP remains most important and beneficial to me and my family in our concerted efforts to maximize conservation practices for accomplishing overall maintenance and improvements of our land.”

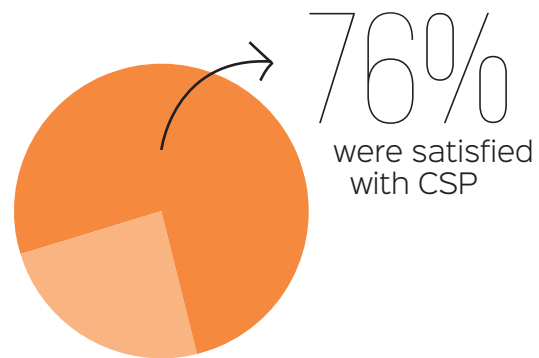
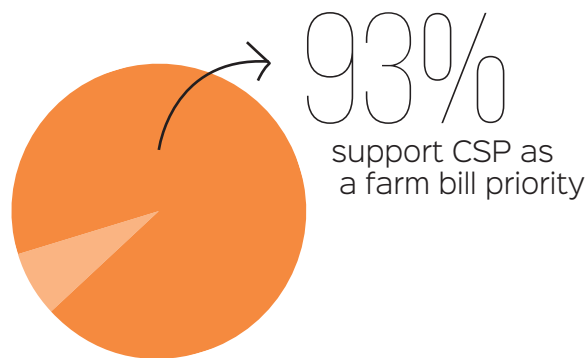
“CSP is a great way to see what works for conservation on your own farm.”

“This is a high priority program that offers financial incentives to help conserve our soil, water, and wildlife that otherwise might not be done.”



# NEBRASKA FARMERS AND PRODUCERS SUPPORT CSP AS A FARM BILL PRIORITY

In 2017, the Center for Rural Affairs surveyed constituents in the 1st 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 Nebraska 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 **33.6 percent** of all eligible applications for CSP in Nebraska.

## CSP ADDRESSES RESOURCE CONCERNS IN NEBRASKA

According to NRCS, there are six targeted resource concerns for agricultural land in Nebraska's 1st District:

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

CSP not only affects land management, but the positive environmental effects impact all constituents in Nebraska's 1st District.

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

