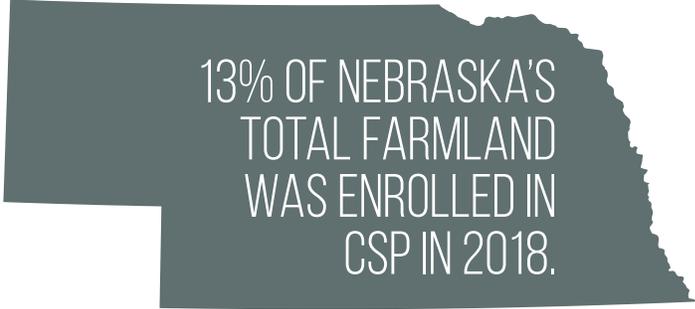


FACT SHEET: IMPACTS OF THE CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN NEBRASKA

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has helped Nebraska farmers and ranchers achieve conservation goals on their operations for nearly 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 2018, **6,038,535** acres in Nebraska were enrolled in CSP.



13% OF NEBRASKA'S
TOTAL FARMLAND
WAS ENROLLED IN
CSP IN 2018.

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

When enrolled in a CSP contract, producers develop a conservation plan with their local NRCS technicians. These plans include an assortment of practices and enhancements then implemented on their operations.

These practices and enhancements benefit a wide array of resources, including water quality and soil health.

Helping producers achieve their conservation goals

CSP contracts are five years in length with the option to renew. In 2018, a total of **2,975** CSP contracts were active in Nebraska.

Of the contracts awarded in 2018, approximately **60 percent** were new contracts and **40 percent** were existing contract renewals.

In the following year, 2019, **46** active CSP contracts were held by beginning farmers and ranchers.



\$9.6 MILLION

Financial assistance allocated to Nebraska producers from 2018 enrollments and renewals alone. These funds will be spread out over the five-year contract period.

TOP 5 CSP PRACTICES IN NEBRASKA

(ranked by the number of contracts utilizing the practice)



Nebraska is leading the nation in multiple aspects

In 2018, Nebraska ranked **No. 1** among states for renewed acres in CSP and **No. 3** for percentage of eligible contracts renewed. It also ranked **No. 2** for new enrolled acres.

Nebraska is also among the top states for acres enrolled in cover crops and related enhancements.

Decreases in CSP funding impact producers

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

FIGURE 1: TOP 10 STATES BY RENEWED CSP ACRES, 2018

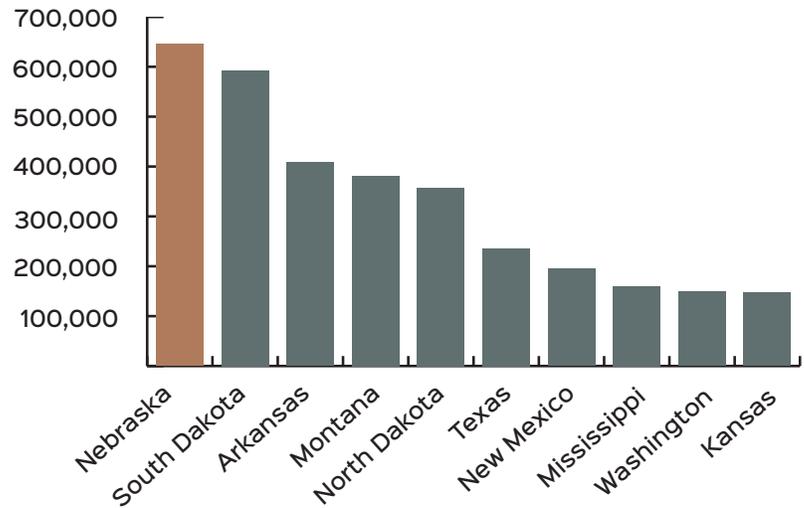


TABLE 1: CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN NEBRASKA, 2015 TO 2019

Year	New and renewed contracts	Acres	Obligations
2015	904	1,378,759.9	\$71,036,598.03
2016	616	1,405,482.3	\$52,855,697.71
2017	614	1,386,851.7	\$54,029,073.40
2018	588	1,320,130.7	\$50,791,880.46
2019	226	465,122.6	\$22,007,504.02

Source: Nebraska NRCS

CSP gives producers the tools they need to be successful

In 2017, the Center for Rural Affairs surveyed more than 800 CSP users in five Midwestern states. A majority expressed overwhelming support for the program.

- **84 percent** of respondents reported **high or very high satisfaction** with CSP.

During the federal rulemaking process in 2020, Nebraska farmers also told us:

“ When I learned more about the CSP and I realized that it was providing landowners with an economic incentive to incorporate conservation measures, that was exactly the kind of model I was hoping for. ”

“ [CSP’s] cost benefits make it practical, but I would say it’s the conservation... that motivates me. ”

“ The great benefits of CSP are the relationships that are built between the resource conservationists and the producer, because they are working together to do something positive for the land. ”

Notes

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

2 Unless otherwise stated, data is attributable to U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

3 The Center for Rural Affairs’ report “A Farmer’s View: A Look at the Conservation Stewardship Program,” July 10, 2018, can be found at cfra.org/publications/AFarmersViewOfCSP. Accessed July 2020.

4 For more information about CSP enrollment in 2018, see this report from the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition: “Analysis of CSP Enrollment in FY 2018.” National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, February 2020, sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/FY18-CSP-Data-Special-Report_FINAL.pdf. Accessed July 2020.

