

# FACT SHEET:

# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:

## WORKING LANDS CONSERVATION IN NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota's strong agricultural economy, leading the nation in wheat and sunflower production, plays a pivotal role as a leading agriculture-centric state in the U.S. 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.



## NORTH DAKOTA FARMS RELY ON CSP TO SUPPLEMENT LAND STEWARDSHIP

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



### WHAT NORTH DAKOTANS ARE SAYING

“ CSP gave me incentive to learn about some new technologies and practices that might fit my farm, and reduced financial risk. ”

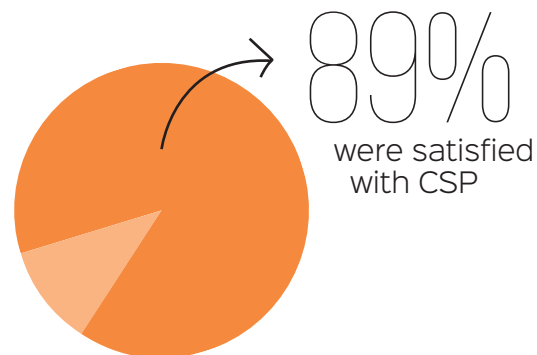
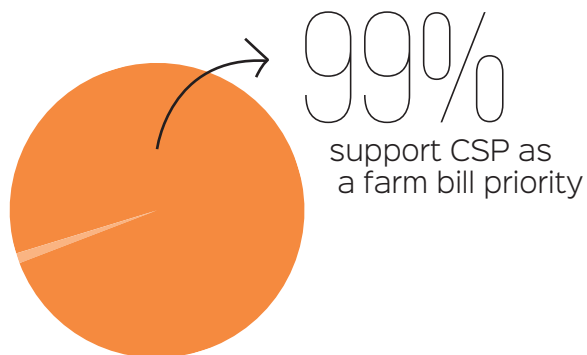
“ We chose enhancements we felt would benefit and improve our operation – we learned valuable practices that will continue to help us in the future. ”

“ It helped us to be able to afford some conservation practices we wished to implement but couldn't afford at the time. ”



# NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS AND PRODUCERS SUPPORT CSP AS A FARM BILL PRIORITY

In 2017, the Center for Rural Affairs surveyed constituents in North Dakota 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 North Dakota 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 **17.7 percent** of all eligible applications for CSP in North Dakota.

## CSP ADDRESSES RESOURCE CONCERNS IN NORTH DAKOTA

According to NRCS, the following resource concerns are prioritized in North Dakota:

1. Plant condition;
2. Soil erosion;
3. Soil quality;
4. Wildlife habitat;
5. Water quantity;
6. Energy use;
7. Water quality;
8. Livestock management; and
9. Air quality.

CSP not only affects land management, but the positive environmental effects impact all constituents in North Dakota.

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.

