

FACT SHEET: IMPACTS OF THE CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN IOWA

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has helped Iowa farmers 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, **1,665,087** acres in Iowa were enrolled in CSP.



Protecting Iowa'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 that are 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, **3,019** CSP contracts were active in Iowa.

Of the new contracts in 2018, approximately **88 percent** were awarded to producers new to the program, and **12 percent** were renewed existing contracts.

In the following year, 2019, **61** active CSP contracts were held by beginning farmers and ranchers.



TOP 5 CSP PRACTICES IN IOWA

(ranked by the number of contracts utilizing the practice)



Iowa is a national leader in CSP enrollment

In 2018, Iowa was a leading state for new CSP contracts.

These new contracts accounted for **233,523** acres of farmland.

Decreases in CSP funding impact Iowa producers

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

FIGURE 1: TOP 10 STATES BY NEW CSP CONTRACT ENROLLMENT, 2018

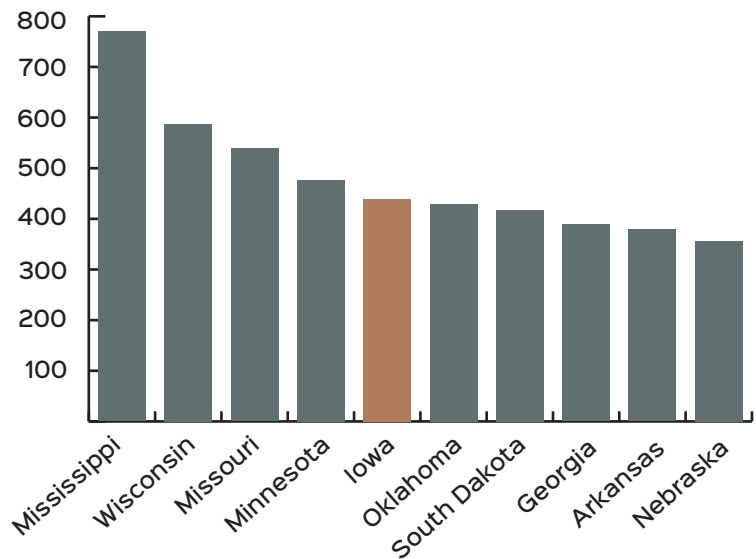


TABLE 1: CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN IOWA, 2015 TO 2019

Year	New and renewed contracts	Acres	Obligations
2015	1,008	578,410.9	\$58,009,640
2016	628	374,065.1	\$31,461,490
2017	537	321,467.1	\$27,602,580
2018	499	263,622.5	\$28,641,864
2019	412	118,738.5	\$16,311,791

Source: Iowa 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, Iowa farmers also told us:

“ I feel that CSP is a great tool for farmers. Farmers have always been good stewards of the land and want to leave the land in good productive shape for the next generation. This program really gives farmers the tools they need to do a great job protecting the land and environment for years to come. ”

“ I'm thankful for the program and thankful that I am able to use it. CSP is excellent, and this taxpayer money is really helping people and the environment. ”

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.

