

FACT SHEET:

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:

WORKING LANDS CONSERVATION IN KANSAS' 1ST DISTRICT

Kansas 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 1st Congressional District.

Kansas' 1st 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.



KANSAS 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 KANSANS ARE SAYING IN THE 1ST DISTRICT

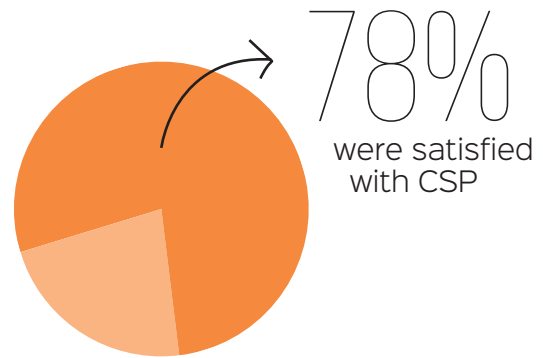
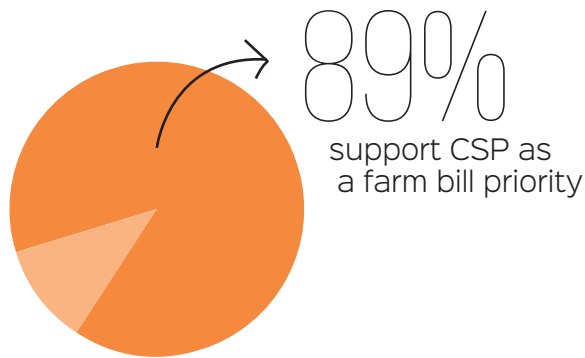
“ All farmers are responsible for the protection of the land. ”

“ One of the best ag programs I've been involved with for the enhancement and protection of our natural resources. ”



KANSAS 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 Kansas 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 **56.6 percent** of all eligible applications for CSP in Kansas.

CSP ADDRESSES RESOURCE CONCERNS IN KANSAS

According to NRCS, there are five priority resource concerns on agricultural land in Kansas:

1. Animals (wildlife and domestic);
2. Plants;
3. Soil quality;
4. Water quality; and
5. Water quantity.

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

