

Natural Resource News in South Carolina

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conservation Security Program Sign-Up Ends March 31st

COLUMBIA, March 13, 2006 -- **The sign-up period for the Conservation Security Program (CSP) is almost over according to Walter W. Douglas, state conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in South Carolina.** March 31st will be the last day farmers and landowners can sign-up for CSP in 2006. CSP is a new conservation program administered by the NRCS that rewards farmers that have practiced good natural resource stewardship and are willing to take their operations to even higher levels.

"Many farmers may still be sitting on the fence wondering if they should sign-up for the program," said Douglas. "This program may not be offered in the currently eligible watershed again for many years. We are encouraging farmers to sign-up now; this may be their only opportunity for a long time."

The Lower Pee Dee watershed was selected in South Carolina for the 2006 Conservation Security Program. Counties in the watershed include parts of Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro, and Williamsburg Counties.

Annual payments under the program can be made for 5 to 10-years depending on the level of participation. The amount of payment is dependent on a number of factors that include the acreage enrolled, the tier level it is enrolled at, and the enhancements the farmer is willing to adopt.

CSP is an equal opportunity program. For more information contact your local NRCS office or visit <http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP2006.html>.

Appointments are being scheduled now and the deadline is approaching. Interested farmers are encouraged not to wait.

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