



# NEWS RELEASE

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## *NRCS Conservation Security Program, producer self-assessment is underway*

Temple, TX, July 12, 2004 – The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conducted four Conservation Security Program (CSP) informational meetings and workshops in the [Hondo Watershed](#). Producers attending the meetings received CSP self-assessment workbooks and instruction for the new CSP program.

This voluntary program supports ongoing conservation stewardship of agricultural working lands and enhances the condition of America's natural resources. The initial self-assessment will help producers identify whether their individual agricultural operation meets sign-up criteria. By completing the workbook, producers will be able to determine if they are addressing minimum soil and water quality criteria on the land they manage.

To apply for the program, the NRCS will ask potential participants to complete the self-assessment to determine if their operations meet the standards of the program and qualify for program participation. The self assessment process is completed using a self-screening questionnaire for each land use to be enrolled. The CSP self-assessment workbook is available in hardcopy or compact disk(CD) from local NRCS offices or online at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp>.

Eligible farmers and ranchers within the 18 watersheds nationwide will have the opportunity to sign-up for CSP July 6-July 30.

NRCS provides soil quality assessment information at <http://soils.usda.gov/sqi/soilquality/assessment/index.html>. This site includes the Soil Conditioning Index, a tool used to predict the consequences of cropping systems and tillage practices on the status of soil organic matter. The water quality resources including the Manure Management Planner information can be accessed at <http://wmc.ar.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/wq.html>.

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