



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Conservation Security Program Mississippi 2005

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*It's a Smith family affair for CSP participants Libby Smith Rushing, Randolph Smith and his wife Brenna when it comes to being good stewards of the earth.*



*Chloe and Sydney Faith Barton, fifth generation Barton grandchildren, examine no-till soybeans on the Barton Canaan Plantation.*



*David Barton and Randolph Smith signed Mississippi's first CSP contracts with NRCS Area Conservationist Maurice Manning.*

## Stewardship has its rewards: Barton and Smith Farms, Hinds County, Among Mississippi's First CSP Contract Holders

David Barton and Randolph Smith were recognized by USDA's Natural Resources Service as the state's first Conservation Security Program participants at a signing ceremony in Hinds County on July 29, 2005.

CSP is a voluntary program that rewards landowners for their conservation stewardship and improvements they've made to soil, water, air, energy, plant, and animal life. It is designed to "reward the best and motivate the rest."

## Raising top quality crops with conservation in mind ...

### Barton Farms-Canaan Plantation Lower Big Black Watershed

"We are really proud to be stewards of this farm," stated David Barton, Hinds County agricultural producer. "This land has been in the Barton family since 1937 and we now have the fifth generation of our family farming," further commented Barton as he signed the state's first CSP contract on Friday, July 29, 2005, on his farm in Hinds County. The Bartons have been no-tilling for 30 years. NRCS provided technical assistance on the 1,000-acre row crop farm of cotton, soybeans, and corn. To qualify for the Conservation Security Program, conservation practices, including overfall pipes, grassed waterways, and other measures such as no-till, were used to control soil erosion. "We are proud of this place and want to preserve it for future generations."

### Smith Pecans Lower Big Black Watershed

Since 1904, the Smiths of Raymond, Mississippi, have been working to restore and maintain a 550-acre pecan plantation. Randolph Smith, a third generation producer, has been practicing no-till, managing nutrients, and using a pesticide management program to improve water quality. He aerates the soil for better water penetration and built levees to prevent erosion.

Roy King, soil conservationist, Hinds County Soil and Water Conservation District, states, "These two farmers are really unique in that they practice conservation and invest back into the farms to make it the best they can. They know it will come back to help them later."

## Mississippi CSP Quick Facts for 2005:

### Watersheds:

Lower Big Black  
Pascagoula  
MS Coastal Streams

### Watershed Acreage:

2,268,626 acres

### Estimated Number of Farms:

2875

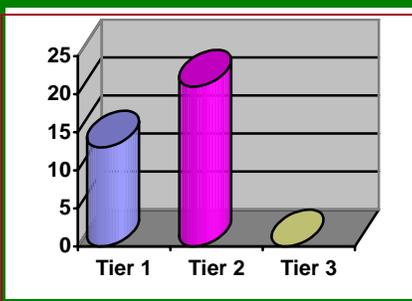
**Cropland:** 56,900 acres

**Grazing Land:** 183,800 acres

### CSP Participation:

Sought info on CSP:	400
Attended workshops:	150
Applied:	67
Enrolled:	34

### Tier Distribution:

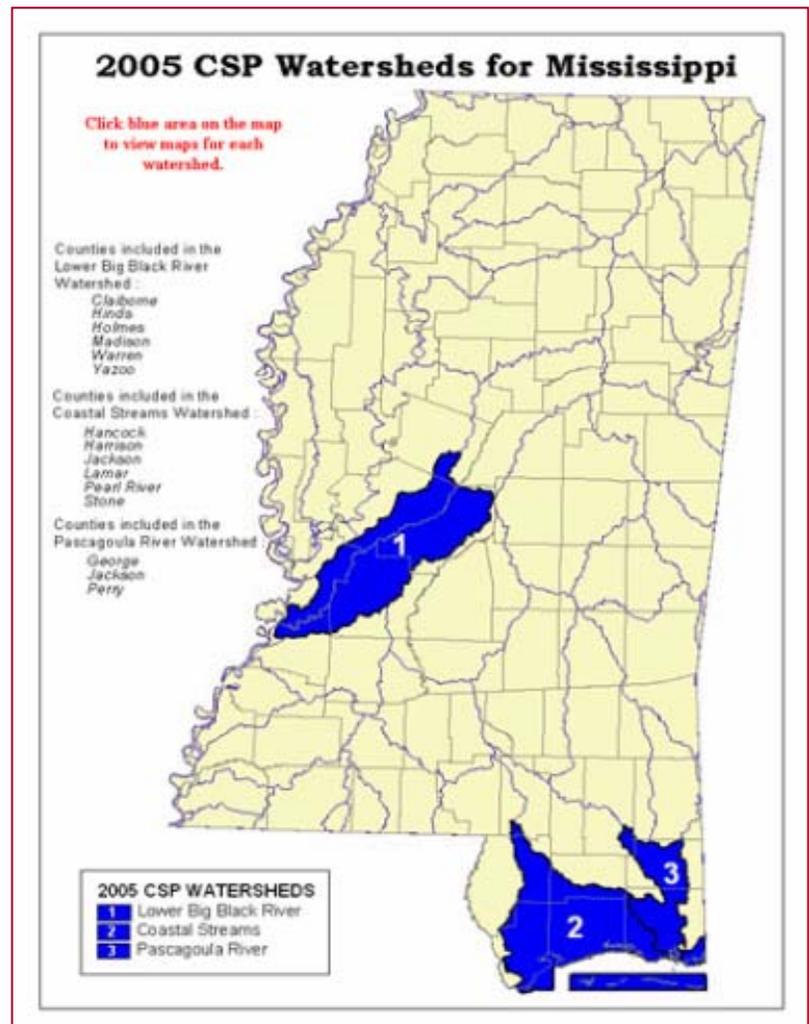


Tier I:	13
Tier 2:	21
Tier 3:	0

### Typical Enhancements:

- Soil quality
- Water management
- Wildlife habitat

## Mississippi 2005 CSP Highlights



Watershed	Total CSP Applications Approved	Tier 1	Tier II	Tier III
Lower Big Black	32	11	21	0
Pascagoula	0	0	0	0
Miss. Coastal	2	2	0	0
<b>TOTAL Contracts</b>	34	13	21	0
<b>TOTAL '05 Payments</b>	<b>\$536,854.96</b>	<b>\$137,121.99</b>	<b>\$399,732.97</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>