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### Stewardship Signing Celebration Held in Wildcat Watershed

INDIANAPOLIS, August 15, 2006 – From a farm near Russiaville in Howard County, Assistant State Conservationist Harold Thompson of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service spoke today about the Conservation Security Program (CSP) and the producers that the program rewards. A new program created by the 2002 Farm Bill, CSP supports ongoing stewardship of the nation's natural resources.

“We are here today to celebrate participation of the Maish Farm in the Conservation Security Program,” said Thompson to a gathering of about 35 friends of conservation. “NRCS has been a partner in conservation since 1935; resulting in seven decades of helping people help the land. As NRCS' representative, I am proud to recognize Myron Maish, his son Paul Maish, and other model conservationists in the Wildcat Watershed for participating in CSP this year. They are leading the way for producers in Indiana in voluntary land stewardship.”

Myron Maish, along with his son Paul, own and operate 220 acres of cropland and 72 acres of woods. The leaders in conservation have 100 percent no-tilled their land for over ten years. They have also completed a wetland restoration and installed numerous waterways and structures.

CSP rewards stewards of America's working lands, provides strong incentives for others to follow, and inspires producers to do an even better job of conserving our precious natural resources. USDA selected 60 watersheds across the nation to participate in this year's CSP sign-up, which included the Wildcat Watershed in Indiana. The Wildcat touches Carroll, Clinton, Grant, Howard, Madison, Tippecanoe, and Tipton counties, covering approximately 514,671 acres.

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