



United States Department of Agriculture

April 2024 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

California NRCS

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Conservation Stewardship Program

- Voluntary program that helps build existing conservation efforts while strengthening ag operations
- CSP can help find new ways to meet operation and conservation goals
- NRCS helps work one on one with producers to identify natural resource problems and provide technical and financial assistance to solve those problems, or attain higher stewardship
- Based off individual operation needs and goals
- Custom tailored conservation plan

Benefits-

- CSP participants are seeing real results
 - Enhanced resiliency to weather and market volatility
 - Decreased need for agricultural inputs
 - Improved wildlife habitat conditions

CSP Contracts

- CSP contracts are for five years, with the opportunity to compete for a contract renewal

Contract payments

- Contract payments are based on two components
 - Annual Payments to maintain the existing level of conservation
 - based on the land uses included in the contract and an NRCS assessment of existing stewardship at the time of enrollment

AND

- Activity Payments to implement additional conservation activities (enhancements and practices)

2024 Changes to CSP

- Minimum annual payment increased from \$1,500 to \$4,000
 - Minimum contract total is \$20,000 (pending personal payment limits)
- First time in history CSP is offering Historically Underserved (HU) rates
 - Will be applied to Annual Payments, based on existing conservation
 - \$1,800 per eligible land use, per year
 - **HU** \$3,000 per eligible land use, per year
 - CSP Renewal rates \$3,000 and HU \$4,200

2024 Changes to CSP

- Entirely new calculation for CSP Annual Payments
 - EAP formula = $A + ((B \times C) + (B \times D) \dots)$
 - A = flat rate payment
 - B = land use payment rate based upon the resource concern category level
 - C = acres of land use group #1
 - D = acres of land use group #2

- Updates to activities and activity jobsheets
- New Enhancements

- CA NRCS is improving tools for internal employee use

Benefits of the New Rates

- HU rates align with other Farm Bill programs
- Rates allow for updates to help keep up with inflation
- Increased renewal rates- Encourage producers to adopt future conservation
- Equitable system to benefit all producers

California CSP 2024

- Farm Bill Allocation- **\$12,645,000**
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Allocation - **\$8,395,000**
- Total-**\$21,040,000**
- **FY 2024 CSP renewals**
 - 14 Contracts
 - 58,478 Acres
 - \$1,157,653



California CSP 2024

- Application Cutoff Deadline extended
 - ~~March 22, 2024~~
 - April 26, 2024 new application cutoff
 - Applications still being accepted for signup 1

How To Get Started

- The first step in the process, is to notify NRCS of your interest in CSP
- Visit your local office
- Applicants can submit signed and dated NRCS-CPA-1200

Reminder- Applications can be made in office or field visits, via telephone, via mail, or via email.



Conservation Innovation Grants

- State, National, and On Farm Trial CIG signups are still planned for 2024
- State Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is in final review by NHQ



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