

Conservation Stewardship Program (2014 signup) **Producer Workbook** (12/9/2013)

Documents in this Workbook:

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Appendix to Form NRCS-CPA-1202
Conservation Program Application (NRCS-CPA-1200)



Additional information is available on the Wisconsin NRCS website:
<http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/cstp.html>

Application Process:

- Step 1: Review the factsheet and payment information sheet, and complete the self-screening checklist.
- Step 2: If you would like to apply for the program, collect the eligibility information requested by the self-screening checklist from FSA, or if your eligibility records are not established or up-to-date: establish or update your records at FSA.
- Step 3: At your local NRCS office, sign an application and schedule an appointment to complete the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). If your FSA farm records are up-to-date, bring the records listed in the “Self Screening Checklist” to the NRCS office.
- Step 4: Before your CMT appointment, complete the CMT questions to the best of your ability using the other Workbook information as reference.
- Step 5: At your CMT appointment, your CMT answers will be finalized and you will select the additional activities that you would agree to perform as identified in a contract.
- Step 6: Applications will then be ranked. For those applications initially selected for funding based on ranking score, an on-site field verification will be performed to review records and documentation to validate the CMT. Upon validation of the CMT, the final contract documents would be developed for signature.

Fact Sheet: Conservation Stewardship Program

December 2011

Overview

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to address resource concerns by (1) undertaking additional conservation activities and (2) improving and maintaining existing conservation systems. CSP provides financial and technical assistance to help land stewards conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land.

Eligibility

CSP is available to all producers, regardless of operation size or crops produced, in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Caribbean and Pacific Island areas.

Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations, or Indian tribes. They must:

Applicants must:

- Be the operator of record in the USDA farm records management system for the eligible land being offered for enrollment;
- Have effective control of the land for the term of the proposed contract;
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of 7 Code of Federal

- Regulations (CFR) part 12 and adjusted gross income provisions of 7 CFR part 1400.
- Include the eligible land in their entire agricultural or forestry operation.

Benefits to Participants

CSP pays participants for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment. It provides two possible types of payments. An annual payment is available for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices. A supplemental payment is available to participants who also adopt a resource conserving crop rotation.

Through five-year contracts, NRCS makes payments as soon as practical after October 1 of each fiscal year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year.

Payment Limit. A person or legal entity may have more than one CSP contract but, for all CSP contracts combined, may not receive more than \$40,000 in any year or more than \$200,000 during any five-year period.

Contract Limit. The contract limit is the same as the payment limit except in the case of joint operations, for which the contract limit is \$80,000 per fiscal year and \$400,000 over the term of the contract period.

Helping People Help the Land

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Payment limits and contract limits do not apply in the case of federally recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native corporations.

How CSP Works

NRCS makes CSP available on a nationwide basis through continuous sign-up, with announced cut-off dates for ranking and funding applications. CSP addresses seven resource concerns (soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, air quality, plant resources, and animal resources) as well as energy. Each NRCS State Conservationist, in consultation with the State Technical Committee and local working groups, focuses the program on three to five priority resource concerns for their State.

Applications are evaluated and ranked relative to other applications that address similar resource concerns in the State. In the ranking process, producers get credit both for conservation measures they have already implemented and for new measures they agree to add. Agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land applications are ranked separately.

Potential applicants are encouraged to determine whether CSP is the right program for them by completing the self-screening checklist and downloading the CSP Conservation Activity List to identify new conservation activities they might install. Because some conservation enhancements work better when implemented as a group, the activity list identifies enhancement “bundles” that receive both higher rankings and higher payments. Both the checklist and the activity are available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp>.

If an applicant is preapproved for funding, NRCS requests the applicant’s conservation activity records and conducts on-site field verification to ensure that the information provided is accurate. Once the information is verified, NRCS and the applicant proceed to develop the contract.

More Information

For more information and updates about the Farm Bill, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill, or the NRCS Web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill>; for more information on CSP, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp>

***Payment for Performance:
 Conservation Stewardship Program***

November 21, 2013

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) presents a significant shift in how NRCS provides conservation program payments. Instead of using the traditional compensation model that pays a per-acre rental rate or a percentage of the estimated cost of installing a practice, CSP pays for conservation performance — the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

Annual Payments

Under CSP, participants receive annual land use payments for operational level environmental benefits they produce. A split payment structure provides separate annual payments for conservation activities being added (additional activities) and those already in place (existing activities). Additionally, a participant must install additional activities on a land use in order for that land use to earn annual payments.

A CSP participant’s annual land use payments for both additional and existing activities are calculated as:

$$\text{Annual Land Use Payments} = \text{Land Use Acres} \times \text{Performance Points (additional or existing)} \times \text{Land Use Payment Rate}$$

Supplemental Payment

A supplemental payment is available to participants earning an annual payment who also agree to adopt a resource-conserving crop rotation on cropland. To determine the supplemental payment rate, NRCS technology specialists identified representative resource-conserving crop rotations and associated yields, and then collected cost information to compare net-returns under "conventional" and "resource-conserving" crop rotations. The supplemental payment rate is based on the differences in crop production costs between conventional and resource-conserving crop rotations.

2014 CSP Payment Rates Annual Payments

Landuse	Additional Activity Payment Rate	Existing Activity Payment Rate
Cropland	\$0.4990/point	\$0.0432/point
Pastured Cropland	\$0.2376/point	\$0.0508/point
Pasture	\$0.2376/point	\$0.0324/point
Range	\$0.1588/point	\$0.0108/point
Forest	\$0.1858/point	\$0.0173/point

Supplemental Payment

Resource-Conservation Crop Rotation - \$12.00/acre

WISCONSIN Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENT STEWARDS – DELIVERING VALUABLE NEW CONSERVATION

CSP encourages agricultural and forest producers to undertake additional conservation activities and improve, maintain, and manage existing conservation activities.

CSP is available nationwide and applications are accepted on a continuous basis throughout the year.

Producer Self-Screening Checklist (2014 Signup)

Is CSP right for you?

- Are you willing to commit time to inventory and document your conservation activities and production system to determine eligibility and ranking?
- Do you have records (*such as nutrient management, pest management, pasture management, grazing management, forest management, irrigated water management, waste utilization*) of your farming activities and are you willing to continue maintaining records to document your conservation activities? Records will be used during NRCS field visits to verify accuracy of application information before contracts are approved.
- Are you ready to enter into a 5 year contract requiring you to apply additional conservation activities and to improve, maintain, and manage existing conservation activities?

If you checked (i.e. answered “yes”) all 3 of these questions, please continue to complete the CSP Self-Screening Checklist on the following pages.

To participate in CSP, a producer must meet:

- **Applicant Eligibility**
- **Land Eligibility**
- **Stewardship Threshold**

Applicant Eligibility Requirements *(all requirements must be met by the close of the evaluation period)*

To be an eligible applicant for the program, prior to the close of the evaluation period, a producer must:

- Be the operator of record in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) record system for the agricultural operation being offered for enrollment in the program. An exception request may be submitted if FSA is unable to update your records.
- Have documented control of the land for the term of the contract (5 years).
- Be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions.
- Be in compliance with average adjusted gross income provisions. If the average adjusted gross nonfarm income is greater than \$1 million, the person or legal entity is not eligible unless 2/3 or more of the average adjusted gross income is attributable to farming activities.

Land Eligibility Requirements *(all requirements must be met)*

- Private/Tribal agricultural land or nonindustrial private forest land:
 - Must include the entire agricultural operation (land for which you are the operator in FSA farm records management system). *Rented land for which land control documentation cannot be obtained for the term of the contract (i.e. 5 years) will be excluded from the application.*
 - Applicant elects whether to include the nonindustrial private forest land component.
 - Land ineligible for CSP includes land enrolled in CRP, WRP, GRP, Conservation Security Program, public land, and land used for crop production not planted or considered planted 4 of 6 years prior to June 2008.

Stewardship Threshold Requirements

If you can check two or more of the statements for each land use you have, you may be a good candidate for CSP.

Cropland:

- Fields are managed with few signs of erosion or soil being carried to field edges or water bodies.
- Crop residues remain on fields after harvest, or cover crops are planted.
- Grass or woody buffer areas intercept field runoff prior to entering streams, ditches, lakes, etc.
- Nutrients are applied according to Wisconsin university recommendations.
- Areas on your farm are actively managed for wildlife habitat (such as food plots, den trees, protecting nesting season).
- If you irrigate your cropland, water application is scheduled based on soil moisture monitoring and/or evapotranspiration monitoring.

Pastureland:

- Pastures show few signs of erosion from livestock trails, feeding areas and watering areas.
- There is a healthy stand of grass and enough forage for your livestock.
- Livestock access to streams, ponds and lakes, is managed.
- Pastures or areas adjacent to your pastures are actively managed for wildlife habitat.
- If you irrigate your pastureland, water application is scheduled based on soil moisture monitoring and/or evapotranspiration monitoring.

Nonindustrial Private Forest Land:

Nonindustrial private forest land” is rural land with existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees. Applicants elect whether or not to submit nonindustrial private forest land for funding consideration. Nonindustrial private forest land will be ranked separately for funding approval against other nonindustrial private forestland.

- Forest/woodland is “green certified” by one of the following recognized programs: Tree Farm System, Green Tag, Smart Wood, Forest Stewardship Council, or Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- One or more improvements have been made to your forest/woodland in the past 10 years according to a written forest management or stewardship plan that was prepared with assistance from a certified/licensed natural resource professional. Examples of improvements may include prescribe thinning, tree planting, establishing a firebreak, etc.
- There is no apparent erosion on harvested or burned areas, roads, skid trails and landings.
- Native trees are appropriately stocked on the property (except temporarily for areas being reforested) and wildfire risk (in wildfire-prone areas) is minimized by strategically placed narrow firebreaks and wider fuel breaks (which may include roads, streams, riparian areas, and other areas managed to slow fire spread).

Payments

Payments will be made for your operation’s conservation performance estimated by the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). Your conservation performance is unique for your operation based on your existing and proposed conservation activities.

The greater your operation’s performance, the higher your payment.

Payment types:

- Annual payments for additional and existing conservation performance estimated by the CMT by land use and;
- Supplemental payment for the adoption of a resource conserving crop rotation applicable only to cropland.

The national average payment rate is approximately \$18/acre. Payments are made on an annual basis following implementation of scheduled activities in the contract. Payments are subject to availability of annually appropriated funds.

If you think you meet applicant, land, and stewardship eligibility, and are interested in CSP; contact your local NRCS office for the next step in the application process:

Update your Farm Records with FSA

If your FSA records are not established or up-to-date, you must establish or update your records at the local FSA office prior to submission of an application.

Complete a CSP Application Form

- NRCS-CPA-1200 completed and signed. The application form is available on-line at <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/cstp.html>, or you may obtain a copy at your local [NRCS field office](#).

Please note that an application can be submitted by a producer to NRCS at anytime during the year. All applications submitted by a nationally announced ranking cut-off date will be considered for funding for that year.

Provide the Following Documentation to NRCS for Your Application

1. Land Control Documentation –

- Owner/Operator: FSA Producer Farm Data Report (current year) showing the applicant as the owner/operator of the tract(s).
- Operator (rented land): FSA Producer Farm Data Report (current year) showing the applicant as the operator, **and** documentation of land control or non-control for all tracts listed on the report. Acceptable control of land documentation may include a signed lease or signed land control documentation for the time period of the CSP contract (5 years).

2. Delineation of Agricultural Operation –

- FSA CLU map(s) with aerial photo background and correct field boundary delineations and acres identified. If your agricultural operation or the field boundaries are not delineated correctly on the FSA CLU Maps, you shall need to request FSA to make the needed corrections/updates.

3. Crop History Report –

- For operators who do not control all of the cropland fields and/or pastureland on a given rented tract, a copy of the most current FSA crop report for the tract must be provided to NRCS. This documentation is needed to confirm which specific fields you operate on a rented tract.

If you are not currently eligible for CSP, NRCS can assist you with your conservation needs.

Contact your local NRCS office or visit our Web site at <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers. If you believe you experienced discrimination when obtaining services from USDA, participating in a USDA program, or participating in a program that receives financial assistance from USDA, you may file a complaint with USDA. Information about how to file a discrimination complaint is available from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, complete, sign and mail a program discrimination complaint form, available at any USDA office location or online at www.ascr.usda.gov, or write to: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Or call toll free at (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

**Statement of Control of Land for Rented/Leased Land
(Wisconsin example)**

FSA Farm #: _____

FSA Tract #: _____

I _____ certify that I will rent all or part of my
(print **landowner's** name)

Check the appropriate land use(s)

- Cropland
- Pastureland
- Forestland
- Other: _____

to _____
(print **operator's** name)

This agreement runs from calendar year **2014** thru **2018**.

For the USDA NRCS CSP Program (only):

Does the operator have management control of the following areas on the farm/tract: field borders, filter strips, buffers, odd areas, windbreaks, wetlands, brushy draws, hedgerows, seeps, shallow water areas, riparian areas, vegetated ditches, CRP land, native vegetated communities, center pivot corners or other similar areas?

Note: For CSP eligibility purposes the operator is NOT required to have management control of the above listed areas.

If the operator does have management control of the above listed areas, this is documented by the landowner's signature in this box:

Landowner's signature Date

Landowner's signature Date

For EQIP/WHIP Structural Conservation Practices:

- Yes No Does the operator have permission to install a structural conservation practice on the farm/tract number(s) which are listed above? *Some examples of structural conservation practices include Grassed Waterway, Fence, Waste Storage Facility, etc.*

If the land is owned by more than one owner or Entity, and only one landowner is signing this document, by signing this document (I/we) certify that (I/we) have the appropriate authority to sign for the land that will participate in the USDA program(s).

Landowner's signature Date

Landowner's signature Date

Operator's signature Date

Conservation Stewardship Program
Statement of NON-CONTROL of Rented/Leased Land
(Wisconsin example)

One of the requirements of the USDA NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program is that all eligible land on an applicant's agricultural operation must be included in the application submission.

Applicants must demonstrate control land for the duration of the CSP contract period (i.e. 5 years).

The purpose of this form is to document the exclusion of rented/leased land from a CSP application as a result of the applicant's inability to obtain the required 5 year control of land documentation.

I certify that I am unable to obtain control of land documentation (i.e. lease, statements of control, etc), for the farm(s)/tract(s) identified below for the CSP contract period (i.e. 5 years).

FSA Farm #	FSA Tract #(s)

Operator's certification: I certify that the above information is true and correct.

CSP Applicant Printed Name *Signature of Applicant Date

*Note: If the CSP applicant is an entity, the signature for the entity shall follow NRCS signature policy requirement (example: Sunny Dairy Farms by John Doe, president).

Conservation Stewardship Program Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) Guide

Read through the Conservation Measure Tool (CMT) questions and answer the questions as they pertain to your operation. If you are unsure how to answer a specific question, answer the question to the best of your ability and make an appropriate note. When you come in for your appointment, a local NRCS conservationist will review your answers with you.

For **Pastureland** complete the following documents:

“Ag Land – General Inventory”

“Ag Land – Water Bodies/Water Courses”

“Pastureland Operation Data”

“Pastureland – Existing Activity Conservation Performance”

Applicants shall be required to provide written records or documentation to validate the CMT answers. NRCS staff will conduct an on-site field verification to review the records and written documentation and to inspect the land uses.

Pastureland CMT:

If your operation includes multiple pastureland species mixes (example: Pastureland Mix 1 = bluegrass; Pastureland Mix #2 = alfalfa/brome) answer the CMT questions separately for each different pastureland mix. Up to 5 separate pasture species mixtures can be listed in the CMT. Pastures with similar species mixes should be grouped together. Account for all pasture acreage.

For questions #2, 3, 4 refer to the tables on the following page.

Land Use Definition:

Pastureland: Pastureland is defined as grazing lands comprised of introduced or domesticated native forage species that are used primarily for the production of livestock. They receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. They are not in rotation with crops. An occasional year of tillage and planting of an annual crop, for the primary purpose of pasture renovation and management is considered "periodic renovation" and is permitted. Occasional mowing and baling of excess production for hay during periods of heavy growth is permitted. Areas with more than 25% canopy cover should not be considered pasture.

Nesting Dates
May 15 - August 1

List A - Pasture/Hayland species that promote wildlife conservation	
Plant Common Name	Functional Group
Alfalfa	Cool Season Legume
Alsike Clover	Cool Season Legume
Big Bluestem	Warm Season Grass
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Cool Season Legume
Festulolium	Cool Season Grass
Improved White Clover	Cool Season Legume
Kentucky Bluegrass	Cool Season Grass
Ladino Clover	Cool Season Legume
Meadow Fescue	Cool Season Grass
Orchardgrass	Cool Season Grass
Perennial Ryegrass	Cool Season Grass
Red Clover	Cool Season Legume
Side Oats Gramma	Warm Season Grass
Switchgrass	Warm Season Grass
Timothy	Cool Season Grass

List B - Other pasture/hayland species used in Wisconsin	
Plant Common Name	Functional Group
Reed Canarygrass	Cool Season Grass
Smooth Bromegrass	Cool Season Grass
Tall Fescue	Cool Season Grass

Minimum Grazing Heights:

2" bluegrass, 3" cool season grasses/legumes; 6" warm season grasses

Conservation Activity List:

Once you have completed the Conservation Measurement Tool, read through the “*Conservation Activity List*” and identify which enhancements or practices you may be interested in. Job Sheets for each enhancement are available on the Wisconsin NRCS website:

<http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/cstp.html>

Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) Pastureland Operation Data FY 2014-1

Applicant _____

Date _____

Question #	PASTURELAND OPERATION DATA	Response	WI Guidance
	Selected pastureland amounts		Responses to the questions below may potentially be required; dependent upon the activities (i.e. enhancements/practices) selected for inclusion in the application/contract.
	Linear feet of existing field borders		ANM07
	Linear feet of existing filter strips and riparian herbaceous cover buffers (count both sides if controlled)		ANM32
	Linear feet of existing riparian forest buffer(s) (count both sides if controlled)		ANM05, ANM33
	Number of existing water facilities (do not include facilities on "other lands")		ANM38
	Linear feet of ALL existing permanent fence on the land use		ANM27
	Number of existing pumping plants (used for irrigation ONLY)		WQT03, WQT05
	Number of single speed electric motors (do not include headquarters or CAFOs)		ENR09
	Acres of existing windbreaks or shelterbelts		PLT06, 650
	Irrigated acres		WQT01, WQT07, WQT08, 449
	Acres of pasture WITHOUT a mixed stand of native grasses and/or legumes		ANM03
	Acres of soil that were once prairie (reference soil survey)		ANM21
	Acres in an organic system		WQL21
	Acres in a transition to organic system		WQL19, WQL21
	Acres of a pilot project that meet the State defined criteria		FPP02
	Acres of a research and demonstration project that meet the State defined criteria		N/A
	Acres of critical area planting needed to address a resource concern		342
	Linear feet of fence needed to address a resource concern		382
	Linear feet of windbreak/shelterbelt establishment needed to address a resource concern		380
	Acres of fuelbreak needed to address a resource concern		383
	Acres of riparian herbaceous cover needed to address a resource concern		390
	Acres of forest riparian buffer needed to address a resource concern		391
	Linear feet of firebreak needed to address a resource concern		394
	Number of watering facilities needed to address a resource concern		614

Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) Inventory Questions FY 2014-1

Applicant _____

Date _____

For Cropland and/or Pastureland applications answer the Ag Land General Inventory questions below with a Yes or No in the Response Box. Applicant should be prepared to provide documentation/records to support answers.

Question #	AG LAND - General Inventory	Response (Yes/No)	WI Guidance
1	<p>Do you have any water bodies (ponds, lakes, or wetlands) or water courses (streams, rivers or ditches) on the indicted land use?</p> <p>Cropland</p> <p>Pastureland</p>		<p>Use the USGS 7.5 minute topo maps and aerial photo as a guide. Include water areas within the boundary of the operation, or immediately adjacent (meaning the water forms part of the operation boundary).</p>
2	<p>Do you have unpaved farm roads used by farm vehicles (does not include unpaved county roads or other unpaved public roads) or other unpaved areas such as feedlots or material handling areas that frequently result in significant dust generation, reducing visibility along the road or over the unpaved area for extended periods?</p> <p>If yes, check any of the following methods you regularly use to control dust.</p> <p>Regularly spraying water to reduce the dust</p> <p>Apply biodegradable oils to reduce the dust</p> <p>Gravel surfacing</p> <p>Apply other environmentally benign dust control chemicals</p> <p>None of the above</p>		<p>Generally will not apply in Wisconsin. This question is intended for private farm roads that are owned by the applicant. It does include county, township or other publicly owned roads that are not the responsibility of the applicant. Typically applies to large scale agricultural operations that involve frequent travel over unpaved roads during dry conditions. Most farm roads would not generate excess dust except for short durations during harvesting and/or planting operations. Answer "yes" if you have an operation that generates significant amounts of dust for extended periods (more than 6 hours/day for at least 90 days/year).</p>
3	<p>Identify each energy conservation reduction method used on your farm:</p>		<p>Count only methods used for the farm operation (barn, milkhouse, shop, farm equipment), not the dwelling or vehicles for personal use.</p>

<p>Have you replaced electric motors or engines on your farm with high efficiency models in the last 3 years? A “yes” answer considers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motors should be labeled as "premium", which means they are more efficient than the current DOE standard. • Considers only electric motors that are used for major activities on the farm such as pumps to move water or waste, ventilation fans, etc. • Refer to the ANSI/ASABE S612 Performing On-Farm Energy Audits for a list of “major activities”. 		<p>NEMA (National Electrical Manufacturers Association) efficiency rating and "premium" label is traditionally stamped on the motor. Major activities associated with agricultural production which utilize significant amounts of energy including ventilation, refrigeration, pumps for water or waste, milk harvesting, heating, cooling, drying, irrigation. If the NEMA trademark is not present, single phase motors with an efficiency ratings of 82 or above; and for all other motors an efficiency rating 84 or above, as certified by the manufacture, shall be considered to be "premium".</p>
<p>Do you use alternative energy sources (solar, wind, biofuels, green energy) to replace fossil fuel energy uses on your farm? A “yes” answer considers the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind or solar powered pumps • Solar powered electric fencing • Any biofuel blend 		<p>Includes wind or solar powered pumps, solar powered electric fencing, solar panels, wind turbines, biofuel blends exceeding E10, any biodiesel, purchase of green energy from a utility provider.</p>
<p>Have you improved the efficiency of heating, cooling or drying operations on your farm in the last 3 years? A “yes” answer considers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation is conducted on how energy efficient a particular grain drying system is rather than a comparison of one system versus another. • Refer to the decision tree to determine if an applicant has an energy efficient grain drying system. 		<p>Efficient systems generally use an in-bin cooling system, dry-aeration or heat recovery unit. Refer to the <i>"Grain Dryer Efficiency Decision Tree"</i> (available from NRCS) to determine if an energy efficient grain drying system.</p>
<p>Have you conducted an energy audit on your farm and are now implementing the energy audit actions? A “yes” answer considers the energy audit complies with ANSI/ASABE S612 Performing On-Farm Energy Audits.</p>		<p>Energy audits should comply with ANSI/ASABA S612: <i>"Performing On-Farm Energy Audits"</i>. Need to be able to provide documentation, if requested. Must have been completed by "Focus on Energy" or other recognized professional. Need to be implementing at least one recommendation from the report.</p>

Have you performed a pumping plant evaluation during the last 3 years and implemented the recommendations? A “yes” answer considers the following:
High efficiency pumping plants installed within last 3 years or recognized through pumping plant evaluation, include those using solar or other renewable energy sources. Pumping plants should include:

- a Tier III or Tier IV diesel motor,
- using a variable frequency drive and/or
- have had a pumping plant evaluation and implemented its recommendations in the last 3 years.

A pumping plant evaluation must have been completed with implementation of its recommendations within the last 3 years. Includes pumping plants for irrigation and livestock watering.

Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) Inventory Questions FY 2014-1

Applicant _____

Date _____

For Cropland and/or Pastureland applications answer the Ag Land General Inventory questions below with a Yes or No in the Response Box. Applicant should be prepared to provide documentation/records to support answers.

Question #	AG LAND – Water Bodies/Water Courses	Response (Yes/No)	WI Guidance
1	Do you have any WATER BODIES (lakes, ponds or wetlands) on or adjacent to your property? Wetlands farmed under natural conditions or farmed wetlands do not fit under this category.		If answered "no", then none of the remaining questions apply and are not required to be answered. Water bodies and water course are separated and evaluated using different questions in the CMT; be careful not to lump them together.
2	Consider all the lakes/ponds/wetlands on your property. What percentage of the total boundary of these areas has at least a 33-foot wide zone of diverse vegetation that is native to the site or introduced species that have become naturalized between the edge of the waterbody and adjacent land? This could be an established filter strip or other riparian buffer. a) less than 25% b) 25% to 50% c) 51% to 75% d) more than 75%		Count Reed Canarygrass, because it provides an effective filter.
3	Does upland runoff (surface or groundwater) empty directly—without filtration through a vegetated buffer—into any of the lakes/ponds/wetlands on your property?		Do not count subsurface drain tile. Do count PTO underground outlets or sinkholes that outlet to perennial water on or immediately adjacent to the operation. Count any non-cropped, vegetated area between the waterbody and the cropland (does not have to meet NRCS design criteria for a buffer).
4	Do you have any WATER COURSES (ditches, sinkholes, intermittent or perennial streams, or rivers) on or adjacent to your property?		Water bodies and water course are separated and evaluated using different questions in the CMT, be careful not to lump them together. Water has a conveyance off of the farm whether through surface water or groundwater. Includes tile intakes/underground outlets that discharge to sinkholes and/or ditches adjacent to the property.
5	Do you pump (directly or indirectly) or divert water from a river or stream? If "Yes", select appropriate choice below.		

	a) Water withdrawal completely dewater stream habitat.		
	b) Water withdrawal diminishes streamflow; diversions or pumps are unscreened (for aquatic animals).		
	c) Water withdrawal diminishes streamflow; diversions or pumps are screened (for aquatic animals).		
	d) None of the above		
6	Do you have instream structures on your property, such as diversion dams, road crossings (bridges or culverts), low-water crossings, and pumping stations. If "YES", select appropriate choice below.		Must be on the property. Public roads do not count.
	a) Structure blocks aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream during all or part of the year.		
	b) Structure could block aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream part or all of the year.		
	c) Structure does not block aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream at any time of the year.		
7	Considering all water courses on your property, select the choice that best describes 90% of their total length. These areas could be established filter strips or other riparian buffers.		
	a) The water course has little or no vegetated riparian area. Agricultural activities take place adjacent to the streambank within the state specified minimum distance for a water quality buffer.		
	b) The water course is well vegetated. The width of the vegetation meets state minimum buffer width for water quality protection.		
	c) The water course is well vegetated. The width exceeds state minimum buffer width for water quality protection AND is at least 33 feet wide or 2.5 times as wide as the stream channel (up to a maximum of 100' for large streams).		

8	<p>Consider all water courses on your property and select the choice below which best describes your situation. Select the condition that best describes the species composition for 90% of the total length of the water courses on your property.</p>		
	<p>a) Existing vegetation is dominated by a single species and is primarily non-native and may include invasive species.</p>		
	<p>b) Existing vegetation is diverse and is primarily non-native to the site. Invasive species are not present.</p>		
	<p>c) Existing vegetation is diverse and is predominately native to the site.</p>		
9	<p>Do you maintain a minimum setback of 33 feet or greater when applying manure or pesticides from all intermittent streams/ditches, perennial streams, ponds/lakes, surface water inlets and open sink holes? Spot spraying within the setback is permitted according to the pesticide label.</p>		<p>Does not include grassed waterways. Must maintain a setback when applying both manure and pesticides. Cranberry producers would likely have to answer "no" to this question.</p>

Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) Pastureland Operation Data FY 2014-1

Applicant _____

Date _____

Question #	PASTURELAND OPERATION DATA	Response	WI Guidance
	Selected pastureland amounts		Responses to the questions below may potentially be required; dependent upon the activities (i.e. enhancements/practices) selected for inclusion in the application/contract.
	Linear feet of existing field borders		
	Linear feet of existing filter strips and riparian herbaceous cover buffers (count both sides if controlled)		
	Linear feet of existing riparian forest buffer(s) (count both sides if controlled)		
	Number of existing water facilities (do not include facilities on "other lands")		
	Linear feet of ALL existing permanent fence on the land use		
	Number of existing pumping plants		
	Number of single speed electric motors (do not include headquarters or CAFOs)		
	Acres of existing windbreaks or shelterbelts		
	Irrigated acres		
	Acres of pasture <u>WITHOUT</u> a mixed stand of native grasses and/or legumes		
	Acres of soil that were once prairie (reference soil survey)		
	Acres in an organic system		
	Acres in a transition to organic system		
	Acres of a pilot project that meet the State defined criteria		
	Acres of a research and demonstration project that meet the State defined criteria		
	Acres of critical area planting needed to address a resource concern		
	Linear feet of fence needed to address a resource concern		
	Linear feet of windbreak/shelterbelt establishment needed to address a resource		
	Acres of fuelbreak needed to address a resource concern		
	Acres of riparian herbaceous cover needed to address a resource concern		

Acres of forest riparian buffer needed to address a resource concern		
Linear feet of firebreak needed to address a resource concern		
Number of watering facilities needed to address a resource concern		

Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) Inventory Questions FY 2014-1

Applicant _____

Date _____

For Pastureland applications answer the Pastureland - Existing Activity Conservation Performance questions below. Applicant should be prepared to provide documentation/records to support answers.

Question #	PASTURELAND - Existing Activity Conservation Performance	Pasture Mixture 1	Pasture Mixture 2	Pasture Mixture 3	Pasture Mixture 4	Pasture Mixture 5	WI Guidance
	Identify (list) the pasture mixture type(s) in the boxes to the right.						If your operation includes multiple pastureland species mixes (example: Pastureland Mixture 1 = bluegrass; Pastureland Mixture 2 = alfalfa/brome) identify (list) the pasture mixture in the boxes to the left and answer the CMT questions below separately for each different pastureland mix. A maximum of different 5 pasture species mixes can be listed. Pastures with similar species mixes should be grouped together. Account for all pasture acreage. If more than 1 pasture mix is present on your operation - label on a map to identify the location of the different pasture mix types.
1	Do you have an adequate grazing and roughage supply to meet forage demands of livestock and wildlife? Grass and hay for livestock and purchased hay are included in this answer. This includes where wildlife regularly consume forage in pastures.						
2	SELECT ONE (a-c) Grazing Management level BELOW						

	a) Forages are grazed below established minimum grazing heights.						Use this category for overgrazed pastures where forage heights are below the minimum thresholds: 2" for bluegrass; 3" for cool season grasses/legumes; 6" for warm season grasses.
	b) Forages are grazed at or above established minimum grazing heights. Spot grazing occurs on 50% or more of the acres.						Use this category where an adequate forage-animal balance exists. Although there is enough forage to support the animals, grazing in patches or spots occur on more than 50% of the pasture resulting in uneven forage heights. Spot-grazing often occurs when livestock density or number in a pasture is too low or the pasture contains areas of unpalatable forage species.
	c) Forages are grazed at or above established minimum grazing heights. Spot grazing occurs on less than 50% of the acres.						Use this category where an adequate forage-animal balance exists and the pasture is uniformly grazed on most areas.
3	From the STATE populated look up table and the choices below (a-d), select the one that best describes the mix of plants growing in your pasture. Note: functional group means warm season, cool season, forbs, legumes, annual, etc. From the State populated look up table-Select 'Species Info' button to view lists.						Functional groups are cool season, warm season, legumes, and forbs. Refer to the CMT Guide to determine the functional group (cool season, warm season, legume, forb) for the species. The species in the mix do not need to be identified on the chart.
	a) One dominant perennial forage species.						Dominant means the majority of observed cover.
	b) Two or more dominant forage species all from one functional group.						
	c) Two or more dominant forage species representing two functional groups.						

	d) Three or more dominant forage species representing at least two functional groups with at least one being a legume.						
4	From the STATE populated look up table and the choices below (a-d), select the one that best describes the mix of plants growing in your pasture. From the State populated look up table-Select 'Species Info' button to view lists.						Refer to the table in the CMT Guide document.
	a) Pasture vegetation is composed of species from List B.						If no species from list A are present, choose answer a or b.
	b) Pasture vegetation is predominantly species from List B but one or more species from List A makes up at least 30% of the stand.						
	c) Pasture vegetation is composed of 1 or 2 species from List A that make up at least 60% of the stand.						
	d) Pasture vegetation is composed of 3 or more species from List A that make up at least 60% of the stand.						
5	Do you have any areas such as field borders, filter strips, buffers, odd areas, windbreaks, wetlands, brushy draws, hedgerows, seeps, shallow water areas, riparian areas, center pivot corners, CRP land, or other similar areas that provide wildlife habitat within or adjacent to your pasture? You must own or control these areas.						

5.1	From the choices below (a-d) select the answer that best describes the plants growing on these areas within or adjacent to the pasture.						Refer to Wisconsin Agronomy Technical Notes 5 or 6 and Conservation Standard 645 (Upland Wildlife Habitat Management) to identify species with high wildlife value. Use an average for the fields, or base your answer on a representative field.
	a) Less than 33% of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provide food and cover for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects.						For example: monocultures of Reed Canarygrass, Smooth Bromegrass, Invasive Species, etc.
	b) 33 – 66% of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provide food and cover for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects.						
	c) More than 67% of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provide food and cover for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects.						
5.2	From the choices below select the answer that best describes the AMOUNT of suitable wildlife habitat within or adjacent to the pasture.						Example: 2 acres suitable habitat adjacent to 20 acre pasture. $2/20 = 10\%$ "Suitable Habitat" is any mix identified as 5.1 b, c, or d above.
	a) Habitat less than 1% of the pasture.						
	b) Habitat is between 1% and 5% of the pasture.						
	c) Habitat is between 6% and 10% of the pasture.						
	d) Habitat more than 10% of the pasture.						
5.3	From the choices below (a-d) select the answer that best describes the WIDTH of wildlife habitat within or adjacent to the pasture (must be at least 0.1 acre or more)						
	a) less than 30 feet wide						

	b) 30 to 75 feet wide						
	c) 76 to 120 feet wide						
	d) more than 120 feet wide						
5.4	How far is the wildlife habitat from the center of the pasture?						
	a) Average distance from the center of the pasture to the habitat is more than 1320 feet						
	b) Average distance from the center of the pasture to the habitat is 660 to 1320 feet						
	c) Average distance from the center of the pasture to the habitat is 330 to 659 feet						
	d) Average distance from the center of the pasture to the habitat is less than 330 feet						
Water Bodies, Erosion, & Runoff Information							
6	Do you manage access roads, stock trails and other critical areas to limit surface water runoff and control accelerated soil erosion? Gully erosion is stabilized.						
7	Are livestock concentration areas such as feeding, watering and mineral areas located away from water bodies or have buffers to protect the water bodies from unfiltered runoff? If there are no water bodies or water courses on or adjacent to your pastureland, select Yes.						
Pest Management Information							
8	Do you apply any pesticides on your pastureland acres? A "No" answer for a forage management system acres does not generate a negative response for that same rotation.						Includes insecticides (organic or chemical), herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, or other pesticides. Organic farms using botanicals would check "yes".
8.1	Select the choice that best describes how you manage pests on your pastureland acres.						

	a) Pesticides are applied to all forage management system acres <u>without</u> utilizing any pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, or suppression (PAMS) strategies.			Check if not using any components listed in "b".
	b) Pesticides are applied to <u>some</u> forage management system acres using a site-specific combination of <u>each</u> pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies, OR pesticides are applied to <u>all</u> forage management system acres using <u>only</u> one, two or three of the four PAMS strategies.			Most pastures will meet this criteria. IPM includes a wide array of grazing management and site specific prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression management techniques. Prevention - Preventing pest populations (e.g., using pest-free seeds and sprigs, feeding hay without any noxious weed seeds, and scheduling irrigation to avoid situations conducive to disease development, etc.). Avoidance - Avoiding pest impacts (e.g., using pest-resistant varieties, select non-invasive forage species, etc.). Monitoring - Identifying the extent of pest populations and/or the probability of future populations (e.g., pest scouting, soil testing, weather forecasting, etc.). Suppression - Suppressing a pest population or its impacts using cultural, biological, or chemical pest controls. Example: Cultural - Monitoring forage stand density and canopy cover and enhancing it as needed to suppress weed entry.
	c) Pesticides are applied to all forage management system acres utilizing a site-specific combination of each pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies.			Must meet requirements in "b" and should have documentation that economic threshold levels are being considered/utilized. An economic threshold is the number of pests (weeds, insects, diseases, etc.) per some unit (square foot, acre, plant, etc.) that, if left uncontrolled, will soon increase to levels high enough to cause economic injury that is equal to the cost of suppression. Pest management environmental risk is reduced by applying mitigation techniques. Mitigation techniques include both IPM management techniques, such as timing pesticide application to avoid heavy rainfall. Appropriate mitigation techniques may be selected based on environmental risk evaluation with tools like the NRCS Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST).
8.2	Do you use an environmental risk screening tool (such as WIN-PST or similar approved tool) to reduce pesticide risk to soil and water resources?			Should have documentation that an evaluation has been completed.

Nutrient Management Information

9	Do you apply organic or inorganic nutrients on your pastureland acres? This includes irrigation water, biosolids, organic by-products, and commercial fertilizers. A "No" answer for a forage management system does not generate a negative response for that same rotation.			Includes all sources of nutrients that are mechanically applied. If a CCA written 590 Nutrient Management Plan is available for ALL of the offered acres AND there is documentation of implementation you can "presume" that nutrients are being applied to crop need and over application is not occurring. With a 590 plan in effect the following ranking questions are likely to score the maximum available points. Note as necessary the specific reason when full points were not awarded.
9.1	Do you apply nutrients from organic sources?			If the producer only applies inorganic fertilizer answer "no". Should have sufficient records such as soil tests, crop yield records, lab analysis of organic nutrient source NPK content, and nutrient application records available upon request. This question is specific to organic soil amendments and not inorganic fertilizer. It is scored based only on the addition of organic soil amendments where utilized.

9.1.1	Are the organic sources analyzed to determine nutrient content, and heavy metal content, if sewage waste/sludge is a source?			Answer "yes" if the organic amendments are analyzed by a lab, otherwise answer "no". Principal organic products used in WI include manure, municipal biosolids (sewage sludge), leachate and whey. Other organic amendments include: compost, sawdust, wood chips, paper mill sludge, leaves, grass clippings, peat moss. Crop residue is not considered an amendment unless harvested and transported to another field. content.
9.1.1a	Consider the primary nutrient (i.e., N, P or K) contained in the organic source in the <u>LEAST</u> quantity, select the answer that best matches the forage management system on your operation.			Utilize UW Fast Facts, UW-Extension Publication A2809, or other recognized reference to determine crop nutrient need. The primary nutrient in most organic sources which is available in the LEAST quantity per ton applied is Nitrogen.
	a) The organic source applied <u>exceeds</u> this nutrient need on <u>all</u> the forages.			Applies to N,P,K. N crop need is calculated on an annual basis, P and K crop need would be calculated over the crop rotation. Nutrient application for N,P,K exceeds the crop need for ALL crops in the rotation.

	b) The organic source applied <u>exceeds</u> this nutrient need on <u>some</u> of the forages.			Applies to N,P,K. N crop need is calculated on an annual basis, P and K crop need would be calculated over the crop rotation. Nutrient application for N,P,K exceeds the crop need for SOME crops in the rotation.
	c) The organic source applied <u>meets</u> this nutrient needs on <u>some</u> of the forages.			Nutrients will need to be supplemented with another source. NO nutrient application will exceed crop need.
	d) The organic source applied <u>meets</u> this nutrient need on <u>all</u> of the forages.			The proper rate, amount, timing and placement for N (annual basis) and P/K (rotational basis) is achieved for all crops over the rotation.
9.1.1b	Consider the primary nutrient (i.e., N, P or K) contained in the organic source in the <u>GREATEST</u> quantity, select the answer that best matches the forage management system on your operation.			Utilize UW Fast Facts, UW-Extension Publication A2809, or other recognized reference to determine crop nutrient need. The primary nutrient in most organic sources which is available in the <u>GREATEST</u> quantity per ton applied is Potassium (K).
	a) The organic source applied <u>exceeds</u> this nutrient need on <u>all</u> the forages.			Applies to N,P,K. N crop need is calculated on an annual basis, P and K crop need would be calculated over the crop rotation. Nutrient application for N,P,K exceeds the crop need for ALL crops in the rotation.

	b) The organic source applied <u>exceeds</u> this nutrient need on <u>some</u> of the forages.			Applies to N,P,K. N crop need is calculated on an annual basis, P and K crop need would be calculated over the crop rotation. Nutrient application for N,P,K exceeds the crop need for SOME crops in the rotation
	c) The organic source applied <u>meets</u> this nutrient needs on <u>some</u> of the forages.			Nutrients will need to be supplemented with another source. NO nutrient application will exceed crop need.
	d) The organic source applied <u>meets</u> this nutrient need on <u>all</u> of the forages.			The proper rate, amount, timing and placement for N (annual basis) and P/K (rotational basis) is achieved for all crops over the rotation.
9.2	Do you soil test <u>ALL</u> forage management system fields following local land grant university guidance (e.g., annually, every 3 years, every 4 years, etc)?			This question gives credit for producers who soil test and/or conduct tissue analysis. Should be able to document soil tests on all cropland acres. UW soil testing requirement is to soil sample a minimum of every 4 years (minimum 1 sample per 5 acres; unless the field was tested within the past 4 years and soil test levels fell in the non-responsive range; per UW Publication A2809 Table 2.1). If soil testing is not performed to UW recommendations, then answer "no".

9.2.1	Consider the primary nutrient (i.e., N, P or K) needed the <u>MOST</u> for the forage management system according to the soil test results, select the answer that best matches the forage management system on your operation. The response should consider established yield records or state derived realistic yields in excess of the guidance/recommendations.			Nitrogen (N) is the primary nutrient for corn and other non-legume crops. Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) are the primary nutrient for legume/vegetables crops. For forage crops (ex. Alfalfa, red clover, hairy vetch, birdsfoot trefoil, and other legumes), K is the primary nutrient. If documentation is not provided/available answer "a".
	a) The nutrient application rate applied <u>exceeds</u> the soil test recommendation on <u>all</u> the forages.			Applies to all primary nutrients, specifically to N on yearly basis that exceeds crop needs; and P and K over the rotation exceeds the crop needs.
	b) The nutrient application rate applied <u>exceeds</u> the soil test recommendation on <u>some</u> of the forages.			Applies to all primary nutrients, specifically to N on yearly basis that exceeds crop needs; and P and K over the rotation exceeds the crop needs.
	c) The nutrient application rate applied <u>meets</u> the soil test recommendation on <u>some</u> of the forages.			Applies to all primary nutrients, specifically to N on yearly basis that exceeds crop needs; and P and K over the rotation exceeds the crop needs.
	d) The nutrient application rate applied <u>meets</u> the soil test recommendation on <u>all</u> of the forages.			The proper rate, amount, timing and placement is achieved for rotation.

9.2.2	Consider the primary nutrient (i.e., N, P or K) needed the <u>LEAST</u> for the forage management system according to the soil test results, select the answer that best matches the forage management system on your operation. The response should consider established yield records or state derived realistic yields in excess of the guidance/recommendations.			This question correlates the primary nutrient rate applied to the primary nutrient amount listed by the soil test results to be in the largest supply thus garnering the smallest need by the crop.
	a) The nutrient application rate applied <u>exceeds</u> the soil test recommendation on <u>all</u> the forages.			Applies to all primary nutrients, specifically to N on yearly basis that exceeds crop needs; and P and K over the rotation exceeds the crop needs
	b) The nutrient application rate applied <u>exceeds</u> the soil test recommendation on <u>some</u> of the forages.			Applies to all primary nutrients, specifically to N on yearly basis that exceeds crop needs; and P and K over the rotation exceeds the crop needs
	c) The nutrient application rate applied <u>meets</u> the soil test recommendation on <u>some</u> of the forages.			Applies to all primary nutrients, specifically to N on yearly basis that exceeds crop needs; and P and K over the rotation exceeds the crop needs
	d) The nutrient application rate applied <u>meets</u> the soil test recommendation on <u>all</u> of the forages.			The proper rate, amount, timing and placement is achieved for rotation.
9.3	Consider nutrients bound (i.e., residual nutrients) in manure, supplemental feed, organic matter or irrigation water, select the answer that best matches the forage management system on your operation.			Use UW Fast Facts or A2809 to determine appropriate nutrient credits. Mineralization of nutrients from organic matter and crop residue is factored into the UW recommendations for nutrient application.
	a) Nutrients are not credited from <u>any</u> source to <u>any</u> forage.			

	b) Nutrients are credited from <u>some</u> sources to <u>some</u> of the forages.			
	c) Nutrients are credited from <u>some</u> sources to <u>all</u> of the forages.			
	d) Nutrients are credited from <u>all</u> sources and to <u>all</u> forages.			
9.4	Select all that apply to your methods of application of fertilizer or manure.			
	a) inject manure or fertilizer at least 2 inches deep			eg: drag-hose or tanks with injectors
	b) precision agriculture techniques are used in the application of fertilizer and manure.			
	c) apply on 80% surface cover with at least the minimum grazing heights.			Minimum grazing heights: see 2a.
	d) none of the above			Used for making in-season N recs. For corn, wheat and potatoes.
9.5	From choices below (a-b), select the answer that best describes when you apply the majority of nutrients.			The intent of the question refers to how nitrogen application is managed for pastures.
	a) Most of the fertilizer or manure is applied at the beginning of the growing season as a top-dress.			
	b) Most of the fertilizer or manure is split applied; usually an initial application of 50% or less at the start of the growing season and then applied as needed after one or more grazing events during the year except following the last one of the growing season.			
Salinity, Sodicity, and Irrigation Management				
10	Do you have any salinity or sodicity (alkaline soils or seeps) concerns on your pastureland? If "YES," answer Questions 10.1 – 10.2.			This should be answered "no" for Wisconsin. This question applies only on soils that have potential problems with salinity or sodicity. Answering "no", does not penalize the applicant.

10.1	Consider methods to minimize subsurface water flow to saline seep areas, do you grow high water use forages or salt tolerant forages?			
10.2	Do you manage nutrient application (type and rate) based on yield effects due to salinity?			
11	Do you irrigate pastureland? If "YES," answer Questions 11.1 - 11.5. NOTE: a "YES" answer includes wastewater application from on farm waste storage facilities.			
11.1	Have you implemented an irrigation water management plan?			
11.2	Do you measure and record the amount of water you use to irrigate?			Should be able to provide records for irrigation scheduling including dates, timing, rate of application, and total applied.
11.3	Do you schedule your irrigations and the amount applied based on the monitoring of soil moisture and/or forage evapotranspiration?			Using the WI Irrigation Scheduler or similar program. Could include installation of tensiometers, TDT sensors, TDR probes, etc.
11.4	Has your irrigation system distribution uniformity been evaluated, and necessary changes made based on the test results?			For example, utilizing rain gauges or cans to test uniformity of distribution.
11.5	Do you irrigate areas where you have salinity concerns or that contribute (or may contribute) subsurface water flow to saline seeps. If "YES" answer 11.5.1			
11.5.1	Do you manage irrigations based on your forage tolerance, and salinity levels in your soil and irrigation water?			

Conservation Stewardship Program (201)

Conservation Activity List (Pastureland)



Name _____

Date _____

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages agricultural producers to improve conservation systems by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. Conservation activities include enhancements and conservation practices.

Enhancements – Conservation activities selected by producers that are used to treat natural resources and improve conservation performance.

Bundles – Are specific enhancements whose installation as a group produce a synergy of conservation performance improvement and addresses resource concerns in a more comprehensive manner. Enhancement bundles are made up of five enhancements from this list.

Practices – Conservation practices are used in CSP for the purpose of encouraging producers to meet additional stewardship thresholds. During the application process, an applicant may identify resource concern stewardship thresholds by land use are not meeting with existing activities, and agree to meet them by installing new conservation practices. The new conservation practices that need to be installed will be indentified by NRCS during the application process. During on-site field verification for approved applicants, NRCS will determine the required practices using the conservation planning process.

Activities that interest you	NRCS Code	Eligible Land Use	Enhancement Name	Enhancement Description (See Job Sheet criteria for requirement details)
	AIR04	Pasture	Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift	Use drift reduction technologies to reduce the drift of agricultural chemicals away from the intended target when spraying.
	AIR07	Pasture	GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology	Utilize electronically-controlled or managed chemical spray application technology to more precisely apply agricultural pesticides to their intended targets.

	AIR08	Pasture	Nitrification inhibitors or urease inhibitors	The use of an ammonia or ammonium fertilizers with a substance that inhibits the biological oxidations of ammoniacal nitrogen to nitrate nitrogen or the use of surface applied urea products with a substance that inhibits hydrolytic action on urea by urease enzyme that when applied to soils results in less urea nitrogen lost by ammonia volatilization (AAPFCO). This enhancement is only applicable to nitrogen applied within 30 days of planting. This does not apply to “pop-up” or starter nitrogen sources applied at planting time.
	ANM03	Pasture	Incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15% or more of herbage dry matter productivity	Improve pasture by increasing native grasses and/or legumes to 15% of herbage dry matter (productivity by weight) using adapted species and varieties, appropriate seeding rates, and timing of seeding. Pastures containing about 15% native grasses and/or legumes by weight dry matter are approximately equal to 30% foliar cover.
	ANM05	Pasture	Extending riparian forest buffers for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Where existing riparian forest buffers (i.e., buffers) are utilized, extend them to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow, reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals, and for wildlife habitat.
	ANM07	Pasture	Extending existing field borders for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Where existing field borders are utilized, extend them to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals, and for wildlife habitat.
	ANM09	Pasture	Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat	Implement a grazing management plan that allows for rest periods to provide adequate residue for nesting and fawning cover and increase diversity of vegetation structure to benefit a variety of wildlife species.

	ANM11	Pasture	Patch-burning to enhance wildlife habitat	Use prescribed burning with livestock grazing to create patches of different vegetation structure and species composition for the benefit of wildlife.
	ANM12	Pasture	Shallow water habitat	Construct or renovate small, shallow sites to impound or hold water seasonally, typically from late winter through early summer (e.g., vernal pools).
	ANM17	Pasture	Monitoring nutritional status of livestock using the NUTBAL PRO system	Use of the NUTBAL PRO software to determine if current diet is sufficient to meet livestock nutritional needs. This requires the collection and laboratory analysis of forage or fecal samples to determine the nutritional value of grazing forages.
	ANM21	Pasture	Prairie restoration for grazing and wildlife habitat	This activity consists of restoring/renovating prairie habitat by establishing native vegetation and managing the restored plant community.
	ANM23	Pasture	Multi-species native perennials for biomass/wildlife habitat	This enhancement consists of establishing native perennial vegetation for biomass production and wildlife habitat.
	ANM25	Pasture	Stockpiling of forages to extend the grazing season	Livestock are excluded from forages on specified acres during the growth season. The "stockpiled" forages are grazed at a later time using strip grazing to allow animals to utilize the forage within a strip for a specified period of time.
	ANM26	Pasture	Managing calving to coincide with forage availability	This enhancement uses a controlled breeding season to match livestock nutrient requirements to available pasture forage and reduce supplemental feeding. This enhancement is applicable to all grazing livestock.

	ANM27	Pasture	Wildlife friendly fencing	This enhancement involves the use of wildlife friendly fencing techniques that allow free passage of daily wildlife movement and seasonal migration; and/or increase visibility to prevent entanglement and mortality. Selection of this enhancement requires the activity to be planned concurrently on all eligible land use acres.
	ANM29	Pasture	On-farm forage based grazing system	A forage based grazing system that supplies all roughage (forage and supplemental hay) requirements for a livestock operation.
	ANM32	Pasture	Extend existing filter strips or riparian herbaceous cover for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Where existing filter strips or riparian herbaceous covers (i.e., buffers) are utilized, extend them to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals, and for wildlife habitat.
	ANM33	Pasture	Riparian buffer, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat	This activity consists of managing riparian zones by utilizing select conservation measures (such as re-locating equipment operations, trails, or livestock; establishing diverse native vegetation and controlling invasive species; fencing; and extending the width of the riparian zone to enhance wildlife habitat adjacent to riparian zones of streams, ponds, lakes, or wetlands) to achieve stream side cover and vegetative diversity and structure to improve terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat.

	ANM37	Pasture	Prescriptive grazing management system for grazed lands (includes expired CRP grass/legume or tree covered acres converted to grazed lands)	Implement a prescriptive grazing management system for all grazed lands and for all eligible land uses in the operation. This includes expired CRP grass/legume or tree covered acres that are now converted to a grazing system. Selection of this enhancement requires the activity to be planned concurrently on all eligible land use acres.
	ANM38	Pasture	Retrofit watering facility for wildlife escape and enhanced access for bats and bird species	Retrofit all existing watering facilities (troughs, tanks, etc.) to allow for the escape of wildlife that become trapped while trying to drink and to remove obstructions above the watering facility such as boards and wires. Selection of this enhancement requires the activity to be planned concurrently on all eligible land use acres.
	ENR09	Pasture	Variable frequency drive electric motors	This enhancement activity is for upgrading of existing single speed electric motors through the addition of variable frequency electric drives. A motor replacement may also be included in some cases. The primary use of this enhancement is for irrigation water pumping. This enhancement is not intended for farmstead or animal housing applications.
	ENR10	Pasture	Using nitrogen provided by legumes, animal manure and compost to supply 90 to 100% of the nitrogen needs	This enhancement involves using nitrogen (N) produced by legumes and/or available animal manure and compost to supply 90 to 100% of N nutrient needs for crops, hay and/or forages produced on the farm.
	ENR11	Pasture	Improving energy feedstock production using alley cropping systems with short rotation woody crops	This enhancement involves the use of short rotation woody plants that produce energy feedstock planted in multiple rows with crops or forages produced in the alleyways between the woody rows.

	PLT02	Pasture	Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management	Adjust grazing management based on monitoring data. Monitor key grazing areas to determine if current grazing management is meeting management goals and objectives. A key grazing area is a small area of a grazed field that is identified as being representative of the entire field.
	PLT06	Pasture	Renovation of a windbreak, shelter belt or hedgerow for wildlife habitat	This enhancement is for the renovation of existing sites that are declining in vigor, need additional woody plants (trees or shrubs) or otherwise no longer provide wildlife habitat benefits. Existing rows of woody plants may be thinned, removed or replaced with new plantings. Existing woody plants may be pruned, either branches or roots or both, to improve windbreak function, health and vigor.
	PLT15	Pasture	Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat	Seed or plug nectar and pollen producing plants in non-cropped areas such as field borders, vegetative barriers, contour buffer strips, waterways, shelterbelts, hedgerows, windbreaks, conservation cover, and riparian forest and herbaceous buffers.

	PLT16	Pasture	Intensive rotational grazing	<p>This enhancement is for the harvest efficiency of grazing livestock to increase forage harvest, and to improve forage quality and livestock health. The grazing system is managed to produce high quality, nutritious forage and maintain plants with sufficient energy reserves to recover quickly when adequate soil moisture is available for regrowth. Generally, livestock are rotated through pastures in the grazing system based on the physiological growth and nutritional stage of the forage plants and the daily dry matter intake and nutritional requirements of the animal. This enhancement is for: rotational grazing systems with increased numbers of pastures or paddocks, the accompanying required infrastructure, shorter grazing periods, and increased stock density. Selection of this enhancement requires the activity to be planned concurrently on all eligible land use acres.</p>
	PLT18	Pasture	Increasing on-farm food production with edible woody buffer landscapes	<p>This enhancement is for the enhancing of windbreaks, alley cropping, silvopasture, or riparian forest buffer systems with trees and shrubs that produce edible products for human or wildlife consumption.</p>
	WQL01	Pasture	Biological suppression and other non-chemical techniques to manage brush, herbaceous weeds and invasive species	<p>This enhancement is for the reduction of woody brush, herbaceous weeds and invasive plants using non-chemical methods. Physical methods include pulling, hoeing, mowing, mulching or other similar techniques. Biological methods include use of natural enemies either introduced or augmented. Use of chemicals is prohibited with this enhancement.</p>

	WQL03	Pasture	Rotation of supplement and feeding areas	The proper location and regular movement of livestock concentration areas such as feeding areas and mineral blocks in a manner that will improve livestock distribution, reduce localized areas of disturbances and reduce impacts on water bodies.
	WQL07	Pasture	Split nitrogen applications, 50% after the crop emergence or pasture green up	Apply no more than 50% of total crop nitrogen needs within 30 days prior to planting or in the case of pasture or hay after green up of the dormant grasses. Apply the remaining 50% or more of the total nitrogen needs after crop emergence or pasture green up.
	WQL11	Pasture	Precision application technology to apply nutrients	The use of precision agriculture technologies to apply nutrients to fit variations in site-specific conditions found within fields.
	WQL13	Pasture	High level integrated pest management to reduce pesticide environmental risk	Utilize advanced Integrated Pest Management (IPM) prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression techniques, and only apply the lowest risk pesticides available (or if higher risk pesticides are used appropriate mitigation techniques are used to ameliorate the risk) in an environmentally sound manner when monitoring indicates that an economic pest threshold has been exceeded. Pesticide applications must follow all label requirements.
	WQL14	Pasture	Land application of treated manure	This enhancement is for the use of manure that has been treated to reduce both odors and pathogens prior to land application. Acceptable practices include controlled temperature anaerobic digestion (mesophilic or thermophilic), composting and chemical treatment. Waste treatment lagoons and injection of manure alone do not qualify as acceptable practices.

	WQL18	Pasture	Non- chemical pest management for livestock	The use of management, monitoring, and prevention techniques to manage external livestock pests without the use of pesticides.
	WQL19	Pasture	Transition to ORGANIC grazing systems	“Transition to Organic Grazing Systems” supports the conversion of a conventional to an organic livestock grazing system. Key to the enhancement activity is following ecological and pasture-based grazing requirements, applying materials according to the National List of Allowed Synthetic and Prohibited Natural Substances, and managing livestock according to National Organic Program (NOP) rules (Subpart C – Organic Production and Handling Requirements) for organic certification. This enhancement activity facilitates compliance with NOP rules for organic certification.
	WQL21	Pasture	Integrated pest management for ORGANIC farming	Managing pests on an organic farm, including farms transitioning to organic, with an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system that relies on high level prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression techniques that are based on an understanding of pest ecology. Organic IPM relies primarily on ecologically-based cultural and biological practices that result in healthy soil and habitat for beneficial organisms. Appropriate mitigation techniques are utilized to improve environmental risks from selected suppression techniques.

	WQL22	Pasture	On-farm composting of farm organic waste	This enhancement consists of composting organic waste generated from the agricultural operation(s) on-farm. This includes animal manures, livestock mortality (where state or local laws allow), and waste from on-farm processing of agricultural products (e.g., slaughter by-products or vegetable culls removed from the field during harvest). It does not include any hazardous household waste, any general hazardous waste products or bio-hazard waste products. Yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves can be included but are not required. Composted products must be used in compliance with all federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.
	WQL24	Pasture	Apply enhanced efficiency fertilizer products	At least 50% of the pre-emergent and early post emergent nitrogen fertilizer and/or phosphorus fertilizers used for crop production must include enhanced efficiency formulations.
	WQL26	Pasture	Reduce the concentration of nutrients imported on farm	Grow at least 75% of feed for livestock on the farm and use manure from the livestock to supplement up to 50% of N, 90% of P and 90% K for crops grown on the farm.
	WQT01	Pasture	Irrigation system automation	This enhancement entails using GPS guided variable rate irrigation or other innovative technologies that allow irrigation water application based on variable site conditions within a field.
	WQT03	Pasture	Irrigation pumping plant evaluation	This enhancement consists of the evaluation of the pumping plant performance and efficiency using the Nebraska Irrigation Pumping Plant Performance Criteria.

	WQT05	Pasture	Remote monitoring and notification of irrigation pumping plant operation	A system for monitoring the status of an irrigation pumping plant and notifying the operator by a wireless connection of a change in the operating status of the irrigation system.
	WQT07	Pasture	Regional weather networks for irrigation scheduling	Crop evapotranspiration (crop ET) information from a regional weather network is utilized as a part of the irrigation water management plan for irrigation scheduling. Water use is planned and adjustments in application rates and timing are made using the regional weather network data.
	WQT08	Pasture	Decrease irrigation water quantity or conversion to non-irrigated crop production	This enhancement consists of reducing the total quantity of irrigation water used to produce crops and forages or the conversion of land to non-irrigated production.
Activities that interest you	NRCS Code	Eligible Land Use	Bundle Name	Bundle Criteria
	BPA07	Pasture	Pasture Grazing Bundle # 7 (Improves forage utilization)	This bundle of enhancement activities includes: ANM25-Stockpiling of forages to extend the grazing season; ANM26-Managing calving to coincide with forage availability; ANM29-On-farm forage based grazing system; PLT16-Intensive rotational grazing; and WQL07-Split nitrogen applications 50% after the crops/pasture emerge/green-up.

	BPA09	Pasture	Pasture Grazing Bundle # 9 (Addresses multiple resource concerns)	This bundle of enhancement activities includes: AIR04-Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift; ANM03-Incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15% or more of herbage dry matter productivity; ANM27-Wildlife friendly fencing; PLT16-Intensive rotational grazing, and WQL07-Split nitrogen applications 50% after the crops/pasture emerge/green-up.
Activities that interest you	NRCS Code	Eligible Land Use	Practice Name	Practice Definition
	311	Pasture	Alley Cropping	Trees or shrubs are planted in sets of single or multiple rows with agronomic, horticultural crops or forages produced in the alleys between the sets of woody plants that produce additional products.
	314	Pasture	Brush Management	Removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants on rangeland, native or naturalized pasture, pasture, hayland and forest lands where removal or reduction of excessive woody (non-herbaceous) plants is desired.
	338	Pasture	Prescribed Burning	Controlled fire applied to a predetermined areas to maintain or enhance fire dependent ecologies.
	342	Pasture	Critical Area Planting	Establishment of permanent vegetation on sites that have or are expected to have high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.

	380	Pasture	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Windbreaks or shelterbelts are single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs in linear configurations to reduce surface wind speeds in order to control wind erosion, manage snow deposition, reduce the spread of odors, reduce pesticide spray drift and/or provide wildlife food and cover.
	382	Pasture	Fence	A constructed barrier to animals or people.
	383	Pasture	Fuelbreak	A strip or block of land on which the vegetation, debris and detritus have been reduced and/or modified to control or diminish the risk of the spread of fire crossing the strip or block of land.
	384	Pasture	Woody Residue Treatment	The treatment of residual woody material that is created due to management activities or natural disturbances.
	390	Pasture	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	Grasses, grass-like plants and forbs that are tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils and that are established or managed in the transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats to provide a buffer between agricultural areas and riparian areas and to enhance riparian zone functions.
	391	Pasture	Riparian Forest Buffer	An area predominantly trees and/or shrubs that are tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils and that are established or managed in the transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats to provide a buffer between agricultural areas and riparian areas and to enhance riparian zone functions.
	394	Pasture	Firebreak	A permanent or temporary strip of bare or vegetated land established to retard the movement of fire.

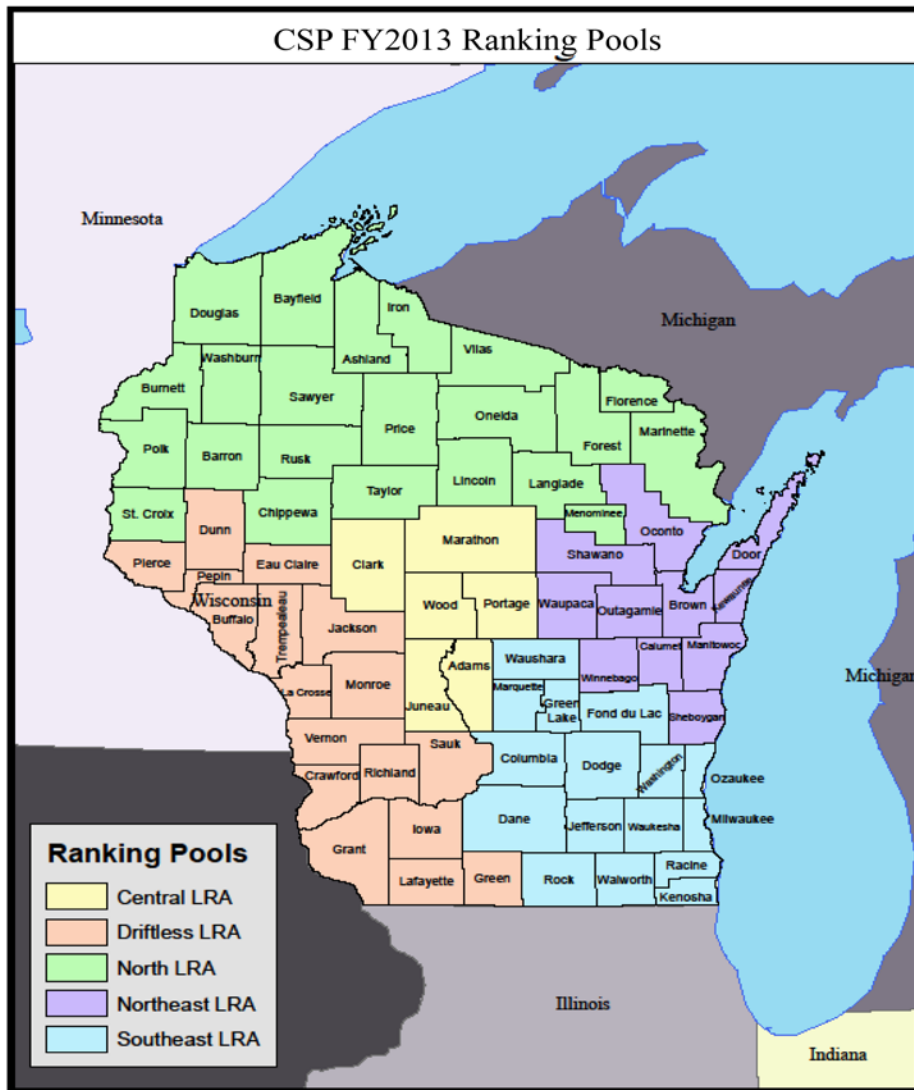
	395	Pasture	Stream Habitat Improve/Mgmt	Maintain, improve or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream, and its associated riparian zone, necessary for meeting the life history requirements of desired aquatic species.
	449	Pasture	Irrigation Water Management	The process of determining and controlling the volume, frequency and application rate of irrigation water in a planned, efficient manner.
	511	Pasture	Forage Harvest Management	The timely cutting and removal of forages from the field as hay, green-chop or ensilage.
	512	Pasture	Forage and Biomass Planting	Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.
	528	Pasture	Prescribed Grazing	Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals in order to enhance or maintain good forage production and provide wildfire food and cover.
	614	Pasture	Watering Facility	A permanent or portable device to provide an adequate amount and quality of drinking water for livestock and or wildlife.
	643	Pasture	Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats	Restoring and managing rare and declining habitats and their associated wildlife species to conserve biodiversity.
	644	Pasture	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Retaining, developing or managing wetland habitat for wetland wildlife.
	645	Pasture	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Provide and manage upland habitats and connectivity within the landscape for wildlife.
	647	Pasture	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	Manage early plant succession to benefit desired wildlife or natural communities by increasing plant community diversity.

	650	Pasture	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	Replacing, releasing and/or removing selected trees and shrubs or rows within an existing windbreak or shelterbelt, adding rows to the windbreak or shelterbelt or removing selected tree and shrub branches.
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For more information on each enhancement or bundle visit our website at <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/cstp.html> or contact your local NRCS office. NRCS practice standards are located in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (Section 4) which is available at http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?map.

CSP FY2014

WISCONSIN PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERNS								
	Soil Erosion	Soil Quality	Water Quantity	Water Quality	Air Quality	Plants	Animals	Energy
Agricultural Land								
North LRA	X			X		X		X
Central LRA	X			X		X		X
Northeast LRA	X			X		X		X
Driftless LRA	X			X		X		X
Southeast LRA	X			X		X		X
NIP Forest Land								
Statewide	X					X	X	X



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
On behalf of the
Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)

APPENDIX TO FORM NRCS-CPA-1202
CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONTRACT
For
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

1 PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A** The Participant must complete and file Form AD-1026 (Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification) or any successor form and meet the requirements set forth therein, in accordance with Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. By signing this Conservation Program Contract (Contract), the Participant certifies that the Participant has completed and filed the AD-1026 and meets the payment eligibility requirements set forth in the Highly Erodible Land Conservation-Wetland Conservation (HELC-WC) provisions at 7 CFR part 12.
- B** The Participant must meet the requirements of, complete and file Form CCC-931 (Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax information) or any successor form. By signing this Contract, the Participant certifies that the Participant has met the requirements of, completed and filed Form CCC-931. A person or legal entity shall not be eligible to receive any benefit during a crop, fiscal, or program year, as appropriate, if the person or legal entity does not meet the adjusted gross income limitations established by Section 1001D of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, and implemented through regulations at 7 CFR part 1400. The amount of any payment or benefit shall be reduced by an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect ownership interest in the entity of each person who has income in excess of the applicable limitation specified. This limitation may be waived on a case-by-case basis by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief as allowed by the authorizing legislation.
- C** The Participant must complete and file Form CCC-901 (Member's Information), or its equivalent, if the Participant represents a business classified as a legal entity or joint operation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under 7 CFR part 1400.
- D** At Least one Participant must be the operator of record in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm records management system for the agricultural operation being offered for enrollment in the program and have effective control of the land for this Contract period. By signing this Contract, the Participant certifies that the Participant has included in the Contract all eligible land and will control the land subject to this Contract for the term of this Contract and shall, upon request, provide evidence to Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) demonstrating that such Participant will control the land for that period. NRCS may grant exceptions to this "operator of record" requirement for producers, tenants and owners in the FSA farm records management system that demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that they will operate and have effective control of the land for the term of this contract.

Where applicable, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will consult with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to determine Tribal land eligibility.

- E** The Participant shall not be eligible for Contract payments for any of the following: (1) practices that the participant is required to implement to address non-compliance with the HELC and WC requirements provisions at 7 CFR part 12; (2) new conservation activities applied with financial assistance through any other USDA conservation program; (3) the design, construction, or maintenance of animal waste storage or treatment facilities or associated waste transport devices for animal feeding operations; and (4) conservation activities for which there is no cost incurred or income forgone by the participant.
- F** Land used for crop production after June 18, 2008 that had not been planted, considered to be planted, or devoted to crop production for at least 4 of the 6 years preceding this date shall not be eligible for any payment under the program, unless the land does not meet the requirement because: (1) the land had previously been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program; (2) the land has been maintained using long-term crop rotation practices, as determined by CCC; or (3) the land is incidental land needed for efficient operation of the farm or ranch, as determined by CCC.
- G** Land otherwise eligible for the covered conservation program shall not be eligible if the land is publically owned (including land owned by a Federal, State, or local unit of government) if the land is enrolled in the Conservation Security Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, or Grassland Reserve Program, or is subject to a deed or other legal restriction prohibiting the application of the conservation plan and associated conservation activities, or where a benefit has or will be obtained from a Federal, or State agency (including political subdivisions and entities thereof) in return for the Participant's agreement not to implement the conservation plan and associated conservation activities on the land during the same time as the land would be enrolled in this Contract. By applying for the program Contract, the Participant certifies as a condition for payment that no such restrictions apply to the subject land.
- H** The Participant is responsible for obtaining the authorities, permits, easements, or other approvals necessary for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of the conservation activities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. A Participant must comply with all laws and is responsible for all effects or actions resulting from the Participant's performance under this Contract.

2 OFFERS FROM APPLICANTS

Form NRCS-CPA-1200, Conservation Program Contract Application, and this NRCS-CPA-1202-CPC (Appendix) represent a request to enter into the program under the terms specified in this Contract.

3 AGREEMENT

The Participant agrees to:

- (1) Place all eligible land under their effective control into the program for the period of time as specified on Form NRCS-CPA-1202 beginning on the date

this Contract is executed by CCC;

- (2) Not start any new financially assisted conservation activity before this Contract is executed by CCC unless a waiver is approved by the NRCS State Conservationist (STC) or designee. The Participant may submit a written request to waive this requirement for financially assisted conservation activities.
- (3) Schedule, install and adopt at least one enhancement or enhancement bundle within the first fiscal year after this Contract is signed by CCC.
- (4) Schedule, install, and adopt all enhancements by the end of the third fiscal year of the contract.
- (5) Maintain for the life of the Contract at least the level of existing conservation performance identified at the time the application is obligated into a contract.
- (6) Install and adopt, to NRCS requirements, conservation activities described in this Contract as scheduled, to operate and maintain these conservation activities for the intended purpose and life span identified in this Contract, and to comply with the terms and conditions of this Contract and all applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws. In cases where the land is transferred to new ownership during the contract period, the Participant must also ensure these responsibilities are transferred to subsequent owners as provided herein;
- (7) Notify NRCS within 60 days of the transfer of interest to an eligible transferee who accepts the contract's terms and conditions by completing the Transfer Agreement, Form NRCS-CPA-152, and the Supplement to Form NRCS-CPA-152 for Partial Land Transfers if applicable or the Contract will be terminated;
- (8) Share responsibility for ensuring that Form NRCS-CPA-1155, Conservation Plan or Schedule of Operations, is accurate and complete. CCC has no authority to compensate participants for conservation activities that are not in the Contract at the time of obligation;
- (9) Not undertake any action on land under the Participant's effective control which tends to defeat the purposes of the program, as determined by CCC;
- (10) Discontinue work in the general area of the site and notify NRCS immediately if during the construction of any conservation activity a previously unidentified endangered species, archeological, or historical site is encountered;
- (11) Provide records and receipts, as necessary, as proof of completion and payments, and to maintain documentation for three (3) years after the end of the Federal fiscal year in which the conservation activity was completed, and to present this documentation to CCC within 30 days if selected for administrative compliance check;

- (12) Allow access to the land under Contract to the CCC representative or their agent, including Technical Service Providers representing NRCS, for monitoring progress on this Contract;
- (13) Supply records and information as required by CCC to determine compliance with the Contract and requirements of the program within 30 days of request;
- (14) Accept applicable program payment limits: The Participant, defined as a person or legal entity hereby agrees that the total amount of all CSP payments received, directly or indirectly, do not in the aggregate exceed \$40,000 during any fiscal year and \$200,000 for all CSP Contracts entered into during any 5-year period, excluding federally recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native corporations, regardless of the number of Contracts entered into under the CSP by the person or legal entity. Each conservation stewardship contract with a person or legal entity will be limited to \$40,000 per fiscal year and \$200,000 over the term of the initial contract period. Each conservation stewardship contract with a joint operation will be limited to \$80,000 per fiscal year and \$400,000 over the term of the initial contract period. Federally recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native corporations are excluded from contract limits. Payments received in excess of these limits are subject to refund.
- (15) Notify NRCS within 30 days or less as required, of Contract acres accepted for enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program or other Federal or State programs that offer greater natural resource protection in order to allow those acres to be removed from the Contract. Participants will not be subject to liquidated damages or refund of payments received for enrolling land in these programs. However, this action will require an evaluation to determine whether CSP requirements will continue to be met after removal of the acres from contract, and may warrant termination of the Contract.

4 CONSERVATION PLAN

By signing the Contract, the Participant agrees:

- (1) That the ProTracts NRCS-CPA-1155, Conservation Plan or Schedule of Operations, the Customer Service Toolkit Conservation Plan document and all supporting job sheets and attachments including but not limited to the Conservation Measurement Tool Conservation Performance Summary Report and Detail Report are hereby incorporated as a part of the Contract; and
- (2) To install, adopt, and maintain the conservation activities as identified and scheduled in the Contract as described above and in compliance with Paragraph 6 of this Appendix—Operation and Maintenance of Conservation Activities.

5 PAYMENTS

- A** Subject to the availability of funds, CCC will make payments at the rate specified in this Contract, with consideration to person or legal entity payment limits as described in 5B, after a determination by CCC that conservation activities have been installed and maintained in compliance with the conservation plan, and in accordance with appropriate standards and specifications or job sheets. In order to receive payments, the Participant, upon technical certification of the completed conservation activity, must execute and file with CCC a Form NRCS-CPA-1245, Practice Approval and Payment Application, along with any receipts and supporting documentation, as necessary.
- B** Person or legal entity or joint operation payment limitations are verified during the payment process. Payment amounts may change prior to payment approval to enforce the direct and indirect payment limitations in 3(14).
- C** NRCS will provide annual payments to compensate a participant for installing and adopting additional conservation activities as scheduled in the conservation plan and for maintaining existing activities to at least the level of performance identified at the time the application is obligated into a contract. A participant's annual payments will be determined using the conservation performance estimated by the conservation measurement tool and computed by land use. NRCS may provide a supplemental payment for adopting a resource conserving crop rotation on cropland to a participant receiving annual payments. Payments will be issued based on the unit rate and the land use as documented on Form NRCS-CPA-1245, Form NRCS-CPA-1155, Plan/Schedule of Operations and Form NRCS-CPA-1156, Revision of Plan/Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract. NRCS may make a minimum contract payment of \$1,000 to participants who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, beginning farmers or ranchers, or limited resource farmers or ranchers in any fiscal year that a contract's payment amount total is less than \$1,000. Minimum contract payments will not be applied to a contract for newly acquired land that is part of an operation which is under an active conservation stewardship contract.
- D** All payments received as part of a Contract are reported to the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS). For information related to tax liabilities, it is recommended that the participant consult with a tax accountant or refer to IRS publication 225, Farmers Tax Guide or successor IRS publications.
- E** Payments will only be issued for installed or adopted conservation activities that meet or exceed the standards described in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide or applicable job sheets, unless the participant has entered into an Agreement Covering Non Compliance with Provisions of the Contract Form NRCS-CPA-153, which can provide the participant up to one year of additional time to install or adopt the conservation activity.
- F** Collection of amounts due from a Participant for improper payment or any other reason will follow procedures of 7 CFR part 1403. NRCS will notify the Participant to identify the reason for the collection and the amount owed. Unpaid debts accrue interest beginning 30 days after the billing date at the current value of funds rate published in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Treasury.

- G** Any Participant that will receive financial benefit from the implementation of this Contract must be a signatory on the Contract. Unless signature authority is not granted or assigned on the Contract, any Participant on the Contract may approve payment applications for the Contract.
- H** Any payment that has or will be received through another USDA program or from other sources must be disclosed to the NRCS Approving Official at the time a payment application is filed. NRCS may reduce payments to account for the funds received from other sources in accordance with program requirements.
- I** If a Participant receiving a Contract payment is indebted to another Federal agency and the outstanding debt has been referred to the Treasury Offset Payment System, the Contract payment due the Participant will be reduced by Treasury for the amount owed the U.S. Government. Though the Participant will not be notified by NRCS that a payment offset has occurred, NRCS records will reflect full Contract payment to the Participant.
- J** Contract payment will not be delayed for activities completed while in non-compliance with the HELC-WC provisions for the purpose of circumventing the payment eligibility requirements set forth in 7 CFR part 12.

6 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES (O&M Agreement)

- A** The Participant agrees to operate and maintain (O&M) all conservation activities included within this Contract for the practice lifespan as listed on Form NRCS-CPA-1155, Conservation Plan or Schedule of Operations, and any subsequent conservation activities resulting from revisions on Form NRCS-CPA-1156, Revision of Plan/Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract. This requirement also extends to those conservation activities installed before Contract execution, but included in the Contract to obtain the conservation performance level agreed upon in the ranking process and the conservation performance summary report. The participant will operate and maintain existing conservation activities to a least the level of conservation performance identified at the time the application is obligated into a contract for the Contract period and operate and maintain additional activities which are installed and adopted over the term of the Contract.
- B** The term Operation and Maintenance (O&M) as used in the Contract shall collectively include:
- **Operation:** The administration, management, and performance of non-maintenance activities necessary to keep a conservation activity safe and functioning as planned;
 - **Maintenance:** The recurring activities necessary to retain or restore a conservation activity in a safe and functioning condition, including, but not limited to, the management of vegetation, the repair or replacement of failed components or conservation activity, the prevention or treatment of deterioration, and the repair of damages caused by vandalism or negligence, but excluding damage caused by a local, state or nationally recognized natural disaster;

- **Repair:** The actions to return a deteriorated, damaged, abandoned, or failed conservation activity and/or component to an acceptable and functional condition; and
 - **Replacement:** The removal of a conservation activity or component and installation of a similar, functional conservation activity or component.
- C** The Participant is responsible for the O&M activities and acknowledges these activities may require labor, funds, and management in order to ensure the appropriate program purposes are met.
- D** The Participant's O&M responsibilities begin when the conservation activity installation is completed, as determined by NRCS, and shall continue through the end of the practice lifespan.
- E** The Participant acknowledges that the "practice lifespan" is the time period in which the conservation practices are to be used and maintained for their intended purposes as defined by NRCS technical references and documented on either Forms NRCS-CPA-1155 or NRCS-CPA-1156.
- F** Specific O&M requirements for conservation activities covered within this Contract are defined in the conservation practice standard and are documented within the conservation plan narrative, Contract provision, and/or job sheet.
- G** The Participant acknowledges that conservation activities installed before the Contract execution, but included in the Contract to obtain the environmental benefits agreed upon within the application ranking process and the conservation performance summary report, must be operated and maintained as specified in the Contract and within this paragraph.
- H** The Participant agrees to the O&M requirements as listed within this Paragraph (6) and failure to carry-out the terms and conditions listed may result in CCC termination of this Contract. (Refer to Paragraph 11 of this Appendix—Contract Termination).

7 PROVISIONS RELATING TO TENANTS AND LANDLORDS

No payment will be approved for the current year if CCC determines that any of the following conditions exist:

- (1) The landlord or operator has not given the tenants that have an interest in the agricultural operation covered by the Contract, or that have a lease that runs through the Contract term at the time of sign-up, an opportunity to participate in the benefits of the program.
- (2) The landlord or operator has adopted any other scheme or device for the purpose of depriving any tenant of any benefits to which such tenant would otherwise be entitled. If any such conditions occur or are discovered after payments have been made, all or any part of the payments, as determined by CCC, must be refunded according to Paragraph 5F of this Appendix and no further payments shall be made.

8 MISREPRESENTATION AND SCHEME OR DEVICE

- A** NRCS shall immediately request investigation by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) in cases where a participant is suspected of, or when NRCS has determined the participant knowingly, (1) adopted any scheme or device that tends to defeat the purpose of the program; (2) made any fraudulent representation; or (3) misrepresented any fact affecting a program determination.
- B** A Participant who is determined to have erroneously represented any fact affecting a determination with respect to this Contract and the regulations applicable to this Contract, adopted any scheme or device which tends to defeat the purposes of this Contract, or made any fraudulent representation with respect to this Contract, will not be entitled to payments or any other benefits made under this Contract. The Participant must refund to CCC all payments received plus interest. In addition, CCC will terminate the Participant's interest in all Conservation Stewardship Program contracts.
- C** CCC will charge interest on monies it determines to be due and owing to CCC under this Contract. Under debt collection procedures, unpaid bills accrue interest beginning 30 days after the billing date. The interest rate will be determined using the current value of funds rate, published annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Treasury.
- D** The provisions of Paragraph 8B of this Appendix shall be applicable in addition to any other criminal and civil fraud statutes.

9 CHANGES TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS CONTRACT

- A** CCC may unilaterally cancel this Contract when the installed conservation activity would cause adverse impacts to significant cultural and/or environmental resources without mitigation action unless CCC and the participant modify this Contract to address such impacts.
- B** The Participant and CCC may modify this Contract by mutual agreement when:
- (1) Both the Participant and the appropriate approving authority (STC or designated conservationist) agree to this modification;
 - (2) At the request of the Participant, and upon approval of CCC, the modification is consistent with the purposes of the program; and
 - (3) A transfer of this Contract occurs, provided CCC approval is obtained, and an eligible transferee accepts all terms and responsibilities under this Contract including operation and maintenance of those conservation activities already installed or to be installed.
 - (4) A partial land transfer will not be approved to avoid contract compliance or as a mechanism to avoid payment or contract limitations.
By entering into a partial land transfer, the following requirements apply:
 - The transferee and transferor are responsible for:
 - Maintaining and managing existing conservation activities on the land

under their respective control as identified on the CMT Detail Report and Conservation Performance Summary Report.

- Installing the activities as scheduled in the Conservation Performance Summary Report on the land for which they have control.
- The conservation stewardship plan and plan map along with the respective job sheets and state supplements, as applicable, are the supporting documents that will specify the extent, location, and criteria for all new conservation activities.
- The existing and additional conservation performance levels at the time the original contract was obligated will be the basis for all future contract payments for the transferee and transferor, subject to payment limitations and availability of funds.
- The transferee or transferor may not make operational changes or adjustments to the schedule of operations under any circumstances. Both the transferor's and the transferee's contracts must remain intact for the remaining years of the contracts to ensure that the same environmental benefits are applied on the land as was originally contracted.
- All program Terms and Conditions including the payment rates, in place at the time the original contract was obligated will apply to the transferee's contract.

C The Participant and CCC may agree to revise the schedule of operations to substitute enhancements scheduled for implementation, provided that such revisions are within the general scope of this Contract and the resulting conservation performance, by land use is equal to or greater than the conservation performance of the current contract. Any such changes that would cause an increase in the cost of performance of any part of the work under the Contract, the authorized CCC official will not make an adjustment in the total contract payment. Contract modifications will not increase the financial obligations or provide for payments over and above the amount as specified in the current contract, with exception for contract renewals or other exceptional cases as approved by NRCS.

D All modifications that require CCC approval must be approved in writing by the authorized CCC official and the Participant or an individual granted signature authority through a valid Power of Attorney filed in the local Service Center. Any Participant on the Contract may approve modifications for the Contract on behalf of all participants unless such signature authority is specifically denied on the NRCS-CPA-1202.

10 CORRECTIONS

CCC reserves the right to correct all errors in entering data or the results of computations in this Contract. If the Participant does not agree to such corrections, CCC shall terminate the Contract.

11 CONTRACT TERMINATION

A If a Participant fails to carry-out the terms and conditions of this Contract, CCC may terminate this Contract. CCC may require the Participant to refund payments received under this Contract, or if not terminated, require the

Participant to accept such adjustments in subsequent payments as are determined to be appropriate by CCC. Refunds shall be subject to the provisions in Paragraph 5F of this Appendix.

- B** The CCC may terminate this Contract, in whole or in part, without liability, if CCC determines that continued operation of this Contract will result in the violation of a Federal statute or regulation, if CCC determines that termination would be in the public interest, or to remove contract acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, or Grassland Reserve Program or other Federal or State programs that offer greater natural resource protection.
- C** A participant shall not be considered in violation of the Contract for failure to comply with the Contract due to circumstances beyond the control of the participant, including a disaster of related condition, as determined by the CCC.
- D** The Contract terminates upon death of the participant unless the participant appointed an Executor or other Estate Representative to act on the participant's behalf and such Executor or Estate Representative transfers the Contract to an eligible person or legal entity within 60 days of the participant's death and such transfer is approved by CCC.
- E** In the case of Partial Land Transfers, the Transferor and Transferee(s) contracts will be evaluated based on their individual responsibilities specified in the supporting documentation listed in paragraph 9B.

12 RECOVERY OF COST

- A** In the event a Participant violates the terms of this Contract, the Participant voluntarily terminates this Contract before any contractual payments have been made, or this Contract is terminated with cause by CCC, the CCC will incur substantial costs in administering this Contract which may not be possible to quantify with certainty. Therefore, in addition to the refund of payments as set forth in Paragraph 11 of this Appendix, the Participant agrees to pay at the time of termination liquidated damages in an amount equal to 10 percent of the total financial assistance obligated to the Participant in this Contract. This liquidated damages payment is for recovery of administrative and technical services and is not a penalty.
- B** The Participant may be required by the CCC to refund all or a portion of any assistance earned under the program if the Participant sells or loses control of the land under this Contract and the new owner or transferee is not eligible for the program, or refuses to assume responsibility under the Contract.

13 EFFECTIVE DATE

This Contract is effective when signed by the Participant and an authorized representative of CCC and continues through the expiration date printed on the NRCS-CPA-1202. Except as otherwise provided for herein, this Contract may not be terminated or modified unless by mutual agreement between the parties. Within the dates established by CCC, this Contract must be signed by all required Participants. In the event that a statute is enacted during the period of this Contract which would materially change the terms and conditions of this Contract, the CCC may require the Participant to elect between modifying this Contract

consistent with the provisions of such statute or Contract termination.

14 GENERAL TERMS

- A** The regulations in 7 CFR part 1470, and any other applicable regulations are incorporated, by reference, herein. In the event of a conflict between these regulations and the terms of this Appendix, the provisions of the regulations will prevail.
- B** This Contract shall be carried out in accordance with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations. Any ambiguities in this Contract and questions as to the validity of any of its specific provisions shall be resolved in favor of CCC so as to give maximum effect to the conservation purposes of this Contract.
- C** NRCS is administering this Contract on behalf of the CCC. Therefore, where this Contract refers to "CCC", NRCS may act on its behalf for the purposes of administering this Contract. When the term "Participant" is used in this Contract, it shall be construed to mean all Participants signing this Contract. Likewise, when the term "Applicant" is used in this Contract, it means all Applicants signing the program application.
- D** Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters -Primary Covered Transactions (7 CFR part 3017).
- (1) The Participant certifies to the best of the Participant's knowledge and belief, that the Participant and his or her principals:
- (a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
 - (b) Have not within the three-year period preceding this agreement had a criminal conviction or civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local government) contract, including violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - (c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses set forth above in Paragraph 14D(1)(b) of this certification; and
 - (d) Have not within the three-year period preceding this agreement had one or more public contracts (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.
- (2) If the Participant is unable to certify to any of the statements set forth in paragraph 14D (1), the Participant shall attach an explanation to this agreement. The Participant must notify CCC immediately if the circumstances supporting certification of any such statements change or the Participant may incur additional liability or penalties in accordance with applicable law.

E This Contract is a financial assistance agreement, not a procurement contract. As such, it is **not subject to 5 CFR part 1315, Prompt Payment Act** and is governed by the terms set forth herein.

F The term “Contract” as used in this Appendix means the program documents, including: Conservation Program Contract, Form NRCS-CPA-1202 along with the—

- Appendix to Form NRCS-CPA-1202, Form NRCS-CPA-1202-CPC (Appendix);
- Conservation Plan Schedule of Operations, Form NRCS-CPA-1155;
- Revision of Plan/Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract, Form NRCS-CPA-1156; and
- Transfer Agreement, form NRCS-CPA-152 for the transferee(s).
- Other supporting documents as set forth above in Paragraph 4(1).

Such Contract shall set forth the terms and conditions for Conservation Program participation and receipt of Conservation Program payments.

G The term “Socially Disadvantaged” means an individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups consist of the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics.

Note: Gender alone is not a covered group for the purposes of NRCS conservation programs. The term entities reflects a broad interpretation to include partnerships, couples, legal entities, etc.

H “Indian Tribe” means any Indian Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Note: “Indian tribes recognized as eligible to receive services by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs” is available through the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.

I A Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher is a participant:

- With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and
- Who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.

- A legal entity or joint operation can be a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify. A Self-Determination Tool is available to the public and may be completed on-line or printed and completed hardcopy at: <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>
- Participants who self-certify eligibility as a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher may be requested to provide records to justify their claim. It is the responsibility of the participant to provide accurate data. False certifications are subject to criminal and civil fraud statutes.

J A Beginning Farmer or Rancher is a participant who:

- Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of a legal entity, and
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

In the case of a contract with an individual, individually or with the immediate family, material and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the conservation activities in the county or State where the farm is located.

In the case of a contract made with a legal entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. Material and substantial participation requires that the members provide some amount of the management, or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if the members did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm or ranch would be seriously impaired.

Participants who self-certify eligibility as a Beginner Farmer or Rancher may be requested to provide records to justify their claim. It is the responsibility of the participant to provide accurate data. False certifications are subject to criminal and civil fraud statutes.

K The term "Agricultural Operation" as used in this Appendix includes the Nonindustrial Private Forest Land component of the operation.

L The term "conservation activities" as used in the Appendix means conservation systems, enhancements, enhancement bundles, conservation practices, or management measures needed to address a resource concern or improve environmental quality through the treatment of natural resources.

M The term "conservation measurement tool" as used in this Appendix means procedures developed by NRCS to estimate the existing and proposed conservation performance to be achieved by a participant.

15 RIGHTS TO APPEAL AND REQUEST EQUITABLE RELIEF

A The Participant may appeal an adverse decision under this Contract in accordance with the appeal procedures set forth at 7 CFR part 11, Subpart A, and part 614. Pending the resolution of an appeal, no payments shall be made under this agreement. Before a Participant seeks judicial review, the Participant must exhaust all appeal rights granted within these regulations.

- B** The Participant may also request equitable relief as provided under 7 U.S.C. 7996 and 7 CFR part 635 with the requirements of that provision.

16 EXAMINATION OF RECORDS

- A** The Participant agrees to give the CCC, the Office of the Inspector General or the Comptroller General, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to this Contract. The Participant agrees to retain all records related to this agreement for a period of three (3) years after completion of the terms of this agreement in accordance with the applicable Office of Management and Budget circular.
- B** The Participant authorizes CCC to obtain tax data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for Adjusted Gross Income compliance verification purposes and the Participant will take all necessary actions required by the terms and conditions of the IRS disclosure laws so that CCC can obtain such data.

17 DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE (7 CFR part 3021)

By signing this Contract, the Participant certifies that the Participant will comply with the requirements of 7 CFR part 3021. If it is later determined that the Participant knowingly rendered a false certification, or otherwise violates the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act (Public Law 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.; 7 CFR part 3021,) CCC, in addition to any other remedies available to CCC under this contract or in general to the United States, may take action authorized under the Drug-Free Workplace Act.

**18 CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING (7 CFR part 3018)
(Applicable if this agreement exceeds \$100,000)**

The Participant certifies, to the best of the Participant's knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the Participant, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress, in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form -LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and
- (3) The Participant shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub awards at all tiers (including sub contracts, sub grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

19 CERTIFICATION AND ASSURANCES REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (See generally 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, and 3019)

- A** As a condition of this Contract, the Participant certifies and assures that it is in compliance with and will comply in the course of the agreement with all applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders and other generally applicable requirements, including those set out in 7 CFR 3015.205(b) applicable to non-profit institutions, which are hereby incorporated into this Contract by reference, and such other regulatory and statutory provisions as are specifically set forth herein.
- B** Without limiting the general applicability of Paragraph 19A, the Participant, if it is a non-profit, further agrees to comply with the provisions of 7 CFR part 3019, including the contract provisions required at Appendix A. The following Participants by entering their signature acknowledge receipt of this Form NRCS-CPA-1202-CPC (Appendix) and agree to its terms and conditions thereof. Further, if the undersigned are succeeding to an existing Contract, the undersigned agree and certify that no agreement exists or will be entered into between the undersigned, the previous owner and operator of the property, or mortgage holder that would, maintain or create an interest in the property for any previous Participant on this Contract for that property, or to receive payments under the contracts.

20 CERTIFICATION AND ASSURANCES REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT IMPLEMENTATION (See 2 CFR part 25 and 2 CFR Part 170)

- A** As a condition of this Contract, the Participant certifies and assures that it is in compliance with and will comply in the course of the agreement with all requirements for applicants other than individuals, with some specific exceptions, to have Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) numbers and maintain current registrations in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) or any successor Federal contractor registration database as set out in Appendix A to Part 25.
- B** As a condition of this Contract, the Participant certifies and assures that it is in compliance with and will comply in the course of the agreement with all requirements for applicants other than individuals, with some exception to report first-tier subawards to an entity and executive salary compensation as set out in Appendix A to Part 170.

The following Participants by entering their signature acknowledge receipt of this Form NRCS-CPA-1202-CPC (Appendix) and agree to its terms and conditions thereof. Further, if the undersigned are succeeding to an existing Contract, the undersigned agree and certify that no agreement exists or will be entered into between the undersigned, the previous owner and operator of the property, or mortgage holder that would, maintain or create an interest in the property for any previous Participant on this Contract for that property, or to receive payments under the contracts.

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name:	Application Number:
Address:	Application Date:
	County and State:
Email:	
Telephone:	Watershed:
	Subaccount:
Location (Legal Description or Farm and Tract Number):	

(Please note that not all questions apply to all Programs)

1. This is an application to participate in the:

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI)

2. Yes No Do you have farm records established with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency?

If no, you must establish them with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency prior to submitting this application.

3. Are you applying to participate in a conservation program as an (check one of the following):

Individual

a) Please enter your legal name and tax identification number:

Name: _____ **Tax Number:** _____

Entity (Corporation, Limited Partnership, Trust, Estate, etc.)

a) Please enter entity legal name and tax identification number:

Name: _____ **Tax Number:** _____

b) **Yes** **No** Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity?

Joint Operation (General Partnership, Joint Venture)

a) Please enter joint operation legal name and tax identification number:

Name: _____ **Tax Number:** _____

b) **Yes** **No** Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the joint operation?

4. A Dun & Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and current registrations in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database are required for receiving payment under an EIN. If you do not have a DUNS number, information is available at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> To register with CCR, go to <https://www.sam.gov/>

DUNS Number: _____

5. Is the land being offered for enrollment used for crop (including forest-related) or livestock production?

- Crop Production** **Crop Type:**
 Livestock Production **Livestock Type:**

6. The land offered under this application is (check all that apply):

- Private Land**
 Public Land (Federal, State, or Local Government)
 Tribal, Alloted, Ceded or Indian Land

7. Certification of control of the land offered under the application:

- Deed or other evidence of land ownership**
 Written lease agreement
 Years of control are through
 Other agreement or legal conveyance (describe):
 Years of control are through

8. Yes No Is the land offered under this application enrolled in any other conservation program?

9. Are you applying for program benefits as one of the following participant types?

- Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher**
 Beginning Farmer or Rancher
 Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher
 Not Applicable

If you wish to apply in any of these categories, you must meet the self certification requirements. For more information please go to this website: <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

10. Yes No Not Applicable If applying for the EQIP and if the application includes irrigation practices, has the land been irrigated at least 2 of the last 5 years?

On the farm(s) identified above, the Applicant agrees to participate in the identified program if the offer is accepted by the NRCS. The undersigned person shall hereafter be referred to as the "Participant." The participant understands that starting a practice prior to contract approval causes the practice to be ineligible for program financial assistance. The participant will obtain the landowner's signature on the contract or provide written authorization to install structural practices. The Participant agrees not to start any financially assisted practice or activity or engage the reimbursable services of a certified Technical Service Provider before a Contract is executed by Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The Participant may request, in writing, a waiver of this requirement for financially assisted practices by the NRCS State Conservationist.

All participants that certify eligibility as a Farmer or Rancher under the Limited Resource, Beginning, or Socially Disadvantaged groups will provide all records necessary to justify their claim as requested by a NRCS representative. It is the responsibility of the participant to provide accurate data to support all items addressed in this application at the request of NRCS. False certifications are subject to criminal and civil fraud statutes.

The Participant acknowledges that highly erodible land conservation/wetland conservation, adjusted gross income certifications, and member information for entities and joint operations are on file with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency.

11. Yes No I have received a copy of the program appendix where an appendix is applicable.

Applicant Signature	Date
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NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers. If you believe you experienced discrimination when obtaining services from USDA, participating in a USDA program, or participating in a program that receives financial assistance from USDA, you may file a complaint with USDA. Information about how to file a discrimination complaint is available from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete, sign, and mail a program discrimination complaint form, available at any USDA office location or online at www.ascr.usda.gov, or write to:

USDA
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20250-9410

Or call toll free at (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The following statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 522a). Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to furnish correct, complete information will result in the withholding or withdrawal of such technical or financial assistance. The information may be furnished to other USDA agencies, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Justice, or other state or federal law enforcement agencies, or in response to orders of a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal.

This information collection is exempted from the Paperwork Reduction Act, as it is required for administration of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub L. 110-236)