

Better Land and Water through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



Many people think of the Conservation Stewardship Program as a great program for farmers, without realizing it offers great benefits for everyone, not only farmers, but all landowners, communities and citizens.

CSP raises the level of conservation. Farmers who enroll are already taking care of the land, and agree to take further steps for soil, water and wildlife. These steps mean cleaner water, healthier soil, energy conservation, wildlife habitat, better forests and cleaner air...for everyone!

Rented Land in CSP

Landowners who rent their farmland to others to farm are wise to encourage the renters to enroll in CSP. CSP ensures that land is farmed sustainably, with the long-term health of the soil and water in mind. Intensive farming without conservation will lead to soil degradation, decline in crop yields, sediment and pollutant runoff to water, and long term loss in land values. CSP means the land is taken care of and maintains its value.

The person who enrolls in CSP, whether as a renter or owner/operator, has the responsibility to carry out the actions they have agreed to, to document their actions, and to bear any associated costs. Their annual CSP payments are based on the amount of additional conservation work they agree to do.



CSP and Wildlife

Many CSP enhancements help wildlife thrive. You will see more wildlife, from game birds, fish, and deer, to turtles and honey bees, with CSP.

As with all NRCS programs, public access is not required.

CSP safeguards the productivity of the land and builds land value. It helps protect the soil, water, air and animal life for the future.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Question: What if I want to sell my land within the next five years? Does this restrict my ability to sell the land?

Answer: No, if the land is sold and the future owner does not intend to continue renting the land to the participant, the acres can be removed from the contract.

Question: How does this limit my use of the property?

Answer: The program does not limit the use of the land for the owner's recreation. However, conservation practices will need to remain in place throughout the life of the contract.

Question: What if I want to rent my land to another producer in the next five years?

Answer: If a CSP participant loses control of rented land, the land can be removed from the contract.

For more information contact your local NRCS office at the nearest USDA Service Center or www.nrcs.usda.gov