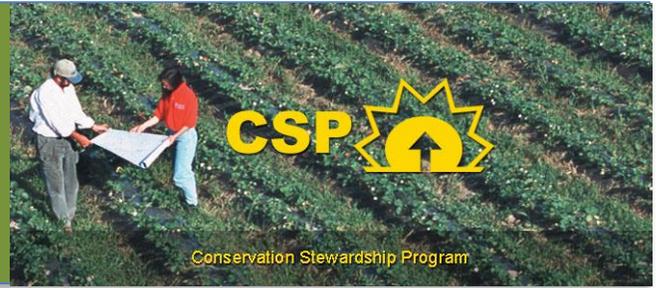## United States Department of Agriculture

CSP: DELIVERING VALUABLE NEW CONSERVATION
CSP encourages agricultural and forest producers to address priority resource concerns and improve and conserve the quality and conditions of natural resources in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

Conservation Stewardship Program

05/19/2014   **Producer Self-Screening Checklist**

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 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 the 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 answered "yes" to these questions, complete the CSP Self-Screening Checklist items below.

Self-Screening Checklist
To participate in CSP, an applicant must meet:
- **Applicant Eligibility**
- **Land Eligibility**
- **Stewardship Threshold Requirement**

Applicant Eligibility Requirements *(all requirements must be met)*
☐ Operator of record in Farm Service Agency (FSA) record system unless an exception is granted
☐ Will control the land for the term of the contract (5 years)
☐ In compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions
Land Eligibility Requirements *(all requirements must be met)*
☐ Private/Tribal agricultural land or nonindustrial private forest land
☐ Must include all land in your operation that you will control for the term of the contract – if you don't have control of land for the contract period, it's not considered part of your operation
☐ Applicant elects whether to include the nonindustrial private forest land component
☐ Land ineligible for CSP includes land enrolled in CRP (unless the land is in the last year of the CRP contract when it enrolls in CSP), land enrolled in WRP (now enrolled in the new WRE through the Agricultural Easement Program (ACEP)), Conservation Security Program, public land, and land used for crop production that was not planted or considered planted 4 of 6 years prior to February 7, 2014.

Stewardship Threshold Requirement
If you can check two or more of the statements for each land use you have in your farming operation, 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 land grant university recommendations.
☐ Areas on your farm are actively managed for wildlife habitat.
☐ 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.

Rangeland:
☐ Rangeland shows few signs of erosion from livestock trails, feeding areas and watering areas.
☐ There is a healthy stand of vegetation and enough forage for your livestock.
☐ Livestock access to streams, ponds, and lakes, is managed.
☐ Rangeland is actively managed for wildlife habitat.

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 applicants.
☐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"

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.
- ***If you think you meet applicant and land eligibility, the stewardship threshold requirement, and you are interested in CSP, contact your local NRCS office for the next step in the application process.***
- ***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.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs.