

## Important Information to Remember!

If CSP is something you are interested in, we encourage you to contact your local NRCS field office to learn more about the program.

CSP applications are accepted on a continuous basis. Signed applications on file at the close of business on January 13, will be batched and ranked for FY 2012 funding consideration. To apply, you will be requested to compile the following documentation to ensure that you meet the application eligibility requirements.

1. Maps outlining the lands that will be included in the proposed contract.
2. Documentation showing that you are the operator in the FSA farm records management system for the agricultural operation being offered.
3. Have documented control of land for the term of the proposed contract.
4. Be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions.
5. Be in compliance with Adjusted Gross Income provisions.
6. Supply information for payment eligibility, SF-1199a (Direct deposit).
7. Provide a list of all members of the legal entity with member's tax identification numbers, percent interest in the entity and signing authority.
  - NRCS CCC-902 (Member's Information).
  - FSA-211 (Power of Attorney).
  - Entity Papers.

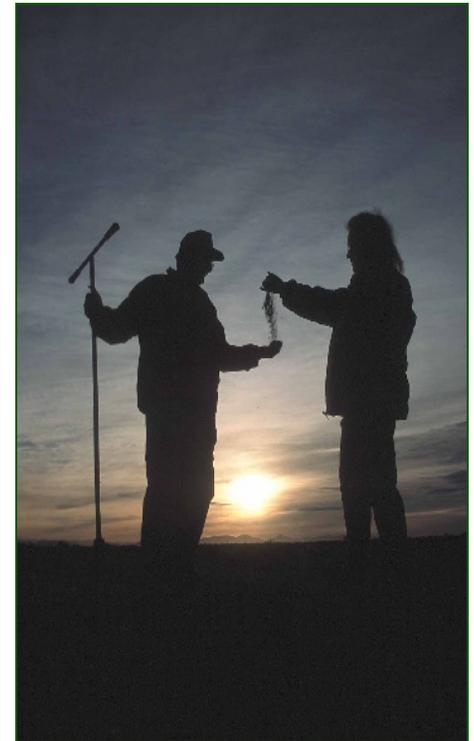
**For more information, please contact your local NRCS field office.**

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<http://www.nd.nrcs.usda.gov>



# Conservation Stewardship Program:

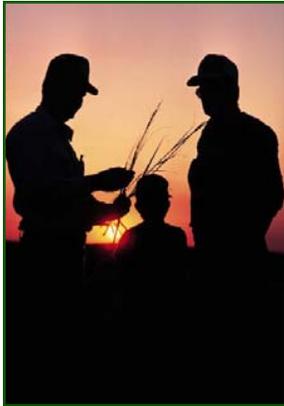
## What You Need to Know



***Helping People Help the Land***

## Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a leader in efforts to help America's private landowners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources.



In keeping with this tradition of “helping people help the land,” NRCS administers a number of programs to assist landowners with conservation needs. It has earned a reputation for reaching out to all segments of the agricultural community to ensure that its programs are assessable to everyone.

One of the newest programs offered by NRCS is the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Through CSP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their lands.

Conserving our natural resources is paramount to ensuring that we pass on a healthy and prosperous environment to our children and grandchildren. Our nation's farmlands and rangelands offer an excellent starting point to preserve and enhance rural America.

### What exactly is CSP?

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a strictly voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner. This is done by:

- Undertaking additional conservation activities; and
- Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location.

**“It's good for the environment; it's good to preserve the soil; it's good to protect the water.”**

**- Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack  
February 2009**

### What are the payment options?

The Conservation Stewardship Program offers participants two possible types of payments. They are as follows:

- Annual Payment—for installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities.
- Supplemental Payment—for the adoption of resource-conserving crop rotations.

The annual payment limitation for a person or legal entity is \$40,000. A person or legal entity cannot exceed \$200,000 for all contracts entered into during any five-year period.

For more information regarding payments, please visit the CSP web page.

<http://www.nd.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>



### How do I know if I am eligible?

The CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands, as well as nonindustrial private forest lands statewide. Individual producers, legal entities, corporations, and Indian Tribes may be eligible for the program. Lands that are eligible include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian Tribe. Specifically, applicants must:

- Be the operator on record in the USDA farm records management system for eligible land being offered for enrollment;
- Have documented control of the land for the term of the proposed contract;
- Include the eligible land in their entire operation as represented for other USDA programs;
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions and adjusted gross income.



*All programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.*