

Conservation Security Program 2006

Water Quality Eligibility Criteria for Grazing Lands

Based on your responses to the Conservation Security Program (CSP) Self-Assessment, the following questions will further determine if the lands you wish to enroll in the CSP meet the minimum water quality requirements. These questions apply to all fields/management units you wish to enroll.

Directions: Read and answer each question by checking Yes, No or NA. When answering this self assessment questions, answer for land under your control.

Questions	Yes	No	NA
1. Do you apply pesticides to control insects, weeds, disease, invasive plants, etc., on your lands you wish to enroll? (If NO, skip to Question #2)			
a) Do you have two years of field-specific records of pesticide applications?			
b) Do you apply pesticides according to a schedule or Pest Management Plan (PMP)? A PMP should outline use, amount, form, timing and application methods as well as non-chemical control alternatives such as biological and cultural methods.			
c) Do you protect sensitive areas, such as surface waters, wells, and fractured bedrock outcrops, during pesticide application by using setbacks, vegetative buffers, etc.?			
2. Do you apply any form of nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium on your pastures you wish to enroll? (If No, skip to Question # 3)			
a) Do you have two years of field-specific records of nutrient applications?			
b) Do you apply nutrients based on a nutrient budget/nutrient management plan (NMP) that is based on your soil tests and considers ALL sources of nutrients, including legume credits, organic matter, animal manure, crop residues, and irrigation water?			
c) Do you protect sensitive areas, such as surface waters, wells, and fractured bedrock outcrops, during nutrient application by using setbacks, vegetative buffers, etc.?			
3. Do you apply irrigation water to pastures you wish to enroll? (If No, skip to the end of the worksheet).			
a) Do you adjust your water application rates to avoid water losses due to surface runoff and/or deep percolation?			
b) Do you adjust your water application rates to ensure nutrients and pesticides are not impacting surface or ground water quality?			
c) Do you monitor salinity levels and use soil, water, and plant management practices that reduce negative effects from salinity?			

If the answer is YES to any of the numbered questions, then all answers to the lettered questions pertaining to that number must also be answered YES or NA or minimum eligibility for CSP is not met. Contact the local NRCS office for guidance on practices and/or management needed to meet minimum water quality criteria or to enhance water quality protection.

NOTE: If you apply irrigation water to your pasture or cropland, you must have an Irrigation Index rating of 50 or greater to meet minimum eligibility requirements for CSP for water quality. NRCS staff will determine this Irrigation Index rating for you using the *Irrigation Enhancement Index Tool*.