2006 CSP Enrollment Categories – Criteria by Land Use and Category

Category	Tier I	Tier II	Tier III
A	Not Applicable	Group 1 or 2	Group 1, 2 or 3
B	Group 1	Group 3	Group 4
C	Group 2	Group 4	Group 5
D	Group 3	Group 5	
E	Group 4 and 5		

Cropland (row crops, closely grown crops, hay or pasture in rotation with row or closely grown crops, orchards, vineyards, horticultural crops, cropped woodland and marshes, and permanent hay land)	Group	Conservation System Criteria
		Conservation Cropping System Performance Level and Stewardship Practices and Activities installed and maintained for at least two years prior to the sign-up period from the attached list.
	1	SCI of ≥ 0.70 or STIR rating of ≤ 15, plus at least 2 unique practices or activities from each area of Soil Quality, Water Quality, and Wildlife Habitat.
	2	SCI of ≥ 0.50 or STIR rating of ≤ 30, plus at least 1 unique practice or activities from each area of Soil Quality, Water Quality, and Wildlife Habitat, and one additional practice from any of the areas.
	3	SCI of ≥ 0.25 or STIR rating of ≤ 60, plus at least 1 unique practice or activity from each area of Soil Quality, Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat.
	4	SCI of ≥ 0.10 or STIR rating of ≤ 100, plus at least 2 unique practices or activities from any of the areas.
	5	* Must meet minimum program eligibility requirements as defined in 7CFR1469

Grazing Land (Range and Pasture)	Group	Conservation System Criteria
		Grazing Management System and Stewardship Practices and Activities installed and maintained for at least two years prior to the sign-up period from the attached list.
	1	Vegetation and animal management accomplished by following a grazing management plan, plus at least 3 unique practices or activities from Water Quality and at least 2 unique practices or activities from each area of Soil Quality, and Wildlife Habitat.
	2	Vegetation and animal management accomplished by following a grazing management plan, plus at least 2 unique practices or activities from each area of Soil Quality, Water Quality, and Wildlife Habitat.
	3	Vegetation and animal management accomplished by following a grazing management plan, plus at least 1 unique practice or activity from each area of Soil Quality, Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat.
	4	Vegetation and animal management accomplished by following a grazing management plan, plus at least 2 unique practices or activities from any of the areas.
	5	* Must meet minimum program eligibility requirements as defined in 7CFR1469

2006 CSP Enrollment Categories – Criteria by Land Use and Category

Cropland Soil Quality – Stewardship Practice and Activity List for Soil Quality

- ☐ **Alley cropping** with trees or shrubs planted in single or multiple rows with agronomic, horticultural crops or forages produced between rows of woody plants.
- ☐ **Conservation crop rotation** perennial grasses, legumes and forbs in rotation for a minimum of 2 years; or a high biomass crop every other year; (already have cover crop as an activity) or a combination of crops that match soil water storage with crop water use needs.
- ☐ **Contour buffer strips** with permanent, herbaceous vegetative cover established across the slope and alternated down the slope with parallel, wider cropped strips.
- ☐ **Contour Farming** orchards, vineyards, plantations and field grown ornamentals planted in parallel lines across and perpendicular to the dominant slope.
- ☐ **Cover crops** small grains, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover.
- ☐ **Cross wind trap strips** the use of herbaceous cover resistant to wind erosion.
- ☐ **Field borders** with a strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field.
- ☐ **Forage harvest management** for improved ground cover, protection from soil erosion and to improve soil characteristics.
- ☐ **Grassed waterway** that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established with suitable vegetation.
- ☐ **Ground Cover** use of grasses, legumes or forbs maintained as permanent cover between rows in orchards, vineyards, plantations, field grown ornamentals, or cropped woodland.
- ☐ **Pasture and Hayland Plantings/Improvement** to establish native or introduced grasses or legumes that improve forage quality and soil characteristics.
- ☐ **Hedgerow planting** with the establishment of dense vegetation.
- ☐ **Herbaceous Wind Barriers** with vegetation established in rows or narrow strips across the prevailing wind direction.
- ☐ **Irrigation Water Management** actions to reduce erosion such as the use of polyacrylamide (PAM) or controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation water.
- ☐ **Mulching** use of wood chips, leaf litter or other organic materials as a year round cover between rows in orchards, vineyards, plantations, field grown ornamentals, or cropped woodland.
- ☐ **Residue management** system with no-till or strip tillage systems to maintain plant residues on the soil surface year-round.
- ☐ **Riparian forest buffer** of trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies.
- ☐ **Riparian herbaceous cover** consisting of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs immediately adjacent to watercourses.
- ☐ **Stripcropping** with row crops, forages, small grains, or fallow in alternating across a field.
- ☐ **Soil pH Management** use of soil amendments or activities to maintain the alkalinity and acidity at optimum levels for nutrient uptake, based on soil tests conducted per land grant university recommendations.
- ☐ **Soil salinity management** on irrigated cropland with soil amendments such as gypsum or sulfur.
- ☐ **Windbreak and shelterbelt establishment** of single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs.

2006 CSP Enrollment Categories – Criteria by Land Use and Category

Cropland Water Quality – Stewardship Practice and Activity List for Water Quality

Cropland WQ - PERMANENT VEGETATION PRACTICES AND ACTIVITES

☐ **Cover crops** of grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover.

☐ **Contour buffer strips** with permanent, herbaceous vegetative cover established across the slope and alternated down the slope with parallel, wider cropped strips.

☐ **Critical area planting** that establishes permanent vegetation on sites with high erosion rates, and physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.

☐ **Crop Management Consultation** the use of certified crop advisors to provide recommendations on nutrient and or pest management activities.

☐ **Field borders** with a strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field.

☐ **Filter strip** with herbaceous vegetation between cropland, grazing land, or forestland and environmentally sensitive areas.

☐ **Integrated Pest Management** the use of scouting, and economic thresholds to determine the method, timing and application of pest control methods.

☐ **Mulching** use of wood chips, leaf litter or other organic materials as a year round cover between rows in orchards, vineyards, plantations field grown ornamentals, or cropped woodland.

☐ **Pasture and hay land planting** to provide increased sod or perennial crops in rotation for a minimum of 2 years.

☐ **Riparian herbaceous cover** consisting of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs.

☐ **Riparian forest buffer** of trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies.

☐ **Vegetative Barriers** narrow strips of perennial vegetation planted in parallel lines across and perpendicular to the predominant slope.

Cropland WQ - WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ACTIVITES

☐ **Soil salinity management** on irrigated cropland through combination of drainage water management and amendments to move salts thru the root zone.

☐ **Water control structures** to catch, manage and properly use water applications.

☐ **Water and sediment control basins** to trap sediment and detain water.

☐ **Wetland enhancement** or **Wetland restoration and rehabilitation** to increase function and value for water quality purposes.

☐ **Irrigation system with micro-irrigation** for distribution of water directly to the plant root zone.

☐ **Irrigation system with MESA, LIPC, LEPA** or similar high efficiency irrigation system to supply crop needs that matches water application to crops, soils and topography.

☐ **Irrigation water management** by determining and controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation water; and

- ○ Improved system efficiency by evaluations and adjustment;
- ○ Use of data from on-farm weather station; or
- ○ Use of tensiometers or other techniques to assess and improve irrigation water management.

☐ **Drainage water management** through seasonal on-farm water storage and retention.

☐ **Irrigation with a tailwater return system** which utilizes the collection, storage, and transportation of irrigation tailwater for reuse.

2006 CSP Enrollment Categories – Criteria by Land Use and Category

Cropland WQ - PEST & NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ACTIVITES

☐ **Pest management** activities, including any one of the following:

- O Spot spraying activities and other control of noxious/invasive weeds;
- O Minimize pesticide use by selecting plant varieties to minimize the application of pesticides;
- O Use a risk assessment tool such as WINPST to select the least toxic pesticides and herbicides to minimize harmful environmental effects;
- O Use local guidelines to set economic thresholds for pests to minimize use of pesticides and herbicides;
- O Use of biological control methods such as beneficial insects, genetically modified varieties, or livestock; or
- O Use of cultural control methods such as rotations with allelopathic and smothering plants, intercropping, mulching, or plant removal.

☐ **Nutrient management** activities, including any one of the following:

- O Precise nutrient application of such as - banding, side dressing, injection, fertigation;
- O Split nitrogen application to meet crop needs;
- O Test soil and/or plant tissue annually for annual crops O per land grant university recommendations for perennial crops, and low input systems such as cropped woodland and marshes;
- O Use yield monitoring data t determine nutrient needs;
- O Waste utilization to control pathogen and organic runof or
- O Feed management and additives.

Criteria by Land Use and Category

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☐ **Shallow water development** to provide open water on fields and moist soil areas to facilitate waterfowl resting and feeding and provide habitat for reptiles, amphibians and other aquatic species.

☐ **Raptor Nesting Trees** maintain trees with forks 15 ft or more above ground, at least 2 trees per acre at openings of cropped woodland and marshes.

☐ **Snag and Cavity Trees** maintain at least 7 standing dead or nearly dead trees per acre in cropped woodland and marshes.

☐ **Stream habitat management** activities to maintain, improve, or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream.

☐ **Vernal Pools** maintain buffer zones around vernal pools and protect during harvest operations.

☐ **Wetland enhancement** to increase function and values.

☐ **Wetland restoration and rehabilitation** of a drained or degraded wetland to restore wetland functions and values.

2006 CSP Enrollment Categories – Criteria by Land Use and Category

Grazing Lands: Stewardship Practice and Activity List for Soil Quality and Plant Health (Activities to improve soil quality or the health of the plant community)

- ☐ **Brush management** for removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants.
- ☐ **Pasture and hay plantings** by establishing permanent vegetative cover.
- ☐ **Range planting** to establish adapted perennial vegetation and improve plant diversity.
- ☐ **Prescribed burning** by applying controlled fire to a predetermined area.
- ☐ **Grassed waterway** that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established with suitable vegetation.
- ☐ **Grazing land mechanical treatment** modifying physical soil and/or plant conditions.
- ☐ **Channel bank stabilization** by establishing and maintaining vegetation.
- ☐ **Soil salinity management** on non-irrigated grazing lands.
- ☐ **Prescribed grazing management** including any one of the following:
  - ○ Bottomland or riparian area treated as a separate grazing treatment unit and alternative watering facilities in place;
  - ○ Grazing distribution facilitated by managing watering locations and rotating feeding and salting areas;
  - ○ Use of decision support tools in development of grazing and/or animal management plans, such as Grazing Lands Spatial Analysis Tool (GSAT), Nutritional Balance Analyzer (NUTBAL), etc;
  - ○ Participating in grass-banking or stockpiling; or
  - ○ Application of monitoring plan for improved grazing management.
- ☐ **Riparian herbaceous cover** improvements with diversified cover consisting of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs.
- ☐ **Irrigation water management** properly determining and controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation water in a planned, efficient manner.
- ☐ **Heavy use area protection** and stabilization by establishing vegetative cover, surfacing with suitable materials, and/or installing needed structures.

2006 CSP Enrollment Categories – Criteria by Land Use and Category

Grazing Lands: Stewardship Practice and Activity List for Water Quality

- ☐ **Prescribed grazing management** by use of decision support tools in development of grazing and/or animal management plans, such as Grazing Lands Spatial Analysis Tool (GSAT), Nutritional Balance Analyzer (NUTBAL), etc., or application of monitoring plan.
- ☐ **Brush management** for removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants.
- ☐ **Water well** constructed to access aquifers and move livestock away from water courses.
- ☐ **Watering facility** for providing animal access to water away from natural water bodies.
- ☐ **Critical area planting** that establishes permanent vegetation on sites with high erosion rates, and physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.
- ☐ **Fence** (sensitive area protection only) to control movement of animals and people.
- ☐ **Spring development** that provides water for a conservation need.
- ☐ **Pipeline** installed to convey water for livestock, or wildlife.
- ☐ **Nutrient management** by any one of the following:
  - ○ Soil and/or plant tissue test every 3 years on pastures not receiving confinement wastes or annual tests where confinement wastes are applied;
  - ○ Direct injection of animal wastes; or
  - ○ Split nitrogen applications to meet current crop needs.
- ☐ **Integrated pest management** to control weeds, brush, insects, or diseases.
- ☐ **Stream crossing** constructed to provide a travel way for people, livestock, equipment, or vehicles.
- ☐ **Stream habitat management** activities to maintain, improve, or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream.
- ☐ **Streambank and shoreline protection** treatments to stabilize and protect banks of streams, constructed channels, shorelines of lakes, reservoirs, or estuaries.
- ☐ **Water and sediment control basins** to trap sediment and detain water.
- ☐ **Livestock watering areas** have controlled access.
- ☐ **Riparian herbaceous cover** improvements with additions of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs.
- ☐ **Wetland enhancement** or **Wetland restoration and rehabilitation** to increase function and value for water quality purposes.
- ☐ **Waste utilization** to control pathogen and organic runoff.

CSP Enrollment Categories – Criteria by Resource Concern

Grazing Lands: Stewardship Practice and Activity List for Wildlife Habitat (Activities to improve fish and wildlife habitat)

☐ **Channel bank stabilization** by establishing and maintaining vegetation.

☐ **Critical area planting** that establishes permanent vegetation on sites with high erosion rates, physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.

☐ **Diversification of plant species** in cropped areas.

☐ **Pasture and hay plantings** of diversified native or introduced forage species.

☐ **Prescribed burning** by applying controlled fire to a predetermined area.

☐ **Riparian herbaceous cover** improvements with additions of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs.

☐ **Spring development** that provides water during critical times.

☐ **Stream habitat improvement** and management activities to maintain, improve, or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream.

☐ **Streambank and shoreline protection** treatments to stabilize and protect banks of streams, constructed channels, shorelines of lakes, reservoirs, or estuaries.

☐ **Water well** constructed to access aquifers.

☐ **Wetland enhancement** to increase function and values.

☐ **Wetland restoration and rehabilitation** of a drained or degraded wetland to restore functions and values.

☐ **Wildlife watering facility** designed to meets the needs of targeted species.

☐ **Wildlife habitat management** by any one of the following:

- O Application of an approved management plan or Private Lands Agreement that meets the needs for food, cover or water for targeted species;
- O Enhance wildlife habitat linkages and corridors by creating a mosaic or pattern; or
- O Management that provides for shallow water and wetland wildlife habitat improvement.

☐ **Prescribed grazing management** by any one of the following:

- O Adds functional group pastures to improve pasture condition;
- O Interseeding of desirable forages and legumes;
- O Timed grazing on a portion of paddocks to create habitat for targeted species;
- O Increased plant diversity - forbs and legumes greater than 40%; or
- O Patch burn/graze to improve wildlife habitat diversity and cover.

☐ **Integrated pest management** activities for weeds, brush, insects, or diseases that include follow-up treatment.

☐ **Brush management** for removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants including brush piling and creation of mosaics.

☐ **Range planting** establishment of adapted diverse perennial vegetation.

☐ **Provide wildlife corridors** with pathways for predators and large animals or plant diversity for nectar-loving species.

☐ **Protection of honey trees** utilizing a physical barrier.