

# Delineating an Agricultural Operation in Conservation Security Program (CSP)



Eligible CSP applicants may come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but all must be involved in the active day-to-day management of the farm or ranch under their stewardship.

Applicants must have control of the land by ownership, lease, or agreement for the life of the contract. They must have the authority to make decisions about the management and operation of the land.

Also, applicants must share the risk of producing crops and livestock, and share in the marketing of those products.



## WHAT IS IN AN APPLICANT'S AGRICULTURAL OPERATION?

An applicant will delineate their agricultural operation to include all land:

- whether contiguous or non-contiguous;
- under the control of the applicant and constituting a cohesive management unit, and
- operated with equipment, labor, accounting system, and management, that are substantially separate from any other land.

*This determination is the responsibility of the applicant. He or she may have only one CSP contract at a time.*

## What to include in the delineation

- ✓ **Agricultural land**—cropland including orchards and vineyards; pastureland, rangeland
- ✓ **Incidental parcels**—including but not limited to pivot corners, field borders, linear areas, turn rows, intermingled small wet or riparian areas
- ✓ **Other lands**—farmsteads, ranch sites, barnyards, feed lots, equipment storage areas, material handling areas, and other such developed areas
- ✓ **CRP, WRP, GRP, Public land, and forest land**

Ineligible lands such as forest land, public land, land in CRP, WRP and GRP, that are under the control of the applicant, need to be included in the delineation. However, ineligible lands will not be enrolled in contracts.

For more information about CSP see <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/> or visit your local USDA Service Center.

The following table provides delineation requirements for some **typical** situations:

IF THE IDENTIFIED ACREAGE IS:	THEN THE IDENTIFIED ACREAGE IS:
Private land that <b>IS</b> owned and operated by the applicant,	Considered a part of the agricultural operation (at a minimum).
Private land under lease or agreement, operated by the applicant, and the acreage <b>IS</b> under the control* of the applicant,	Considered a part of the agricultural operation.  If USDA farm boundaries are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all acreage within each farm boundary must be included</li> <li>• If the USDA farm has multiple tracts with various owner/operator designations and there is not control for a particular tract, that tract will be excluded from the acreage of the agricultural operation</li> </ul>
Private land under lease or agreement, operated by the applicant, and the acreage <b>IS NOT</b> under the control* of the applicant,	Not considered a part of the agricultural operation
Public land and the acreage <b>IS</b> under the control* of the applicant, such as intermingled land	Considered a part of the agricultural operation. Although these acres are considered a part of the agricultural operation, they are ineligible for CSP enrollment.
Public land and the acreage <b>IS NOT</b> under the control* of the applicant,	Not considered a part of the agricultural operation.
A portion of a single field,	Not considered an agricultural operation by itself. The minimum size of an agricultural operation is a field.

\*Control means possession of the land by ownership, lease, or agreement; and authority to make decisions about the management and operation of the land.