



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

# Conservation Stewardship Program

Sign up now!

Contact your local NRCS Service  
Center for more information.  
[www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov)

Applications due  
January 17, 2014



## Being a good steward of the land has its rewards.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is designed to help you maintain your present conservation activities and make new conservation improvements, such as improved erosion control, better water quality practices, or wildlife habitat management, or energy efficiency improvements.

### Is CSP right for you?

CSP involves a five-year contract in which the farmer agrees to maintain existing conservation and to do more over the life of the contract. It also requires time and good documentation of your farm conservation activities, which are used to determine eligibility and ranking. The program is available statewide. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, non-industrial forestland and tribal agricultural lands.

### Are you Eligible?

Wisconsin farmers can check to see if they may be eligible by completing a self screening checklist. This is available online at [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov). If eligible, contact the NRCS office to schedule a time to apply for CSP.

### Conservation Measurement Tool

The Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) was created to estimate the level of environmental benefit projected by each producer's planned conservation activities. The CMT is used for ranking and to determine payment.

### Wisconsin Priority Resource Concerns

CSP shifts significant decision-making from the national level to States. NRCS in consultation with the State Technical Committee and local workgroups, will focus program impacts on natural resources that are of priority concern for Wisconsin, or a specific area of the State.

### Your Records

Applicants must be the operator of record in the Farm Service Agency record system to ensure NRCS is working with those responsible for the operation's day-to-day management and decision-making. Producers must address at least one resource concern at the time of application and another priority resource concern by the end of the contract at a minimum for the program eligibility.

### Payment Types

CSP supports on-going stewardship of private agricultural and forest lands by providing payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources. Payments in 2013 averaged \$19/acre for cropland, \$13/acre for pastureland and \$4/acre for woodland.

### Ranking the Applications

Field verification of the highest ranked applications will occur before contracts are offered to producers.

### Benefits of CSP

Conservation benefits derived from maintaining and enhancing natural resources will improve water and soil quality, assist in addressing global climate change and encourage environmentally responsible energy production.