

*Estimated Payment Ranges*
  
*Conservation Stewardship Program*

August 2009

NRCS will make payments as soon as practical after October 1 of each fiscal year for contract activities carried out in the previous fiscal year. A participant’s annual payment is determined using the conservation performance estimated by the conservation measurement tool, and computed by land-use type for enrolled eligible land. A supplemental payment is also available on cropland to a participant receiving an annual payment, who also adopts a resource-conserving crop rotation.

To manage funding and meet legislative requirements, NRCS will use the first ranking period as a payment discovery period to arrive at a uniform payment rate per land use conservation performance point. It is anticipated the information gained will assist in arriving at set payment rates for future years’ contracts.

Using enrollment data from the signup, unique conservation performance payment rates will be determined for each land use type after ranking decisions are made. Pre-approved applicants will be notified of their contract payment amount and given the opportunity to withdraw their application if they find the payment amount unacceptable. Funds from cancelled applications would then be used to pre-approve additional applicants in ranked order.

Initial analysis has shown that, under a strict set of assumptions, participants completing contract requirements might receive estimated payments in the range of:

Estimated Range for Annual Payments

Cropland.....	\$12 to \$22 per acre
Nonindustrial Private Forestland....	\$6 to \$12 per acre
Pastureland.....	\$7 to \$14 per acre
Rangeland.....	..\$5 to \$10 per acre

Estimated Range for Supplemental Payments

Resource-Conservation Crop Rotation...	\$12 to \$16 per acre
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**These ranges are based on projections about acreage enrollment and conservation performance, and are only intended as estimates.** Any individual’s payment level could fall outside these ranges based on the specific level of conservation performance on their operation. Each participant’s annual payment on a land use is dependent on a new conservation activity being scheduled and installed on that land use. If no new conservation activity is applied on a land use, there will be no annual payment for that land use.