

Conservation Security Program Eligibility, Qualification, & Application

*Mahalo for
taking care of
the natural
resources
on your land...*

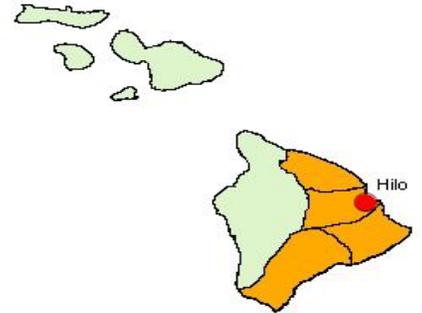
*...now, you have
a chance to be
financially
rewarded for
your work.*

Informational Meeting Scheduled

April 16 & 17, 2008

Hilo, HI

Contact: NRCS at 933-8367



You've decided you want to apply for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Now what?

Once you've decided you are interested in CSP, you need to complete a number of steps to determine if you meet the basic eligibility criteria and if you are qualified for the program. Individuals who have an existing resource management system (RMS) level plan with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) may have already completed a number of these steps. The information below will help you determine your next steps.

Complete the Self-Assessment Workbook

A self-assessment is required to apply for CSP. With limited funding available in this year's sign up, only those individuals who have an outstanding conservation track record will be funded. The self-assessment workbook helps you determine your basic eligibility for CSP, and walks you through a number of steps to determine whether you qualify. Self-assessment workbooks are available online at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs (select Conservation Security Program). Limited workbooks will also be available at your local NRCS office.

Gather Appropriate Records and Documentation

Many of the questions in the self-assessment require documentation. For example, if you have rangeland, you are required to provide grazing records. NRCS has developed a 'Conservation Records' publication for your use in gathering and organizing your documentation. You can find this publication on the web at www.hi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp.html (scroll down and select Conservation Record).

Get a USDA Identification Number

If you have worked with USDA farm programs in the past, you most likely have a USDA Identification Number (also referred to as a SCIMS number). If you do not, the process is very simple: just contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to set up a time to receive a number. They are listed in the phone book under 'Federal Government,' Farm Service Agency. FSA office information is also available on the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/HI.

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Self-Assessment Workshops

NRCS will be holding Self-Assessment workshops on April 16 & 17, 2008. These workshops will help you determine whether you are eligible for CSP, identify the benefits of a CSP contract and assist you with filling out the self-assessment and gathering the required documentation. If you are interested in participating in a workshop, please attend one of the following:

Scheduled Self-Assessment Workshops for :

April 16, Pahala Community Center, 6 - 8 p.m.

April 17, Hilo High School cafeteria, 6 - 8 p.m.

Set up an appointment with your local NRCS staff

The 2008 CSP sign up will begin on April 18, 2008. Once the sign up begins, AND after you have participated in a self-assessment workshop and completed your self-assessment workbook, make an appointment with your local NRCS office by using the contact numbers on the right. You will need to bring both your self-assessment and the required documentation when you meet with your local NRCS office to submit your application.

During your interview, your local NRCS office will confirm the information in your self-assessment and help you determine whether you qualify for the program. They can also help you identify future work you would like to complete to conserve resources on your land.

Based on this information, your local NRCS staff will determine the category in which you are eligible. They will then help you finalize your Conservation Stewardship Plan.

Submit Your Conservation Stewardship Plan

Your information will be transmitted to the NRCS National Headquarters, where funding selections will be made. All applications in Category A will be funded first, followed by categories B, C, etc., until this year's funds for the program are depleted. You will be notified by mail once selections are made.

Complete Your Conservation Stewardship Contract

If you are selected, you will also be contacted by your local NRCS office to finalize and sign your Conservation Stewardship Contract.

2008 CSP Watersheds
for Hilo, HI

For more information,
visit us on the web at
[www.hi.nrcs.usda.gov/
programs/csp.html](http://www.hi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp.html)

Or contact your local
NRCS field office:

Kori Hisashima, Acting
District Conservationist
Hilo Service Center
154 Waiuanuenue Ave.
Suite 322
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 933-8359

"Conservation Security Program--Rewarding the best and motivating the rest!"

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employer and provider.