



Conservation Security Program (CSP) Pre-Assessment Checklist

If you currently own or operate land in an eligible watershed and are interested in the Conservation Security Program, please complete the pre-assessment checklist to quickly determine if you may be eligible. There are three eligibility sections, please answer each question in the section before proceeding to the next section.

Producer Eligibility

- | Yes | No | NA | |
|-----|----|----|---|
| | | | 1. Do you share in the risk of producing crops or livestock on this operation?
<i>Note regarding landlords: Landlords who receive only cash payments for renting the land are not currently eligible to apply for CSP on that acreage. Landlords who share in the risk of producing the crop or livestock and would share in the crop or livestock produced are eligible.</i> |
| | | | 2. Are you entitled to share in the crop or livestock available for marketing from the agriculture operation? |
| | | | 3. Do you have control of some or all of the land you manage for the life of the proposed (5- to 10-year) contract period? |
| | | | 4. Is your average adjusted gross income less than or equal to \$2.5 million; or if greater than \$2.5 million, did 75 percent come from farming, ranching, or forestry?
<i>Note: To participate in CSP, your average adjusted gross income for the three tax years immediately preceding the year the contract is approved cannot exceed \$2.5 million, unless at least 75 percent of the income was derived from agriculture.</i> |

If you answered yes to all four questions, proceed to the next section.
If you answered no to one or more questions, you may not be eligible for the CSP.

Land Eligibility

- | | | | |
|-----|----|----|---|
| Yes | No | NA | 5. Is a majority of the land you wish to enroll in a selected watershed?
<i>Note: For a detailed map, visit your local NRCS office or the NRCS web site at www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov.</i> |
| Yes | No | NA | 6. Is at least part of your land private agricultural land or Tribal land?
<i>Note: Public land is not eligible for CSP.</i> |
| Yes | No | NA | 7. Is your land in compliance with the highly erodible and wetland conservation provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill? |
| Yes | No | NA | 8. Was your cropland used for crop production or considered cropland as part of a long-term rotation for four out of the last six years prior to May 13, 2002? |
| Yes | No | NA | 9. Is this land currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)? <i>Note: Land enrolled in CRP, WRP, or GRP cannot be a part of the CSP contract. Other land in your operation may be eligible. For example: You have a 1.2-acre CRP buffer on a 40-acre parcel you wish to enroll. All but the 1.2 acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program may be eligible for CSP.</i> |

If you answered yes to questions 5-8 and no on question 9, proceed to the next section.
If you answered "No" to question 5, 6, 7, or 8 or "Yes" to question 9, you may not be eligible for CSP.

Conservation Treatment Requirements

All CSP producers must meet minimum treatment criteria for soil quality and water quality. Treatment may include managing nutrients and pesticides, erosion control, crop residue management, buffers, and grazing management. It is likely if you met the producer and land eligibility requirements and answer yes to the following questions, you are ready to proceed with the self-assessment process.

If you have cropland...

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|---|
| Yes | No | NA | Are you applying nutrients based on a soil test and realistic yields? |
| Yes | No | NA | Have you assessed the environmental risks of pesticide use and addressed any risks with appropriate measures? |
| Yes | No | NA | Do you grow high-residue crops at least one in three years in rotation; apply a mulch; use a cover crop annually; and/or have hay/pasture in rotation? |
| Yes | No | NA | Do you irrigate your crops based on crop and soil monitoring? |

If you have pastureland...

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|---|
| Yes | No | NA | Are you following a grazing plan that addresses distribution, forage balance, timing and monitoring? |
| Yes | No | NA | Are you applying nutrients based on a soil test and realistic yields? |

If you have rangeland...

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|---|
| Yes | No | NA | Are you following a grazing plan that addresses distribution, forage balance, timing and monitoring? |
| Yes | No | NA | Are you managing livestock access to rivers, streams, or other surface waters? |

If you have a farmstead or livestock feeding/handling area...

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|------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Yes | No | NA | Do you control runoff from all livestock concentration areas? |
| Yes | No | NA | Is your well cased and above the ground surface? |
| Yes | No | NA | Is rinse water from cleaning fertilizer and pesticide application equipment properly disposed of? |

If you answered “No” to any of the Conservation Treatment Requirement questions, you may not be eligible for CSP.

WHAT’S THE NEXT STEP?

Now that you have successfully completed the CSP Pre-Screening Checklist and meet the basic CSP eligibility requirements you should attend the local watershed informational meetings and/or self-assessment workshops scheduled for your watershed. Check with the local NRCS office for the time and place.