



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 P.O. Box 2890  
 Washington, D.C. 20013

**SUBJECT:** LTP - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)  
 Announcement of Payment Rates

**To:** State Conservationists  
 Directors, Pacific Islands and Caribbean Areas

File Code: 300-26

**Annual Payment**

CSP participants will receive an annual payment for operation-level environmental benefits they produce. Each participant’s payment level will be unique for their operation and land-uses based on environmental benefits produced by additional conservation activities they install and adopt; and the existing activities they improve, maintain, and manage.

A payment-setting methodology was used to establish payment rates using Ranking Period 1 pre-approved application information on environmental benefits and conservation activity cost data. Based on that process, the following payment rates were established for Ranking Period 1 land-use performance points.

**Ranking Period 1 - Land-Use Payment Rate per Performance Point**

Cropland	\$0.0605
Pastureland	\$0.0329
Rangeland	\$0.0120
Non-Industrial Private Forestland	\$0.0164

Land-use annual payments are computed in ProTracts as follow:

$$\text{Land Use Annual Payment} = \text{Land Use Performance Points} \times \text{Land Use Payment Rate} \times \text{Land Use Acres}$$

**Supplemental Payment**

The payment rate for resource-conserving crop rotation supplemental payments was established using the traditional payment schedule process.

**Ranking Period 1 – Supplemental Payment per Acre**

Resource-Conservation Crop Rotation	\$16.00
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The payment rates for annual and supplemental payments will be released in the December 17, 2009 Protracts build.

**Financial Assistance**

Program financial assistance allocations will be deposited to your States 95F account. Applicants may drop out of the program freeing up acres and dollars that could be re-allocated within your State or to other States. A control has been set in Protracts that will not allow you to allocate past your approved acre or financial assistance allocation. A file containing estimated financial allocations by ranking pool will be sent to help you allocate funds to sub-accounts.

Directions for approving contracts can be found in the PowerPoint slides delivered on the Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup> net conference, which has been made available on My.NRCS for 60 days. Prior correspondence set January 29, 2010, as the deadline for completing field verifications and obligating contracts in Protracts. If you have questions please contact Dwayne Howard at 202-720-3524 or [dwayne.howard@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:dwayne.howard@wdc.usda.gov).

  
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