



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

SEP 25 2009

SUBJECT: CPA – Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
Organic Crosswalk

TO: State Conservationists
Directors, Pacific Islands and Caribbean Areas

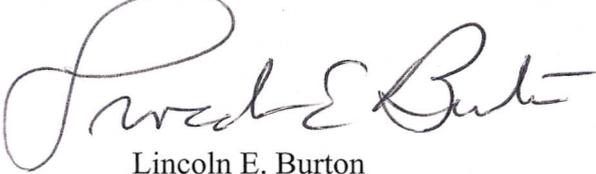
File Code: 180-11-14

The 2008 Farm Bill recognized the growing interest and support of organic agriculture across the country by providing instructions related to organic production in several of the Conservation Programs that NRCS administers. Specifically, the Farm Bill required the development of a transparent means by which producers may initiate organic certification while participating in a CSP contract. This requirement makes it clear that CSP needs to be designed to provide assistance to those conservation farmers who choose to transition to an organic production system and reach out to the organic community in educating them on how the CSP can be used during the organic transitioning process.

The attached document entitled “The Conservation Stewardship Program’s Contribution to Organic Transitioning” provides an explanation of how CSP enhancements can be used to assist producers in meeting individual National Organic Program (NOP) rules while going through the transitioning period. States need to make this document available on their CSP web site.

The format of the document references the specific NOP Organic Production rule and corresponding CSP enhancement that could be adopted. Of the 82 CSP enhancements 39 have a high likelihood of adoption by organic producers or those interested in transitioning to organic, with an additional 25 enhancements that can be applied during the transition period.

Refer questions to the Branch Chief, Stewardship Programs Branch at (202) 720-3524.



Lincoln E. Burton
Acting Deputy Chief for Programs

Attachment

State Conservationists, et al.

2

cc:

Dave White, Chief, NRCS, Washington, D.C.

Virginia (Ginger) L. Murphy, Associate Chief, NRCS, Washington, D.C.

Diane Gelburd, Regional Conservationist, West, NRCS, Washington, D.C.

Leonard Jordan, Regional Conservationist, East, NRCS, Washington, D.C.

Thomas W. Christensen, Regional Conservationist, Central, NRCS, Washington, D.C.

Tony Kramer, Acting Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, NRCS, Washington, D.C.

Gregory K. Johnson, Director, Financial Assistance Programs Division, NRCS,
Washington, D.C.