

2005 CSP Enrollment Categories – Criteria by Land Use and Category

Cropland <small>(row crops, closely grown crops, hay or pasture in rotation with row or closely grown crops, orchards, vineyards, horticultural crops, and permanent hayland)</small>	Category	Criteria	
		Soil Conditioning Index	Stewardship Practices and Activities (from list below) in place for at least two years.
	A	SCI of ≥ 0.30 <u>or</u> STIR rating of ≤ 15	at least 2 unique practices or activities from each area of Soil Quality, Water Quality, and Wildlife Habitat
	B	SCI of ≥ 0.20 <u>or</u> STIR rating of ≤ 30	at least 1 unique practice or activities from each area of Soil Quality, Water Quality, and Wildlife Habitat, and one additional practice from any of the areas
	C	SCI of ≥ 0.10 <u>or</u> STIR rating of ≤ 60	at least 1 unique practice or activity from each area of Soil Quality, Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat
	D	SCI of ≥ 0.10 <u>or</u> STIR rating of ≤ 100	at least 2 unique practices or activities from any of the areas
E	* Must meet minimum program eligibility requirements as defined in 7CFR1469		

Pasture	Category	Criteria	
		Pasture Condition Score	Stewardship Practices and Activities (from list below) in place for at least two years.
	A	at least 45	at least 2 unique practices or activities from each area of Soil Quality and Water Quality, and 1 from Wildlife Habitat
	B	at least 40	at least 1 unique practice or activities from each area of Soil Quality, Water Quality, and Wildlife Habitat, and one additional practice from any of the areas
	C	at least 35	at least 1 unique practice or activity from each area of Soil Quality, Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat
	D	at least 35	at least 2 unique practices or activities from any of the areas
E	* Must meet minimum program eligibility requirements as defined in 7CFR1469		

Range	Category	Criteria	
		Rangeland Health	Stewardship Practices and Activities (from list below) in place for at least two years.
	A	none to slight for all 3 attributes	Prescribed Grazing plus at least 1 unique practice or activity from each area of Soil Quality, Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat
	B	none to slight for 2 attributes and slight to moderate for 1 attribute	Prescribed Grazing plus at least 1 unique practice or activity from any 2 of the following areas of Soil Quality, Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat
	C	none to slight for 1 attribute and slight to moderate for 2 attributes	Prescribed Grazing plus at least 1 unique practice or activity from any 2 of the following areas of Soil Quality, Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat
	D	slight to moderate or higher for 2 attributes and slight to moderate or moderate to extreme for 1 attribute	Prescribed Grazing plus at least 1 unique practice or activity from any of the following areas of Soil Quality, Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat
E	* Must meet minimum program eligibility requirements as defined in 7CFR1469		

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Cropland Soil Quality – Stewardship Practice and Activity List for Soil Quality

- **Conservation crop rotation** expanded with increased amount of sod or perennial crops in rotation for a minimum of 2 years; or a high biomass crop every other year, or annual cover crop, or a combination of crops that match soil water storage with crop water use needs.
- **Residue management** system with no-till or strip tillage systems to maintain plant residues on the soil surface year-round.
- **Contour orchards and other fruit areas** with cultural operations for vineyards, or minor crops performed on the contour.
- **Cover crops** of grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover, or with chipping residue in orchards, vineyards, or minor crops systems.
- **Nutrient management** with soil test and/or plant tissue test on annual basis to meet crop needs.
- **Crop management** with use of certified crop consultants to monitor need for herbicide and pesticide applications.
- **Soil salinity management** on irrigated cropland with soil amendments such as polyacrylamide (PAM) or gypsum.
- **Contour buffer strips** with permanent, herbaceous vegetative cover established across the slope and alternated down the slope with parallel, wider cropped strips.
- **Filter strip** of herbaceous vegetation situated between cropland, grazing land, or forestland and environmentally sensitive areas.
- **Field borders** with a strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field.
- **Grassed waterway** that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established with suitable vegetation.
- **Alley cropping** with trees or shrubs planted in single or multiple rows with agronomic, horticultural crops or forages produced between rows of woody plants.
- **Stripcropping** with row crops, forages, small grains, or fallow in alternating across a field.
- **Riparian forest buffer** of trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies.
- **Riparian herbaceous cover** consisting of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs.
- **Windbreak and shelterbelt establishment** of single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs.
- **Hedgerow planting** with the establishment of dense vegetation.
- **Herbaceous wind barriers** with vegetation established in rows or narrow strips across the prevailing wind direction.
- **Cross wind trap strips** with herbaceous cover resistant to wind erosion.
- **Pasture and hayland plantings** for establishing native or introduced forage species.
- **Forage harvest management** for improved ground cover, protection from soil erosion and to improve soil characteristics.

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Cropland Water Quality – Stewardship Practice and Activity List for Water Quality

Cropland WQ - PERMANENT VEGETATION PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Cover crops** of grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover.
- **Contour buffer strips** with permanent, herbaceous vegetative cover established across the slope and alternated down the slope with parallel, wider cropped strips.
- **Water control structures** to catch, manage and properly use water applications.
- **Critical area planting** that establishes permanent vegetation on sites with high erosion rates, and physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.
- **Field borders** with a strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field.
- **Filter strip** with herbaceous vegetation between cropland, grazing land, or forestland and environmentally sensitive areas.
- **Hedgerow planting** of dense vegetation in a linear design.
- **Pasture and hayland planting** to provide increased sod or perennial crops in rotation for a minimum of 2 years
- **Riparian forest buffer** of trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies.
- **Riparian herbaceous cover** consisting of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs.
- **Grassed waterway** that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established with suitable vegetation.

Cropland WQ - WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Sediment basins** to collect and store debris or sediment.
- **Soil salinity management** on irrigated cropland with soil amendments such as polyacrylamide (PAM) or gypsum.
- **Water and sediment control basins** to trap sediment and detain water.
- **Wetland enhancement** to increase function and values.
- **Wetland restoration and rehabilitation** of a drained or degraded wetland to restore natural condition.
- **Irrigation system with micro-irrigation** for distribution of water directly to the plant root zone.
- **Irrigation system with MESA, LIPC, LEPA** or similar high efficiency irrigation system to supply crop needs that matches water application to crops, soils and topography.
- **Irrigation water management** by determining and controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation water, and
 - Improved system efficiency by evaluations and adjustment.
 - Use of data from on-farm weather station.
 - Use of tensiometers or other techniques to assess and improve irrigation water management.
- **Crop rotation and selection** to minimize the use of irrigation by planting alternative crops with reduced water needs.
- **Drainage water management** through seasonal on-farm water storage and retention.
- **Irrigation with a tailwater return system** which utilizes the collection, storage, and transportation of irrigation tailwater for reuse.

Cropland WQ - PEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Pest management** activities, including:
 - Spot spraying activities and other control of noxious/invasive weeds.
 - Minimize pesticide use by selecting plant varieties to minimize the application of pesticides
 - Use a risk assessment tool such as WINPST to select the least toxic pesticides and herbicides to minimize harmful environmental effects.
 - Use local guidelines to set economic thresholds for pests to minimize use of pesticides and herbicides.
 - Use beneficial insects.

Cropland WQ - NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Nutrient management** activities, including:
 - Precise nutrient application of such as - banding, side dressing, injection, fertigation.
 - Split nitrogen application to meet crop needs.
 - Test soil and/or plant tissue annually.
 - Use yield monitoring data to determine nutrient needs.
 - Waste utilization to control pathogen and organic runoff.
 - Feed management and additives.

2005 CSP Enrollment Categories – Criteria by Land Use and Category

Cropland Wildlife Habitat - Stewardship Practice and Activity List for Wildlife Habitat (Activities to improve fish and wildlife habitat)

- **Conservation crop rotation** with increased amount of sod or perennial crops in rotation for a minimum of 2 years.
- **Cover crops** of grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover.
- **Critical area planting** that establishes permanent vegetation on sites with high erosion rates, and other conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.
- **Pest management** by:
 - Spot spraying activities and other control of noxious/invasive weeds.
 - Minimize pesticide use by selecting plant varieties to minimize the application of pesticides.
 - Use a risk assessment tool such as WINPST or others to select the least toxic pesticides and herbicides to minimize harmful environmental effects.
 - Use of beneficial insects
- **Pasture and hay plantings** by establishing native or introduced forage species.
- **Forage harvest management** with timely cutting and removal of forages from the field as hay, green-chop or ensilage, or by mowing crops from center of field outward
- **Wildlife habitat management** in approved management plan or Private Lands Agreement that meets the needs for food, cover or water for targeted species.
- **Wetland restoration and rehabilitation** of a drained or degraded wetland to restore wetland functions and values.
- **Wetland enhancement** to increase function and values.
- **Drainage water management** with control of water surface elevations and discharge from surface and subsurface drainage systems.
- **Shallow water development** to provide open water on fields and moist soil areas to facilitate waterfowl resting and feeding and provide habitat for reptiles, amphibians and other aquatic species.
- **Stream habitat management** activities to maintain, improve, or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream.
- **Wildlife habitat management** by winter flooding of cropland fields for species in need of conservation.
- **Windbreak and shelterbelt establishment** of single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs.
- **Hedgerow planting** of dense heterogeneous vegetation in a linear design.
- **Field borders** with permanent vegetation at the edge or around the perimeter of a field for wildlife.
- **Riparian forest buffer** of trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies.
- **Riparian herbaceous cover** consisting of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs.
- **Drainage water management** through seasonal on-farm water storage and retention.

2005 CSP Enrollment Categories – Criteria by Land Use and Category

Grazing Lands: Stewardship Practice and Activity List for Plant Health and Soil Quality (Activities to improve soil quality or the health of the plant community)

- **Brush management** for removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants.
- **Pasture and hay plantings** by establishing permanent vegetative cover.
- **Range planting** to establish adapted perennial vegetation.
- **Prescribed burning** by applying controlled fire to a predetermined area.
- **Grassed waterway** that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established with suitable vegetation.
- **Grazing land mechanical treatment** modifying physical soil and/or plant conditions.
- **Channel bank stabilization** by establishing and maintaining vegetation.
- **Soil salinity management** on non-irrigated grazing lands.
- **Prescribed grazing management** including:
 - Bottomland or riparian area treated as a separate grazing treatment unit and alternative watering facilities in place.
 - Grazing distribution facilitated by managing watering locations and rotating feeding and salting areas.
 - Use of decision support tools in development of grazing and/or animal management plans, such as Grazing Lands Spatial Analysis Tool (GSAT), Nutritional Balance Analyzer (NUTBAL), etc.
 - Participating in grass-banking or stockpiling.
 - Application of monitoring plan for improved grazing management.
- **Riparian herbaceous cover** improvements with cover consisting of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs.
- **Nutrient management** with soil and/or plant tissue test every 3 years on pastures not receiving confinement wastes or annual tests where confinement wastes are applied.
- **Irrigation water management** properly determining and controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation water in a planned, efficient manner.
- **Heavy use area protection** and stabilization by establishing vegetative cover, surfacing with suitable materials, and/or installing needed structures.

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Grazing Lands: Stewardship Practice and Activity List for Water Quality

- **Prescribed grazing management** by use of decision support tools in development of grazing and/or animal management plans, such as Grazing Lands Spatial Analysis Tool (GSAT), Nutritional Balance Analyzer (NUTBAL), etc., or application of monitoring plan.
- **Brush management** for removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants.
- **Water well** constructed to access aquifers.
- **Watering facility** for providing animal access to water.
- **Critical area planting** that establishes permanent vegetation on sites with high erosion rates, and physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.
- **Fence** (sensitive area protection only) to control movement of animals and people.
- **Spring development** that provides water for a conservation need.
- **Pipeline** installed to convey water for livestock, wildlife, or recreation
- **Nutrient management** by:
 - Soil and/or plant tissue test every 3 years on pastures not receiving confinement wastes or annual tests where confinement wastes are applied.
 - Direct injection of animal wastes.
 - Split nitrogen applications to meet current crop needs
- **Integrated pest management** to control weeds, brush, insects, or diseases.
- **Stream crossing** constructed to provide a travel way for people, livestock, equipment, or vehicles.
- **Stream habitat management** activities to maintain, improve, or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream.
- **Streambank and shoreline protection** treatments to stabilize and protect banks of streams, constructed channels, shorelines of lakes, reservoirs, or estuaries.
- **Water and sediment control basins** to trap sediment and detain water.
- **Livestock watering areas** have controlled access.
- **Riparian herbaceous cover** improvements with additions of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs.
- **Wetland enhancement** to increase function and values.
- **Wetland restoration and rehabilitation** of a drained or degraded wetland to restore natural condition.
- **Waste utilization** to control pathogen and organic runoff.

CSP Enrollment Categories – Criteria by Resource Concern

Grazing Lands: Stewardship Practice and Activity List for Wildlife Habitat (Activities to improve fish and wildlife habitat)

- **Channel bank stabilization** by establishing and maintaining vegetation.
- **Critical area planting** that establishes permanent vegetation on sites with high erosion rates, physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.
- **Heavy use area protection** and stabilization by establishing vegetative cover, surfacing with suitable materials, and/or installing needed structures.
- **Pasture and hay plantings** of native or introduced forage species.
- **Prescribed burning** by applying controlled fire to a predetermined area.
- **Riparian herbaceous cover** improvements with additions of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs.
- **Spring development** that provides water during critical times.
- **Stream habitat improvement** and management activities to maintain, improve, or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream.
- **Streambank and shoreline protection** treatments to stabilize and protect banks of streams, constructed channels, shorelines of lakes, reservoirs, or estuaries.
- **Water well** constructed to access aquifers.
- **Watering facility** for providing animal access to water.
- **Wetland enhancement** to increase function and values.
- **Wetland restoration and rehabilitation** of a drained or degraded wetland to restore functions and values.
- **Wildlife watering facility** that meets the needs of targeted species.
- **Wildlife habitat management** by
 - Application of an approved management plan or Private Lands Agreement that meets the needs for food, cover or water for targeted species.
 - Enhance wildlife habitat linkages and corridors by creating a mosaic or pattern.
- Management that provides for shallow water and wetland wildlife habitat improvement.
- **Prescribed grazing management** that:
 - Adds functional group pastures to improve pasture condition. I
 - Interseeding of desirable forages and legumes
 - Timed grazing on a portion of paddocks to create habitat for targeted species.
 - Increased plant diversity - forbs and legumes greater than 40%.
 - Patch burn/graze to improve wildlife habitat diversity and cover.
- **Integrated pest management** activities for weeds, brush, insects, or diseases that include follow-up treatment.
 - **Brush management** for removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants.
 - **Range planting** to establishment of adapted perennial vegetation