



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

May 31, 2013

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA440-13-3

SUBJECT: PGM – FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013 CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

DEADLINE: FY2013 CSP APPLICATION BATCHING DATE, JUNE 14, 2013

PURPOSE: To provide FY2013 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) implementation guidance.

EXPIRATION DATE: September 30, 2014

Enhancement job sheets and Iowa addendums are posted on the Iowa NRCS website along with other documents needed for the 2013-1 CSP sign-up. The 2013-1 Activity List for Planners is attached to this bulletin. Additional information is available in the CSP Community on USDA Connect:

<https://connections.usda.gov/communities/service/html/communityview?communityUuid=bd9db1cc-2b35-41dd-adc4-5d278268046b>

District conservationists are to process 2013-1 CSP applications as follows:

1. CSP Timeline

The 2013-1 CSP batching date for ranking applications is June 14, 2013. **To be eligible for the 2013-1 sign-up ranking period, applications must be entered in ProTracts by close of business June 14, 2013.** The timeline for FY2013 CSP is shown in the attached National Bulletin, NB300-13-28.

2. CSP Toolkit Instructions

CSP Toolkit Instructions for FY2013 are attached. Further guidance will be sent when it becomes available, regarding loading domain data for enhancement narratives.

3. CSP Eligibility Documentation

NRCS acquires the FSA Farm Data Report and 156EZ forms from FSA Farms Records system. Use this link to the FSA Farm Records program:

<https://northsea.sc.egov.usda.gov/frs/home.do?buttonSubmit=Y&option=reportSelection&pageToken=0>

Total eligible crop acres for each tract should match effective DCP acres, if they do not; document the discrepancy on the Farm Data Report or 156EZ form. Document the eligible acres and control of land on the Farm Data Report or 156EZ form for each tract.

F

When part of the acres are eligible, line through the effective DCP acres and write in the actual eligible acres and show ineligible amount with reason for ineligibility.

Recommended designations are:

- COL = Applicant has control of Land for the life of the contract.
- No COL = Applicant doesn't have control of land for the life of the contract.
- NE-CRP = Not eligible because acres were entered into CRP (only when the CRP acres are included in the effective DCP acres).
- NE-NA = Not eligible because the land was newly acquired and the applicant hasn't demonstrated their management system yet.
- NE-SB = Not eligible because acres were sodbusted after June 18, 2008.
- NE-CSP02 = Not eligible because land is in CSP02 (Security).
- NE-CSP08 = Not eligible because land is already in CSP08 (Stewardship).

Iowa Control of Land requirements are explained on the attachment titled "Control of Land Requirements for CSP." The attached Control of Land Form is to be provided to the applicant.

4. Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) Instructions

The attached CMT Users Guide explains policy on how the CMT must be used. The guide must be consulted as a reference when making decisions during field verifications, ranking processes, and contract development and management. The CMT Users Guide can also be accessed through CSP Community on USDA Connect.

5. Waiver to Start Prior To Obligation

Attached is a waiver form to be used in cases where a FY2013 CSP applicant has enhancements scheduled in year 1 of the contract. This form is to be used when contracts will not be able to be obligated by the time the enhancement needs to be applied. The State Conservationist has granted permission for district conservationists to approve waivers for the applicant to commence application of enhancements prior to contract obligation. The waiver is not allowed if the applicant has commenced the enhancement. A copy of the approved form must be kept in the case file. Some examples of enhancements that may qualify for the waiver are:

- AIR04 Use drift reducing nozzles
- AIR07 GPS targeted spray application
- ANM27 Wildlife friendly fencing
- PLT06 Windbreak/Shelterbelt renovation
- WQL03 Rotation of supplement and feeding areas

There are other enhancements that may qualify for the waiver.

6. Pastured Cropland Tool

If an applicant has pastureland and elects not to apply for pastured cropland, documentation must be entered in Conservation Assistance Notes (IA-CPA-15) explaining pastured cropland was considered and either not eligible or applicant declined to request pastured cropland. If pastured cropland is included in the contract the Pastured Cropland Tool must be used and placed in the case file (Part 1). The Pastured Cropland Users guide is attached and can also be accessed through CSP Community on

USDA Connect. This is a link to the Pastured Cropland Tool:

<https://ideamap.sc.egov.usda.gov/csppasturedcroplandtool/default.aspx>

7. Applicant Eligibility Exception Request

For owners or tenants that are the “operator of record” but not listed as operator at the Farm Service Agency, the attached “Conservation Stewardship Program (2013-1) Applicant Eligibility Exception Request” form must be approved by the State Conservationist to document eligibility.

8. Special Documentation Requirements

- Conservation Assistance Notes (IA-CPA-15) entry is required documenting participant received obligated contract documents and job sheets.
- Field verification findings are to be documented on the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) detail report and in Conservation Assistance Notes (IA-CPA-15).
- Enhancement certification for payment requires participant signature or initials and date certifying the activities are applied and maps identifying the enhancements with amounts and locations of application.
- The NRCS-CPA-1155 Conservation Plan or Schedule of Operations form and NRCS-CPA-1156 Revision of Plan/Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract form requires hard copy of district conservationist signature certifying technical adequacy prior to participant signatures. The Approving Official electronic signature must be printed and placed in the contract file for the NRCS-CPA-1202 Conservation Program Contract and all NRCS-CPA-1156 Revision of Plan/Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract forms.
- Use of the current 6-Part Folder Checklist is required.
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_005845.pdf
- CMT summary reports used for pre-approval and obligation (including CMT revisions during contract modifications) must contain signatures & dates by all parties in all places on the form. Retain the above mentioned reports in the contract folder if it becomes necessary to re-run the CMT after the ranking period.
- Participant signatures on forms must be consistent (example: if participant uses middle initial on 1200 they use middle initial on all documents).

I look forward to another great year of assisting our customers with timely implementation of the Conservation Stewardship Program.

Jay T. Mar
State Conservationist

Attachments: 2013-1 Activity List for Planners
CSP Toolkit Procedure
National Bulletin NB300-13-28 FY2013 CSP Time
Control of Land Requirements for CSP
CSP Control of Land Form
CMT Users Guide
Request for Waiver to Commence Before Contract Obligation Form
Pastured Cropland Users Guide
Applicant Eligibility Exception Request Form

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (2013-1)
APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY EXCEPTION REQUEST**

This form can be used to explain the type of information needed by a producer to request an exception

Before requesting an exception the following action must have been taken by the CSP applicant:

I have established and updated my records with FSA.

I have been informed by FSA that they are unable to update my records to identify me as the “operator of record” for the following farm/tracts: use additional sheet if needed

FSA Farm #: _____	Tract: _____	Field _____
FSA Farm #: _____	Tract: _____	Field _____
FSA Farm #: _____	Tract: _____	Field _____
FSA Farm #: _____	Tract: _____	Field _____

Attach a map/photo to indicate unnumbered areas/fields, if necessary

Evidence of the following conditions needs to be provided to NRCS for consideration of an applicant’s eligible “operator of record” exception request:

- The applicant is identified as the “owner” or “other tenant” on the Producer Farm Data Report for the farms/tracts identified above.
- Evidence of decision making authority, control of land for the length of the CSP contract, and actual operation, has been provided to NRCS for the farms/tracts/fields identified above. (statement from operator)

I am requesting an exception to the CSP operator of record eligibility requirement for the above listed farms/tracts/fields based upon the conditions stated above.

Applicant Name (Printed)

Applicant Name (Signed)

Date

Application # _____

I have reviewed all of the documentation identified above and confirm the information provided is correct and recommend approval of the exception request:

NRCS District Conservationist

Date

Approved:

NRCS State Conservationist

Date

United States
Department of
Agriculture



National
Resources
Conservation
Service



Conservation Stewardship Program Prime Farmland Tool (CSPFT)

User Guide

May 2013

CSP Prime Farmland Tool

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CSP Prime Farmland Tool

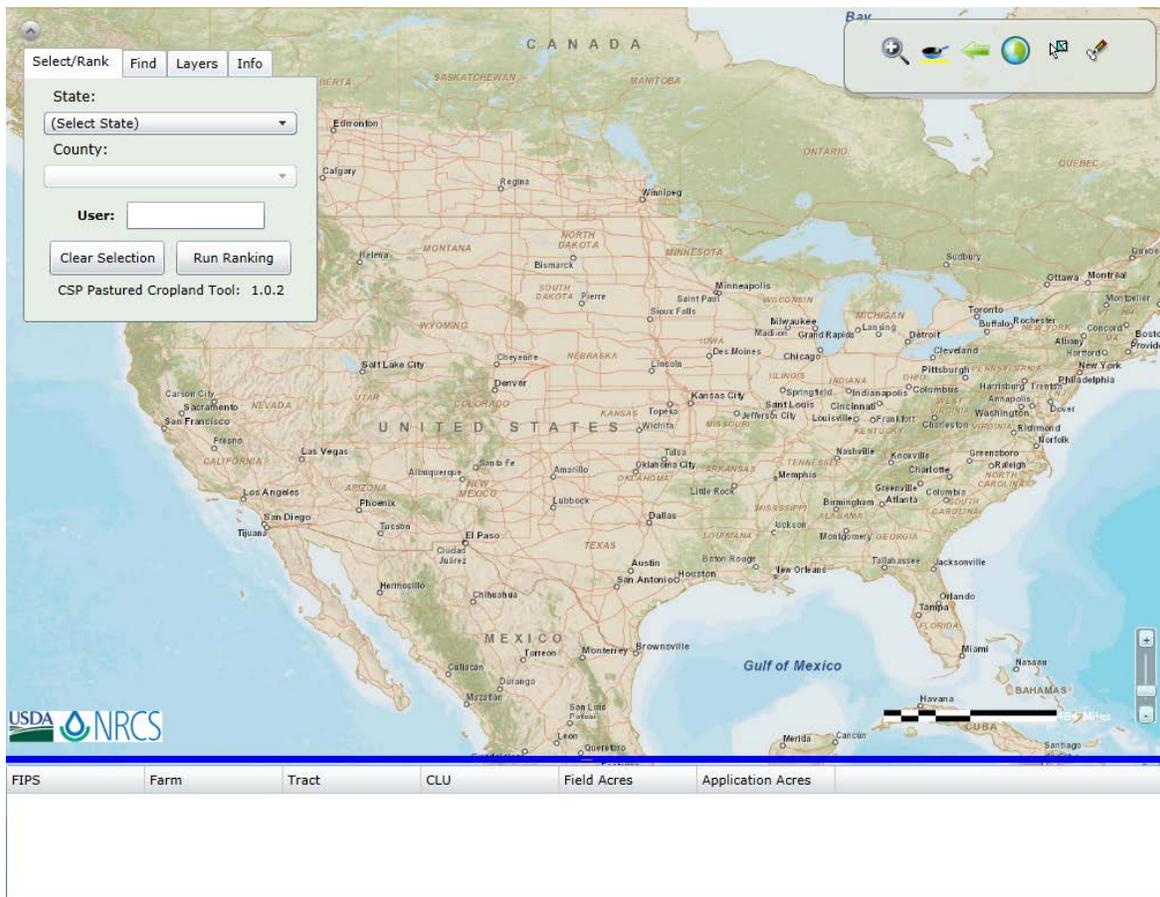
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CSP Prime Farmland Tool

The CSP Prime Farmland tool is a program designated to identify land used for the production of permanent vegetative cover in a grass-based livestock production system. The tool provides a field level evaluation as to the percentage of soils contained in a field that are considered prime farmland soils.

Access the Application

To access the CSP Prime Farmland Tool use Internet Explorer and go to <https://ideamap.sc.egov.usda.gov/csppasturedcroplandtool/default.aspx>.



Using the Application

The CSP Prime Farmland tool is comprised of several components; Navigation Toolbar. The screen is divided into two parts including the Application and the Reports sections. Rankings are completed in the Application area. The section located at the bottom of the screen provides results of the query.

Toolbar

The Toolbar has the basic functions used in mapping software (Zoom In, Pan, Previous Extent, Original Extent, Select Tool and Digitize Area of Interest). To Pan, hold down the left mouse button and drag in the display area. To zoom in roll the mouse button away from you. To zoom out, roll the mouse button towards you.



	Zoom In	Zoom in on the map layout page by clicking a point or dragging a box.
	Pan	Pan across the map layout page by dragging (click left mouse button and hold down while dragging) your mouse.
	Previous Extent	Go back to the previous extent of the map/view layout.
	Original Extent	Zoom to the original extent.
	Select tool	Select fields when the Common Land Unit layer appears
	Digitize Area of Interest	Draw field boundaries. Fields will be labeled on the map after ranking is done.

Scale

A scale bar is located in the lower right corner of the screen.



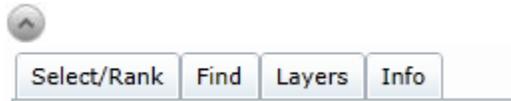
Zoombar Control

Click the + to zoom in or the – to zoom out. Move the bar up to zoom in and down to zoom out.



Menu Tabs

To expand a section, click the expand  button. To condense a section, click the condense  button.



Select/Rank Tab

Select the "State" and "County" the farm is located in. The user may enter their name in the "User" domain to appear on the report. Use the "Clear Selection" button to clear a selection and the "Run Ranking" button to perform calculations.



Select/Rank Find Layers Info

State:
(Select State) ▾

County:
▾

User:

Clear Selection Run Ranking

CSP Pastured Cropland Tool: 1.0.2

Find Tab

Once the State and County are chosen you can enter the Farm and Tract numbers (both are required) located on the "Find" tab. When the "Find" button is clicked the application zooms to the extent of the farm.



Select/Rank Find Layers Info

Find CLU

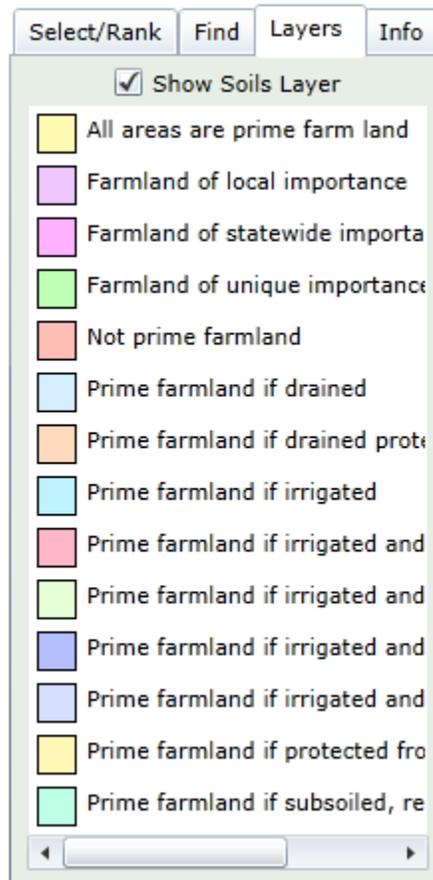
Farm Number:

Tract Number:

Find

Layers Tab

On the “Layers” tab check the “Show Soils Layer” box to display the prime farmland classifications.



Info Tab

The “Info” tab displays the data layer source dates, the server and provides a link to the User Guide.



Attributes of Selected Fields

After CLUs are selected, a list of the selected fields will populate at the bottom of the screen. Attributes includes *FIPS*, *Farm* and *Tract number*, *CLU*, *Field Acres* and *Application Acres*. *Application Acres* reflects a running total of acres. However, all rankings are done on a field basis.

The area can be expanded by holding the cursor over the blue divider and dragging it to the desired location.

FIPS	Farm	Tract	CLU	Field Acres	Application Acres	
48437	204	270	1	52.0	158.3	
48437	204	270	3	29.5	158.3	
48437	204	270	2	35.7	158.3	
48437	204	270	4	41.0	158.3	

Tutorial

Finding the Farm, Tract, Field

Selection Data

- Click on the “Select/Rank” tab.



State: Indiana

County: ALLEN

User: John Smith

Clear Selection Run Ranking

CSP Pastured Cropland Tool: 1.0.2

- Select the “State”.
- Select the “County”.
- In the “User” domain enter your name.
- Use the “Zoom In” tool  and the “Pan” tool  to locate the CLU.

Using the Farm and Tract Number to Locate Fields

Locate the farm by entering the farm and tract numbers.

- ❑ Begin by selecting the “State” and “County” on the “Select/Rank” tab.
- ❑ In the “User” domain enter the name of the person doing the evaluation.
- ❑ Click the “Find” tab.



- ❑ Enter the “Farm Number” and “Tract Number”.
- ❑ Click the  button to zoom to the farm.

Selecting Fields

Selecting Fields Using “Select CLU” Tool

- ❑ To select a land unit click on the “Select CLU”  button located on the Navigation toolbar and click on the appropriate CLU(s). Multiple fields can be selected with the evaluation being completed on each individual field.

A list of selected fields will populate the table at the bottom of the screen. Data includes FIPS, Farm and Tract number, CLU (field no.) along with acres by field. The Application Acres column gives a running total of acres selected, but rankings are done on a field basis.

Note: To clear a selection click the “Clear Selection” button located on the “Select/Rank” tab.

Selecting Fields Using “Digitize Area of Interest” Tool

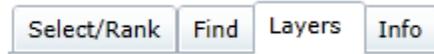
- ❑ Areas of field can be digitized by using the “Digitize Area of Interest”  tool. Start by clicking the left mouse button where a corner is needed. Double click at the last point to create a polygon.

When this option is used the table at the bottom of the screen will not be populated with information since the data is not being selected from the CLU database.

The Layers Tab

Data layers showing all of the Prime Farmland designations for a given area can be displayed.

- ❑ Click the “Layers” tab.



- To display the Prime Farmland data layer click the radio button for Show Soils Layer.



Soils are classified as prime farmland if they meet all of the criteria as outlined in the National Soil Survey Handbook NSSH part 622. Limitation due to drainage, lack of water or flooding can keep a soil from being designated as prime. If a limitation is overcome then it can be elevated to a prime farmland status.

Ranking Fields

Run the report to determine the acres and percentage of soils that meet the various prime farmland designations. A report will be generated.

- Click the  button.

A field is considered “pastured cropland” when more than 50% of the soils in the field are considered to be prime farmland.

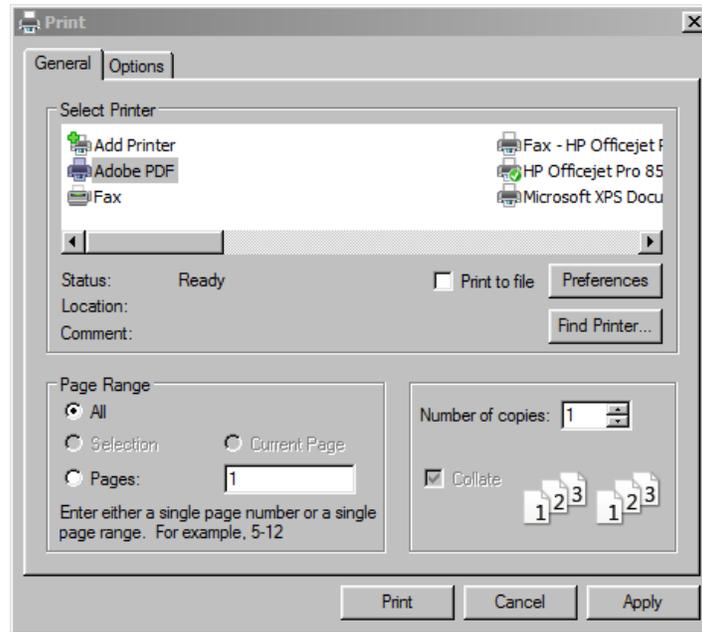
Each state is required to establish the criteria to be used or those designation that require a limiting factor, e.g. drained or irrigated, to be met.

Printing a Report

Create a PDF

Once the ranking report has been generated, it can be printed to a PDF or sent to a printer for a hard copy. This report showing the fields will be the official documentation of the determination.

- Make sure selected fields used in the ranking are in the center of the screen to ensure field boundaries are printed correctly. If you want to print the map showing the prime farmland you must turn the layer on prior to printing.
- In the Internet Explorer browser click “File” then “Print”.
- In the Select Printer field click “Adobe PDF” and then click the “Print” button.



- Name the file and save to the appropriate location.

Print the Report

- On the Adobe Acrobat main menu click “File” then “Print”.

Making Additional Evaluations

The “Clear Selection” button on the “Select/Rank” tab to remove all previously selected fields and continue with the next determination.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER TO COMMENCE BEFORE CONTRACT OBLIGATION

I _____ have applied for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). My CSP application # is _____. In order to complete the schedule proposed in this application I am requesting approval to apply enhancement(s) _____ prior to having an obligated contract. This request applies only to this CSP application. I certify that in order to complete the listed enhancements as proposed in the application, commencement prior to contract obligation is required. I further certify that the enhancements have not been applied or commenced on the land scheduled in the application prior to approval of this request. I realize that approval to commence before a contract is obligated does not commit NRCS to ultimately approve my application.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST APPROVAL

I have reviewed and approve this request for waiver to commence before contract obligation.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

CMT User's Guide

CMT version 5 (CSP-2013-1)
April 19, 2013

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Welcome to CMT User's Guide

This guide describes the various options of the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) application, the layout of the menus, key navigational features, functions within pages and submenus, and guidance for Inventory questions.

What is CMT?

The Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) application guides the conservationist and CSP applicant through the process of calculating conservation performance levels for the existing activities on the applicant's operation. In addition, CMT will determine if stewardship eligibility requirements are met, aid in the selection and planning of additional activities (practices and enhancements), calculate conservation performance levels associated with additional activities, and determine the conservation performance ranking score. CMT also provides to ProTracts the necessary information for determining the contract payment.

Accessing CMT

CMT is accessed from the ProTracts application by clicking on the CMT link.

In order for the CMT link to become active, there are four required data items that must be completed. The four required data items are listed below:

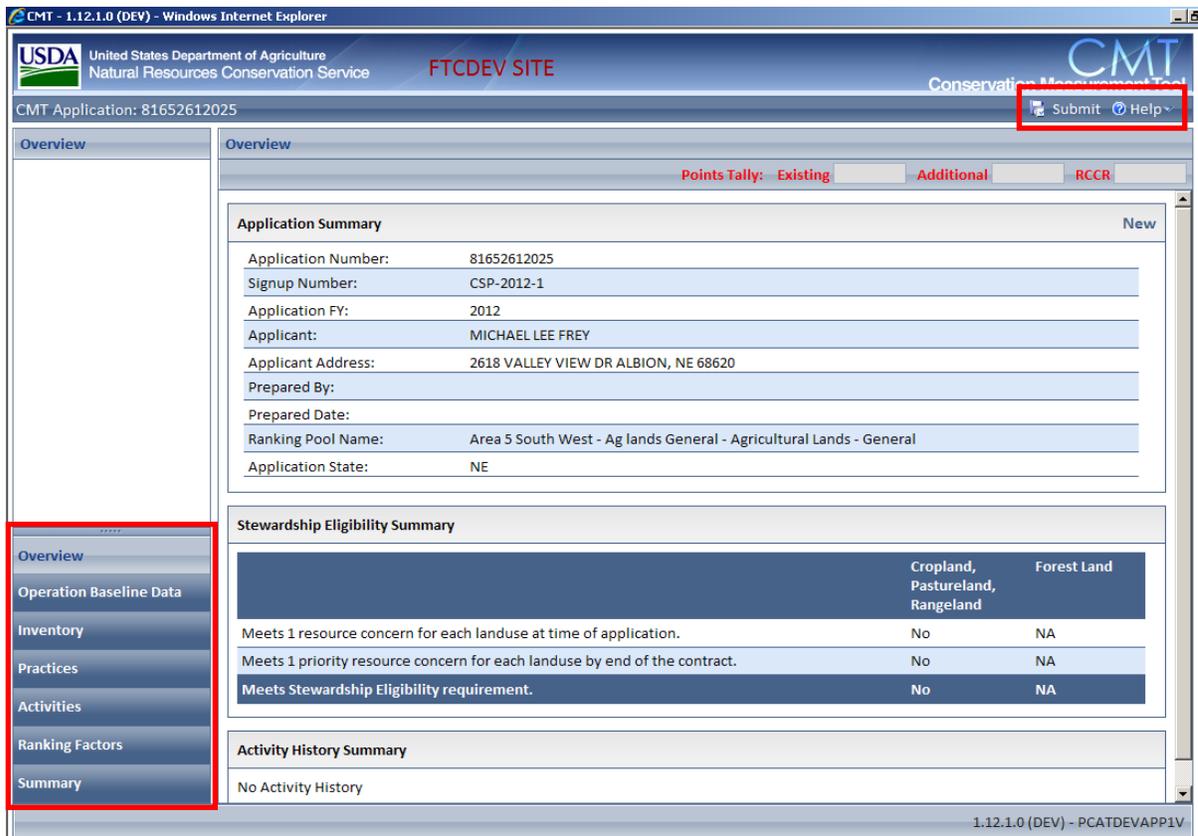
1. "Legal Description" completed
2. "Land Ownership" and "Applicant Certification of Land Control" completed
3. "FA Fund Code" selected
4. "Application Status" set to Eligible

The screenshot displays the CMT application interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Tools, Applications, Contracts, Rates, Forms, Funds, Reports, Contact Us, Help, and Log Off. The main content area shows application details for 'CSP 2008 Application'. Several fields are highlighted with red boxes to indicate required data items: 'Legal Description' (a dropdown menu), 'Application Status' (set to 'Eligible'), 'FA Fund Code' (set to 'Test CSP 2008'), and 'Applicant Certification of Land Control' (set to 'Deed'). Other visible fields include Program (CSP 2008), Application FY (2010), Signup Date (5/4/2010), Signup Number (CSP-2010-2), Servicing Office (ALMA SERVICE CENTER 62143), Planner (Paul J Gallagher), Watershed (Location: Headwaters Big Creek), Application Number (816215102YX), Land Enrolled in Other Programs (Yes/No), Land Ownership (Private), and Resource Concerns (Soil Quality, Water Quality, Water Quantity). The Ranking Score is 170.88 and the Tie Breaker is 281.64.

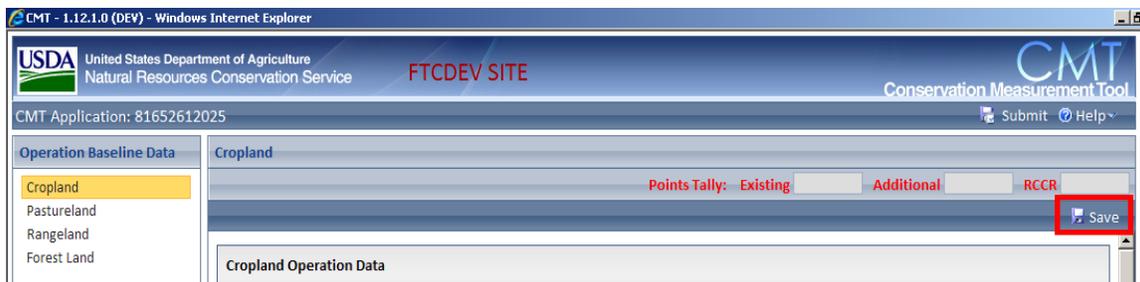
Navigation

When CMT launches, the Overview page will be displayed. On the left of the page, you will find the main menu. The menu has links to other CMT pages, such as Overview, Operation Baseline Data, Inventory, Practices, Activities, Ranking Factors, and Summary.

Also, on this page, and every page in CMT, you will find the Submit and Help links on the top right corner. 'Submitting' the application to ProTracts can be done from any page.



When you click on one of the items in the left-navigation pane, the page associated with that option will open. If information can be entered on the page, a "Save" button will be in the top right corner. Be sure to click the "Save" button after new information has been entered. Additionally, allow the actions initiated by the "Save" button to conclude before transitioning to other locations in the application.



Within the new page, submenu options will be displayed on the upper left. The screen shot below is an example, the submenu options for the Inventory section of CMT are displayed.



Sometimes when one of the menu options is selected, a message will be displayed indicating that information is being loaded. Wait for the information to be loaded.



If a menu option is selected that is not associated with the application or not available at this time, an informational message will be displayed to inform you of the reason the option cannot be selected.



CMT Help

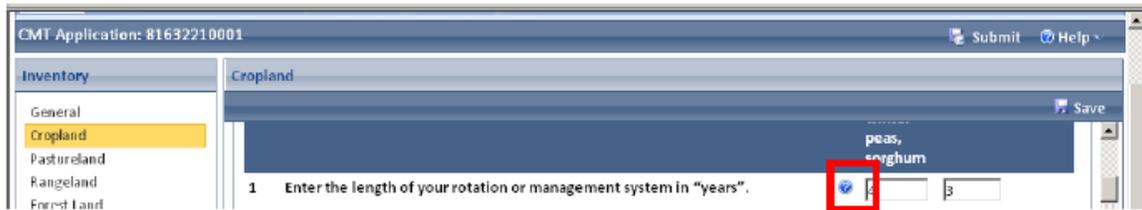
The Help link directs the user to the CMT User's Guide and also provides the web address to report any problems or issues with the CMT web site (i.e., RA.cofortcol3.NRCS-Steward).



Important Tips

The following tips are important to note, particularly if you are a new CMT user.

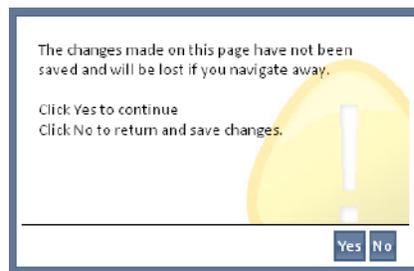
1 Throughout the CMT application, a question mark will be displayed to inform that additional information is available. Click on the question mark to display more details.



2 After entering all of the responses for one of the menu options, select the 'Save' button to save the information. A message will appear indicating that the information was successfully saved. Additionally, allow the actions initiated by the "Save" button to conclude before transitioning to other locations in the application.



3 If you attempt to navigate to another menu option without saving the information, a message will appear indicating that the information has not been saved.



- If "Yes" is selected, all information entered will be lost as you navigate to another menu option.
- If you wish to return and save the information, select "No."

4 The expected data entry work flow while using the tool, especially on the first run, is: Overview, Operation Baseline Date, Inventory, Practices, Activities, Ranking Factors, and Summary.

Overview

This option provides a brief summary of the application data from ProTracts, the status of stewardship eligibility, and a history of access and work on the CSP application.

The screenshot shows the CMT application overview page. The top navigation bar includes the USDA logo, 'United States Department of Agriculture', 'Natural Resources Conservation Service', and 'TEST SITE'. The CMT logo and 'Conservation Measurement Tool' are also visible. The application number is 812C31120CA. The 'Points Tally' section shows Existing: 211.01, Additional: 10.99, and BCCR: 0.00. The 'Application Summary' section includes fields for Application Number, Signup Number, Application FY, Applicant, Applicant Address, Prepared By, Prepared Date, Ranking Pool Name, and Application State. The 'Stewardship Eligibility Summary' table shows 'Meets 1 resource concern for each landuse at time of application', 'Meets 1 priority resource concern for each landuse by end of the contract', and 'Meets Stewardship Eligibility requirement' with 'Yes' for Cropland, Pasture-land, Rangeland and 'NA' for Forest Land. The 'Activity History Summary' table lists events such as 'Submitted Application to Protracts', 'Saved Activities Cropland', and 'Saved Inventory Water' with their respective dates, users, and statuses.

Eligibility requirements are as follows:

1. Meeting stewardship threshold for at least one resource concern for each land use at time of application. This will be determined once the inventory of existing activities is completed. If this requirement is not being met, you will not be allowed to select and schedule practices or activities.
2. Meeting stewardship threshold for at least one priority resource concern for each land use by end of contract.
 - If this requirement is **met** at the beginning of the contract with existing activities, you will be allowed to select and schedule activities.
 - If this requirement is **not met** at the beginning of the contract with existing activities, practices can be utilized to meet this requirement.
 - If this requirement is **not met** at the beginning of the contract with existing activities and practices will not be utilized to meet this requirement, response to this requirement will be “No.”
3. If the responses to any of the two above requirements are “No,” the “Meets Stewardship thresholds requirement” will be “No” and you will not be allowed to select and schedule activities.

Operation Baseline Data (OBD)

This option is for entering or updating unit specific information for the given application. The information gathered and entered into this tab has four critical functions:

1. Facilitates Steps 3 (Inventory Resources) and 4 (Analyze Resource Data) of the 9 Step Planning Process
2. Facilitates the auto-population of the applicable amounts for enhancement/practices in the "Activities/Practices" tab, respectively, as well as auto-population of the 'Total land use acres' for each Inventory land use submenu.
3. **Instrumental in calculating "Performance Points" by practice or enhancement**
4. **Defines the applicant's potential in order to determine Ranking Factors 2 and 4**

This tab has four possible submenu options: Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland or Forestland.

The screenshot displays the 'Operation Baseline Data' interface. On the left, a vertical menu lists four land use categories: 'Cropland', 'Pastureland', 'Rangeland', and 'Forest Land'. The 'Cropland' option is currently selected and highlighted with a red box. Below this menu are two buttons: 'Overview' and 'Operation Baseline Data', with the latter also highlighted by a red box. The main content area on the right is titled 'Operation Baseline Data' and features a 'Points Tally' section with three input fields: 'Existing', 'Additional', and 'RCCR'. The 'Existing' field is currently empty, while the 'Additional' and 'RCCR' fields contain numerical values.

Each submenu option selected requires ALL of the relevant operation baseline data (OBD) questions to be completed. As referenced above, the data entries to this tab feed specific data needs of the Inventory, Practices, and Activities tabs, and the data entered into this tab also has an effect on two of the four ranking factors for the applicant; therefore, **no relevant OBD question per land use should be skipped or omitted.**

What is meant by 'relevant'? Georgia crop operation example:

- × 1500 acres (soils on 250 ac has: slope<1%, VPD drainage class, parallel ditching w/subsurface tile drainage, and irrigation via a single pivot supplied by one 3-phase irrigation pumping plant pulling from an adjacent creek)
- × Rotation 1-1400 acres: peanuts/wheat for grain-no straw harvest/double crop soybeans/rye cc/cotton/rye cc
- × Rotation 2-50 acres: Bermudagrass hay
- × Rotation 3-50 acres: Peach orchard

- ✗ Expect:
 - ✗ Annually planted row crop acres-Acres of PD soils w/ artificial drainage that can be flooded=250
 - ✗ Other row crop acres=1150
 - ✗ Total row crop acres=1400
 - ✗ Hayland acres (permanent ONLY)=50
 - ✗ Orchards and/or vineyards acres=50
 - ✗ Linear feet of existing riparian forest buffer(s)>0
 - ✗ Number of existing pumping plants=1
 - ✗ Number of single speed electric motors=1
 - ✗ Irrigated acres=250
 - ✗ Total Cropland acres=1500
- ✗ Do not expect (examples):
 - ✗ Hayland acres (annually planted ONLY)>0
 - ✗ Acres of soils that were once prairie>0
 - ✗ Acres in an organic system>0

What is meant by 'relevant'? 'Palouse' crop operation example:

- ✗ 2000 acres (slopes >15% on average, dry land system)
- ✗ Rotation 1: wheat for grain and straw harvest/fallow

- ✗ Expect:
 - ✗ Hayland acres (annually planted ONLY)=1000
 - ✗ Other row crop acres=1000
 - ✗ Total row crop acres=2000
 - ✗ Linear ft of existing FB>0
 - ✗ Linear ft of existing FS...>0
 - ✗ Acres of soil that were once prairie=2000
 - ✗ Total Cropland acres=2000

For each OBD submenu selection, the page layouts are similar. OBD questions above and including "Acres of research and demonstration project that meet the State defined criteria" are primarily for 'Activities,' while the questions below are for 'Practices.' The OBD questions for 'Practices' usually end in "needed to address a resource concern."

Acres of a pilot project that meet the State defined criteria

Acres of a research and demonstration project that meet the State defined criteria

Acres of critical area planting needed to address a resource concern

Linear feet of fence needed to address a resource concern

Acres of field borders needed to address a resource concern

Acres of filter strips needed to address a resource concern

Linear feet of windbreak/shelterbelt establishment needed to address a resource concern

Acres of riparian herbaceous cover needed to address a resource concern

Acres of forest riparian buffers needed to address a resource concern

Acres recommended for tree/shrub establishment in a forestry management plan or similar

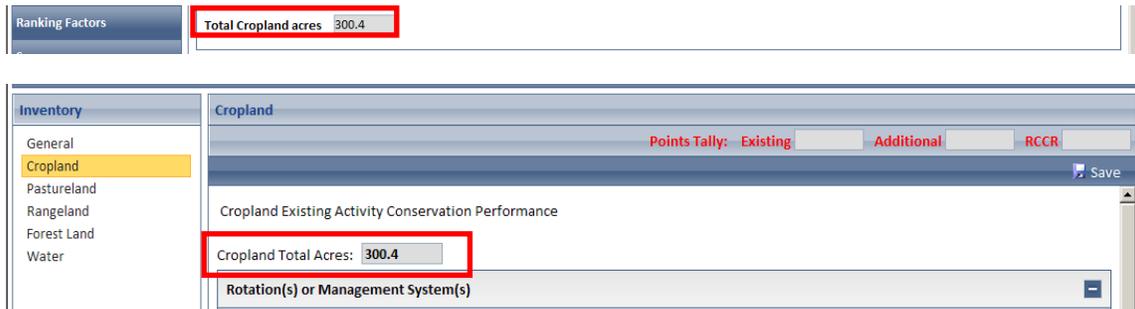
Number of watering facilities needed to address a resource concern

Linear feet of road/trails/landings needing closure

Acres of trails/landings needed to address a resource concern (for linear features assume a 15 ft width * length)

Total Cropland acres

The land use totals from the respective OBD submenu options auto-populate the Inventory Total land use acres.



The responses to the OBD questions auto-populate the applicable amounts for the respective Practices and/or Activities.

Overview	AIR04	Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift	System	300.4	Acres
Operation Baseline Data	AIR07	GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology	System	300.4	Acres
Inventory	AIR08	Nitrification inhibitors or urease inhibitors	System	300.4	Acres

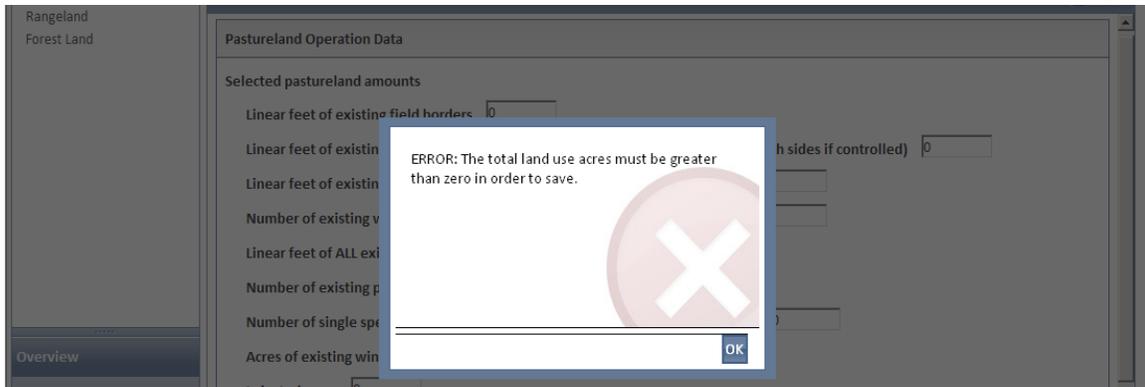
Specifically for crop OBD Q#1 and Q#4 (especially when the crop rotation contains a mixture of annual and perennial cultivars), refer to the spreadsheet title “**Procedure for answering cropland OBD Q#1 and Q4 021512**” contained in USDA Connect Community – Conservation Stewardship Program/Bookmark/CMT User’s Guide

For crop and pasture OBD questions, “Number of existing pumping plants (used for irrigation ONLY) and Irrigated acres,” there is a hard control in the tool that requires a response for “Irrigated acres” if the response to “Number of existing pumping plants (used for irrigation ONLY)” is answered with a value greater than “0.” For situations with the inverse relationship, there is no hard control requirement.

For crop, pasture and range OBD question “Acres of soils that were once prairie (reference soil survey),” refer to the document titled “**Procedure to answer Prairie OBD question 021612**” contained in Appendix A.

OBD ‘Save’ Control

If the user tries to ‘Save’ the OBD responses and the “Total Land use Acres” cell is not populated, the tool will throw an error message requiring the cell to be populated with a value greater than “0.”



Once all data has been entered and the Save checks are passed. A “Success” message is received.



Note: the “Important” part of the Success message refers to changes made after the initial CMT run.

Inventory

This option is for entering or updating qualitative information about the existing activities of the applicant's agricultural operation. The General submenu contains questions regarding operation-wide activities. The land use submenus contain activity questions specific to the land use, which are used for determining conservation performance levels of existing activities.

The Water submenu is completed for those applications in which water bodies/water courses are identified as being associated with cropland, pastureland, and/or rangeland. This section does not apply to Forest as Water questions are incorporated into this land use's questions.

Rotations, Management Systems, Land Use Acres

For Cropland and Pastureland, you will enter the Rotation(s) or Management System Name(s) and the acres for each before responding to Inventory questions. As the Rotation(s) or Management System Name(s) are entered, the Rotation or Management System Name acres are totaled. The sum of the Rotation or Management System Name acres must match the "Cropland or Pastureland Total Acres." If the sums of the rotations do not match, an error message is displayed.

Water

Cropland Total Acres: 300.4

Rotation(s) or Management System(s)

Rotation or Management System Name	Acres	
Rot 1		X
		X
		X
		X
		X

"Rotation Acres Entered" must equal "Cropland Total Acres" above.

Rotation Acres Entered: 0

Continue

Once all of the Rotation(s) or Management System Name(s) are entered and their acre totals to the Total Acres, select the Continue button.

Water

Cropland Total Acres: 300.4

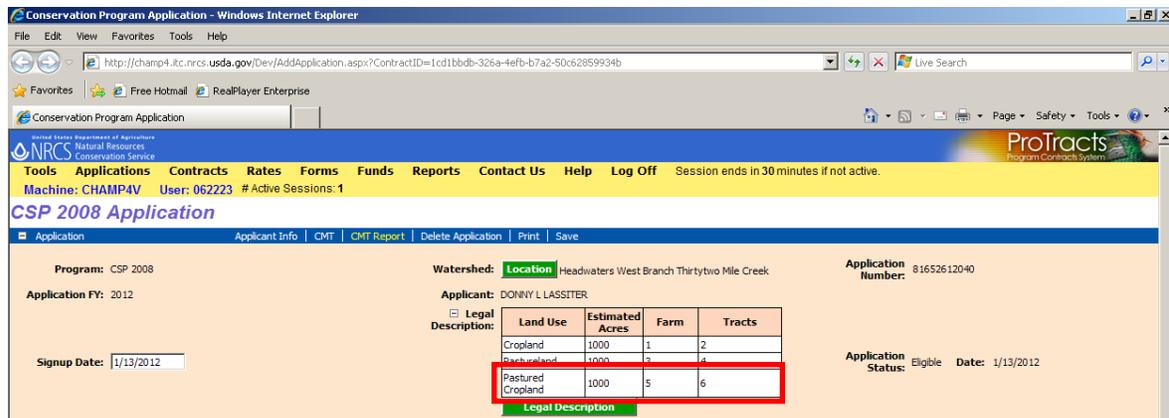
Rotation(s) or Management System(s)

Rotation or Management System Name	Acres	
Rot 1	300.4	X
		X
		X
		X
		X

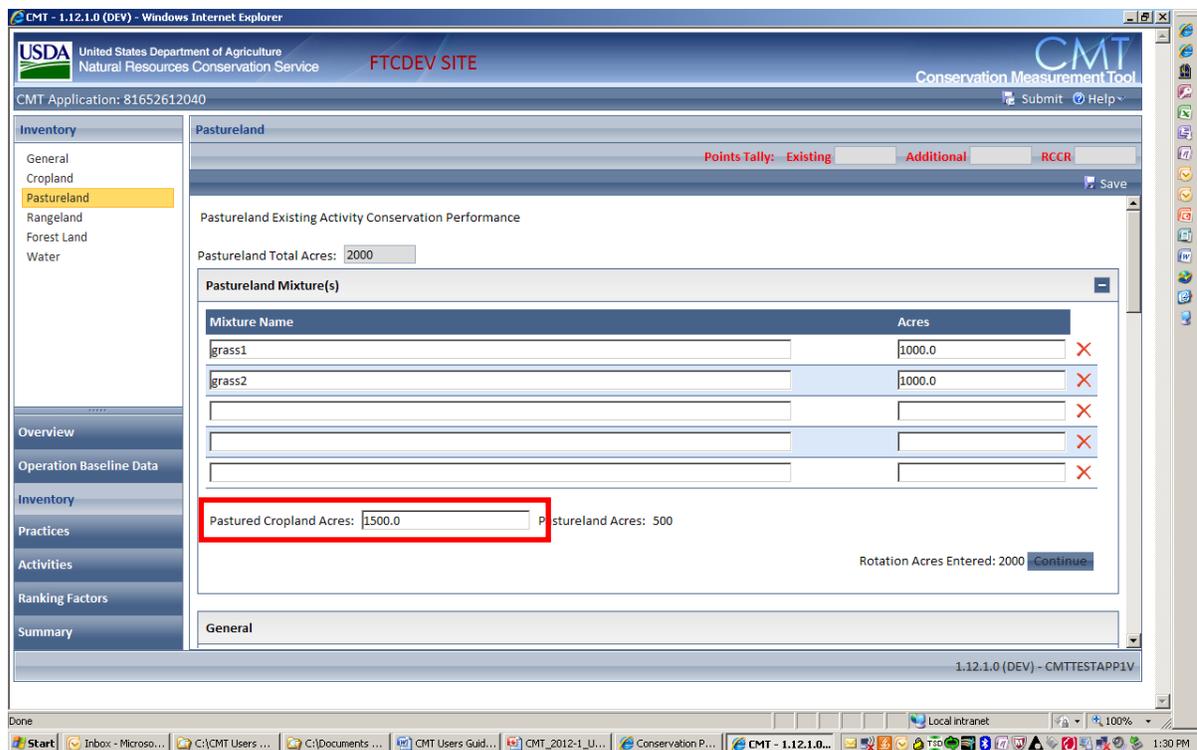
Rotation Acres Entered: 300.4

Continue

For Pastureland, Pastured Cropland is listed as sub-quantity of Total Pastureland Acres. If the applicant has Pastured Cropland and the Pastured Cropland land use has not been previously accounted, log into Protracts and add that land use.



Note: All technical assessments and determinations for this new land use are completed as pastureland. For applications with Pastured Cropland, these acres are not necessarily distinguished in the Pastureland Mixture(s). However, the sum of the Rotation Acres Entered must equal the Pastureland Total Acres. For applications with Pastured Cropland and Pastureland, Pastured Cropland acres are directly inputted in the box located just below the rotation display. Acres of Pastureland will be automatically calculated. If the only pastureland acreage is Pastured Cropland, the acreage will be automatically populated by the Rotation Acres Entered amount(s).



During the inventory, if it is determined there are no Pastured Cropland acres, return to the application in ProTracts and delete the Pastured Cropland land use. When you return to CMT, acres associated with Pastured Cropland will be deleted.

For rangeland and forest land, the acres of the land use are auto-populated from the Operation Baseline Data tab.



After selecting the “Continue” button for Cropland or Pastureland or validating the Rangeland or Forestland Acres are correct, proceed to answer the Inventory questions. Be sure to read the questions carefully, prior to entering an answer. Note: All questions have a defaulted “No” response, or if the response is numeric, a defaulted “1” or “0.” If the desired answer is “Yes,” be sure to select “Yes” for each relevant question. If the appropriate response is greater than “1” or “0,” respectively, enter the correct number.

Questions

For Cropland and Pastureland with multiple rotations or mixtures, note that the “Answer All” option will enter the selected response for all rotations or mixtures.



For each submenu selection (i.e., General, Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland, Forestland and Water) on the Inventory tab, the included questions and their Guidance (in Italics) is shown below:

Ag Land – General Inventory

1. **Do you have any water bodies (ponds, lakes, or wetlands) or water courses (streams, rivers or ditches) on the indicated land use?**

Cropland
Pastureland
Rangeland

Guidance: A “yes” response for any land use requires the “Water” questions be answered.

2. **Do you have unpaved farm roads used by farm vehicles (does not include unpaved county roads or other unpaved public roads) or other unpaved areas such as feedlots or material handling areas that frequently result in significant dust generation, reducing visibility along the road or over the unpaved area for extended periods? If yes, check any of the following methods you regularly use to control dust.**

Regularly spraying water to reduce the dust
Apply biodegradable oils to reduce the dust
Gravel surfacing
Apply other environmentally benign dust control chemicals
None of the above

Guidance: This question is intended for private farm roads that are owned by the applicant. It does include county, township or other publicly owned roads that are not the responsibility of the applicant. Only answer “Yes” here if the dust from the roads is a persistent and ongoing problem.

3. **Identify each energy conservation reduction method used on your farm:**

Have you replaced electric motors or engines on your farm with high efficiency models in the last 3 years? A yes answer consider the following:

- The motors should be labeled as “premium”, which means they are more efficient than the current DOE standard.
- Consider only electric motors that are used for major activities on the farm such as pumps to move water or waste, ventilation fans, etc.
- Refer to the ANSI/ASABE S612 Performing On-Farm Energy Audits for a list of “major activities”.

Do you use alternative energy sources (solar, wind, biofuels, green energy) to replace fossil fuel energy uses on your farm? A “yes” answer considers the following examples:

- Wind or solar powered pumps
- Solar powered electric fencing
- Any biofuel blend

Have you improved the efficiency of heating, cooling or drying operations on your farm in the last 3 years? A “yes” answer considers the following:

- Evaluation is conducted on how energy efficient a particular grain drying system is rather than a comparison of one system versus another.
- Refer to the decision tree to determine if an applicant has an energy efficient grain drying system

Have you conducted an energy audit on your farm and are now implementing the energy actions? A “yes” answer considers the energy audit complies with ANSI/ASABE S612 Performing On-Farm Energy Audits.

Have you performed a pumping plant evaluation during the last 3 years and implemented the recommendations? A “yes” answer considers the following:

High efficiency pumping plants installed within the last 3 years or recognized through

pumping plant evaluation, include those using solar or other renewable energy sources. Pumping plants should include:

- A Tier III or Tier IV diesel motor,
- Using a variable frequency drive and/or
- Have had a pumping plant evaluation and implemented its recommendations in the last 3 years.

Guidance: the guidance for each of these questions is included in the question except for the question on drying operations. For this question see the “Grain Dryer Decision Tree” in the appendix.

Cropland Existing Activity Conservation Performance

- 1. Enter the length of your rotation or management system in “years”.** The number of years is the time it takes to complete the entire rotation before you start with the first crop again. For example: corn-wheat-double crop soybeans-cotton is a three year rotation. Corn-soybeans-corn-soybeans-wheat is a five year rotation. Winter wheat-corn-millet-fallow would be a four year rotation. For continuous cropping or permanent crops, such as orchards, use one year as your rotation length. If your cropping system is not fixed, pick your most commonly planted crops as an example.

Guidance: A more diverse rotation with multiple crops will score better. For permanent hayland rotations, enter a “1” for this value.

- 2. Based on your rotation or management system, enter the number of your harvested crops that are included in each of the categories below (a-e). Crops are grouped based on residue quality and quantity.** Do not include cover crops in your responses. Examples: If you have corn and wheat in your rotation, you would enter a “2” for question 2d. For a corn and soybean rotation, enter “1” in 2c (for beans) and “1” in 2d (for corn).
 - a) Enter the number of occurrences in your rotation or management system that include the following conditions:** low residue fallow crop periods, idle bare fields, or harvested sod. Sod harvested for turf is differentiated from hay (which is listed under 2e).
 - b) Enter the number of harvested crops in your rotation or management system that are included in the list below** (or are similar to the list below if not listed): Artichokes, Asparagus, Beans dry edible, Bedding/garden plants, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Bulbs/corms/rhizomes/tubers-dry, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Cilantro, Collards, Cucumbers, Daikon, Dill for oil, Eggplant, Endive, Escarole, Fava beans, Flower seeds, Flowers cut and cut florist greens, Foliage plants, Garlic, Ginger root, Ginseng, Green peas, Greens, Horseradish, Kale, Lettuce, Lima beans, Melons, Mustard greens, Nursery crops, Okra, Onions, Parsley, Peppers, Pimientos, Potted flowering plants, Pumpkins, Radishes, Rapini, Rutabagas, Shallots, Snap beans, Spinach, Squash, Strawberries, Tomatoes, Turnips, Vegetables, Watercress.
 - c) Enter the number of harvested crops in your rotation or management system that are included in the list below** (or are similar to the list below if not listed): Buckwheat, Canola, Castor beans, Chicory, Coffee and other woody perennials (orchards, vineyards) without cover in the alleys, Corn dry fodder hogged or grazed, Corn or sorghum silage, Cotton, Crambe, Flaxseed, Guar, Hops, Lentils, Mungbeans, Mustard seed, Pea type crops, Peanuts, Pineapples, Potatoes, Rapeseed, Safflower, Sage, Soybeans, Sugarbeets, Sunflower, Sweet potatoes, Tobacco, High Residue Fallow (>50% cover during the critical erosion period).
 - d) Enter the number of harvested crops in your rotation or management system that are included in the list below** (or are similar to the list below if not listed): Amaranth, Chufas, Corn Grain/Popcorn, Cranberries, Desert grass, Guava, Herbs perennial, Kenaf, Maple trees for syrup, Mint all for oil, Peppermint for oil, Rice, Sesame, Small Grains, Sorghum, Sugarcane, Teff, Woody perennials with cover in the alleys including Apricots, Berry/Fruit

Crops (Trees and Shrubs), Coffee, Grapes, Nut Trees, Pine trees ornamental, Temples, other orchard/vineyards crops.

- e) **Enter the number of harvested crops in your rotation or management system that are included in the list below** (or are similar to the list below if not listed): Dichondra, Grass Hay/Seed, Legume Hay /Seed, Lotus root, or similar herbaceous perennial crops. This does not include grass harvested for sod.

Guidance: The crops are grouped based on the residue generated from the crop. More residue controls erosion and is good for water quality and wildlife. High residue or perennial crops will score best. Note: fallow with high residue is considered a crop. Do not count cover crops for this question. The sum of the numbers entered here should match the sum of numbers entered in question #11.

3. Does your rotation or management system contain a cover crop that you do not harvest?

Guidance: Cover crops build organic matter (i.e., carbon) in the soil and are good for water quality, wildlife and energy. Grazed cover crops do not count. This also does not include nurse crops unless the nurse crop is planted in the off season to avoid a fallow period. This can include volunteer cover crop species mixes, if soil is nearly 100% covered.

3.1 Enter the number of years during the rotation length you plant an cover crop not for harvest (if the crop management system is a vineyard, orchard or other similar permanent crop, answer Q#3.2)

Guidance: Enter the total number of times cover crops (includes grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants) are established as seasonal or perennial cover and not harvested. For any given rotation, a response greater than zero to this question will preclude a response to Q3.2. The response to this question cannot be greater than the response to question #1.

3.2 Enter the percent (expressed as a decimal number) of the time the management system has a cover crop maintained between the rows.

Guidance: For orchards or vineyards, enter "1" if you maintain vegetation between permanent rows. For any given rotation, a response greater than zero to this question will preclude a response to Q3.1. The response to this question cannot be greater than the response to question #1.

3.3 Choose the answer below (a-c) that best describes when the cover crop is terminated.

- a) Cover crop is terminated prior to flowering for non-legumes or between 0-24% bloom for legumes or brassicas
- b) Cover crop is terminated at or after flowering but prior to seed development for non-legumes or between 25-49% bloom for legumes or brassicas
- c) Cover crop is terminated at or after soft dough stage for non-legumes or after 50% bloom for legumes or brassicas

4 Enter the number of different crop species/types in your rotation or management system, including different types of cover crops. For example, a corn, soybeans, wheat rotation with a fall cover crop would be 4. A corn, corn, soybean rotation would be 2.

Guidance: Diverse rotations score higher. Each crop should only be counted once in the rotation. For example, in a corn, beans, corn, wheat rotation the corn is only counted once.

5 Do you intentionally flood at least 1/3 of the cropland for wetland wildlife when crops are not growing? If "NO", skip to Question 6.

Guidance: Temporary flooding provides habitat for waterfowl as well terrestrial wildlife.

5.2 Cropland is intentionally flooded:

Guidance: This asks about the duration of flooding.

- a) **Less than 2 months per year.**
- b) **2 months per year** on heavy clay soils (Hydrologic group C or D).
- c) **3 months per year** on heavy clay soils (Hydrologic group C or D)
- d) **4 months per year** on heavy clay soils (Hydrologic group C or D).
- e) **More than 4 months per year** on heavy clay soils (Hydrologic group C or D).

5.3 Cropland is intentionally flooded:

Guidance: This asks about the frequency of flooding.

- a) **Less than 2 out of 3 years.**
- b) **2 out of 3 years.**
- c) **Annual flooding.**

5.4 Considering all of your cropland, what percentage is normally flooded?

Guidance: This asks about the amount of flooding.

- a) **Less than 33%**
- b) **33 - 50%**
- c) **51 - 75%**
- d) **More than 75%**

6 Does your rotation, orchard or vineyard include perennial hay, grass or legume cover? If "NO," skip to Question 7.

Guidance: This question is asking about grass or legumes that are included in cropland rotations.

6.1 How many years of hay or other perennial(s) do you have in your rotation? OR How often do you grow a cover between rows in your orchard or vineyard? – include the establishment year.

Guidance: Enter the number of years that hay or perennial cover is part of the rotation, NOT the entire length of the rotation. If the cover is permanent such as in an orchard, enter one to correspond to the length of the rotation entered in question #1. The response to this question cannot be greater than the response to question #1.

6.2 From the **STATE populated look up table and the choices below (a-d), select the one that best describes the mix of plants growing in your hay fields. From the State populated look up table-Select 'Species Info' button to view lists.**

Guidance: This question assesses the wildlife benefits provided by the forage species that are found in the hayland. List B consist of plants that are not preferred by wildlife and would not normally be managed to improve habitat, while List A are plants that are preferred by wildlife and would be managed to improve wildlife habitat. Each list is state specific.

- a) Hayland is composed of **species from List B.**
- b) Hayland is predominantly **species from List B** but **one or more species from List A** makes up **at least 30%** of the stand.
- c) Hayland is composed of **1 or 2 species from List A** that make up **at least 60%** of the stand.

d) Hayland is composed of **3 or more species from List A** that make up **at least 60%** of the stand.

6.3 Select the choice that best describes your schedule for mowing hay. This question assesses the impact of hay mowing practices on wildlife.

Guidance: From a - f, select the choice that best describes how mowing on the hayland is managed.

a) The entire field is **cut during the nesting season**

b) Up to **one half of the field is cut** during the nesting season (with some areas excluded for wildlife) using wildlife friendly techniques (such as minimum mowing height, flushing bars, mowing toward the outside of the field, mow only during daylight).

c) Hay cut **after 75% of the nesting season is completed.**

d) Hay **cut not more than once per year** and is cut after 75% of the nesting season **using wildlife-friendly harvest techniques.**

e) Hay cut **not more than once per year** and is **cut after the nesting season.**

f) Hay **cut occasionally**, but **not each year** and is cut **before or after the nesting season** using wildlife-friendly harvest techniques.

7 Do you have any areas such as field borders, filter strips, buffers, odd areas, windbreaks, wetlands, brushy draws, hedgerows, seeps, shallow water areas, riparian areas, vegetated ditches, CRP land, native vegetated communities, center pivot corners or other similar areas that provide wildlife, pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat within or adjacent to your cropland (orchards, hayland, vineyards, etc.)? You must own or control these areas.

Guidance: This question asks how non-cropped areas are managed (or not) to promote wildlife. To contrast with question 6, the applicant can either get wildlife points by managing their cropland for wildlife or they can get points for managing their non-cropped land for wildlife.

7.1 Select the choice that best describes the plants growing on the areas that provide wildlife, pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat within or adjacent to the crop/hay field.

Guidance: This question assesses the quality of the vegetation present on adjacent acres to provide habitat for wildlife, pollinators and/or beneficial insects. From a - c select the choice that describes the average condition for non-cropped areas.

a) **Less than 33%** of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provide food and cover for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects.

b) **33 – 67%** of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provide food and cover for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects.

c) **More than 67%** of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provide food and cover for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects.

7.2 Select the choice that best describes the AMOUNT of wildlife, pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat within or adjacent to the crop/hay field.

a) Habitat is **less than 1%** of the crop/hay field.

b) Habitat is between **1% and 5%** of the crop/hay field.

c) Habitat is between **6% and 10 %** of the crop/hay field.

d) Habitat is more than **10%** of the crop/hay field.

Guidance: This question assesses the amount of suitable wildlife habitat that will meet the criteria in question 7.1 as a percentage of the cropland acres. From a - d select the choice that best describes the average condition of non-cropped areas.

7.3 Select the choice that best describes the average WIDTH of wildlife, pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat within or adjacent to the crop/hay field.

Guidance: This question assesses the average width of the suitable wildlife habitat that will meet the criteria in question 7.1 as a percentage of the cropland acres. From a - d select the choice that best describes the average condition of non-cropped areas.

- a) less than 30 feet wide
- b) 30 to 75 feet wide
- c) 76 to 120 feet wide
- d) more than 120 feet wide

7.4 What is the average distance (ft.) from the center of the crop/hay field to the wildlife, pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat?

Guidance: This question assesses how the non-cropped areas are dispersed in the crop land. Does the wildlife have to travel across wide expanses of open cropland to get to habitat? Responses are based on average distance from the center of the field to the non-cropped areas.

- a) More than 1320 feet
- b) 660 to 1320 feet
- c) 330 to 659 feet
- d) Less than 330 feet

8 Do you intentionally leave unharvested crops in the field for wildlife food/cover on an annual basis?

Guidance: Crops must be left on purpose to provide food for wildlife. This is not for someone who just didn't get around to harvesting their corn or beans.

Choose the answer below (a-b) that best describes how much you leave.

- a) 1/4 to less than or equal to 1 acre of food plot or unharvested grain per 40 acres of cropland (minimum 30 feet wide and next to noncrop cover).
- b) Greater than 1 acre of food plot or unharvested grain per 40 acres of cropland (minimum 30 feet wide and next to noncrop cover).

Water Conservation and Residue Management

9 Before field operations, do you check soil moisture by methods such as moisture-by-feel or more sophisticated methods to minimize soil compaction?

Guidance: The applicant must specifically be checking soil conditions before field work. Getting stuck in a field and then deciding it is too wet to be in the field does not count.

10 Do you consistently use controlled traffic methods (either GPS or manual methods) to minimize soil compaction?

Guidance: This question is centered on limiting compaction from equipment to the same wheel tracks year after year. The rest of the field benefits from less compaction. This can be either GPS controlled or manual methods such as permanent row markers. All equipment needs to be set up for the track widths.

11 Answer each residue management and/or tillage system question below:

Guidance: This question is related to the amount of soil disturbance after planting a crop. The sum of the responses to this question must equal the sum of the responses to question #2. When answering this question keep the following things in mind:

- a) *The purpose of this question is to assess the amount of soil disturbance that takes place during a rotation.*
- b) *When assessing a tillage scenario that does not match the 6 choices offered, consider how it relates in terms of soil disturbance to the choices that are offered.*
- c) *If you feel that the amount of soil disturbance falls between two choices, select the lower choice.*
- Compare the applicant's tillage and residue amounts to those in the responses. Choose the response that most closely fits the applicant's amount of soil disturbance. Choose "f" for orchards or vineyards with permanent grass.*
- For perennials and 11(f), enter the count of perennials that meet this criterion, DO NOT enter the "number of years" as the description suggests.*

- a) Enter the number of crops in your rotation that have full width tillage, deeper than 4 inches that involves soil inversion and lifting (such as plows or deep disking).** This does not include fertilizer injectors.
- b) Enter the number of crops in your rotation that have full width tillage deeper than 4 inches that involves soil fracturing and lifting (such as subsoilers, rippers or paraplows).** In orchards and vineyards, ignore alternate year cultivation in every other alleyway during the dry season to manage moisture competition.
- c) Enter the number of crops in your rotation that have full width tillage performed after harvest and leaves more than 30% residue cover.** In orchards and vineyards, ignore alternate year cultivation in every other alleyway during dry season to manage moisture competition. Does not include seedbed preparation immediately prior to planting of a cover crop.
- d) Enter the number of crops in your rotation for which you use conservation tillage (includes mulch tillage) and maintain greater 30% residue cover after planting.** Residue cover includes crop residues, cover crops, composts or other natural mulch materials; do not include plastic.
- e) Enter the number of crops in your rotation for which you use a no till system that maintains greater than 50% residue cover after planting.** Residue cover includes crop residues, cover crops, composts or other natural mulch materials; do not include plastic.
- f) Enter the number of crops in your rotation for which you use a no till system that maintains greater than 75% residue cover after planting.** Residue cover includes crop residues, cover crops, composts or other natural mulch materials; do not include plastic. For systems using perennials with no tillage after year of establishment, include the number of years of perennials. For vineyards, orchards or other permanent crops, enter 1 here.

12 Select the choice that best describes the average condition of crop residues left in the field during the winter for wildlife cover.

Guidance: Base answers on the average condition. For example C-B rotation. Corn leaves 8" or more of residue, soybeans very little, choose "d" as the "average" condition.

- a) Residue is removed or buried (i.e., fall tillage, undisturbed soybean residue or any kind of harvested silage).**
- b) Crop residue chopped or shredded with no soil disturbance or grasses or legumes are included in the rotation and cover the field during winter.**
- c) Crop residues are gleaned by livestock but no mechanical disturbance of residue or soils.**
- d) Crop residue, grain stubble, hay/forage crop, or cover crop left standing overwinter. Height is less than 8 inches.**
- e) Crop residue, grain stubble, hay/forage crop, or cover crop left standing overwinter. Height is greater than 8 inches.**

Erosion, & Runoff Information

13 Is your cropland or hayland managed so there are no visible signs of erosion or gullies?

Guidance: Are there visible signs of erosion on the field? If so do not check "Yes."

14 Select any of the following practices that are applied on your cropland or hayland acres:

Guidance: This question asks about the structural erosion control practices installed on a crop field.

- contour farming (330)
- contour orchard or other fruit area (331)
- contour strip cropping (585)
- windbreaks (380)
- terraces (600)
- diversions (362)
- hillside ditch (423)
- grassed waterways (412) for erosion stabilization and concentrated flow
- grade stabilization structure (410)
- rock barrier (555)
- contour buffer strips (332)
- herbaceous wind barriers (603)
- cross wind trap strips (589C)

Pest Management Information

15 Do you apply any pesticides on your crop or hayland acres? A "No" answer for a rotation does not generate a negative response for that same rotation.

15.1 Select the choice that best describes how you manage pests on your cropland or hayland acres.

Guidance: This question assesses the level of pest management being applied on the cropland using the defined principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), e.g. Prevention, Avoidance, Monitoring and Suppression, as the metric for determining a response.

- a)** Pesticides are applied to all crops in the rotation without utilizing any pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, or suppression (PAMS) strategies.
- b)** Pesticides are applied to some crops in the rotation using a site-specific combination of each pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies, **OR** pesticides are applied to all crops in the rotation using only one, two or three of the four PAMS strategies.
- c)** Pesticides are applied to all crops in the rotation utilizing a site-specific combination of each pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies.

15.2 Do you use an environmental risk screening tool (such as WIN-PST or similar approved tool) to reduce pesticide risk to soil and water resources?

Guidance: Does the applicant use WINPST or some other decision making tool to choose the least risk pesticide.

Nutrient Management Information

16 Do you apply organic or inorganic nutrients on your cropland or hayland acres? This includes irrigation water, biosolids, organic by-products, and commercial fertilizers. A "No" answer for a rotation does not generate a negative response for that same rotation.

16.1 Do you apply nutrients from organic sources?

Guidance: This question is asking specifically about the application of organic amendments and awards points based on benefits when amendments are managed appropriately. If the applicant only applies inorganic fertilizer answer "No".

16.1.1 Are the organic sources analyzed to determine nutrient content, and heavy metal content, if sewage waste/sludge is a source?

Guidance: Answer "Yes" if the organic amendments are analyzed by a lab, otherwise "No."

16.1.1a Consider the primary nutrient (i.e., N, P or K) contained in the organic source in the LEAST quantity, select the answer that best matches the planned rotation on your operation.

Guidance: This question focuses on the application of the primary nutrient in the organic amendment found by the lab analysis to be the lowest.

- a) The organic source applied exceeds this nutrient need on all the crops.
- b) The organic source applied exceeds this nutrient need on some of the crops.
- c) The organic source applied meets this nutrient needs on some of the crops.
- d) The organic source applied meets this nutrient need on all of the crops.

16.1.1b Consider the primary nutrient (i.e., N, P or K) contained in the organic source in the GREATEST quantity, select the answer that best matches the planned rotation on your operation.

Guidance: This question focuses on the application of the primary nutrient in the organic amendment found by the lab analysis to be the largest.

- a) The organic source applied exceeds this nutrient need on all the crops.
- b) The organic source applied exceeds this nutrient need on some of the crops.
- c) The organic source applied meets this nutrient needs on some of the crops.
- d) The organic source applied meets this nutrient need on all of the crops.

16.2 Do you soil test ALL crop and hayland fields (or tissue test for orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops) following local land grant university guidance (e.g., annually, every 3 years, every 4 years, etc)?

Guidance: This question is asking about a minimal level of nutrient monitoring in the soil.

16.2.1 Consider the primary nutrient (i.e., N, P or K) needed the MOST for the planned crop rotation according to the soil test results, select the answer that best matches the planned rotation of your operation. The response should consider established crop yield records or state derived realistic crop yields in excess of the guidance/recommendations.

Guidance: This question correlates the primary nutrient rate applied to the primary nutrient amount listed by the soil test results to be in the smallest supply thus garnering the greatest need by the crop.

- a) The nutrient application rate applied exceeds the soil test recommendation on all the crops.
- b) The nutrient application rate applied exceeds the soil test recommendation on some of the crops.
- c) The nutrient application rate applied meets the soil test recommendation on some of the crops.
- d) The nutrient application rate applied meets the soil test recommendation on all of the crops.

16.2.2 Consider the primary nutrient (i.e., N, P or K) needed the LEAST for the planned crop rotation according to the soil test results, select the answer that best matches the planned

rotation of your operation. The response should consider established crop yield records or state derived realistic crop yields in excess of the guidance/recommendations.

Guidance: This question correlates the primary nutrient rate applied to the primary nutrient amount listed by the soil test results to be in the largest supply thus garnering the smallest need by the crop.

- a) The nutrient application rate applied exceeds the soil test recommendation on all the crops.
- b) The nutrient application rate applied exceeds the soil test recommendation on some of the crops.
- c) The nutrient application rate applied meets the soil test recommendation on some of the crops.
- d) The nutrient application rate applied meets the soil test recommendation on all of the crops.

16.3 Consider nutrients bound (i.e., residual nutrients) in manure, cover crops, previous crop residues, organic matter or irrigation water, select the answer that best matches the planned rotation on your operation.

Guidance: This question focus on the management of residual nutrients by adjusting nutrient applications to account for credits.

- a) Nutrients are not credited from any source to any crop.
- b) Nutrients are credited from some sources to some of the crops.
- c) Nutrients are credited from some sources to all of the crops.
- d) Nutrients are credited from all sources and to all crops.

16.4 Consider the nitrogen needs of the crops in the rotation that follow a legume crop or legume cover crop, what average percent (enter response in decimal format) of the nitrogen needs are supplied by the legume crop or cover crop?

Guidance: This question focuses on the replacement of inorganic N needs with N generated by N-fixing crops.

16.5 Consider in-season nitrogen analysis management systems (e.g., GreenSeeker®, SPAD meter, Adapt-N, PSNT, etc.), select the answer that best matches the planned rotation on your operation.

Guidance: This question focuses on in-season and between season N management systems.

- a) Systems are not used for the planned rotation.
- b) Systems are used 74% or less of the crops in the planned rotation.
- c) Systems are used on 75% or more of the crops in the planned rotation.

16.6 Select all that apply when you apply fertilizer or manure.

Guidance: This question asks about how the fertilizer is applied. Methods may vary between application of fertilizer and manure, that is, different techniques used by either source can be counted.

- a) incorporate (within 24 hours) or inject manure or fertilizer at least 2 inches deep.
- b) precision agriculture techniques are used in the application of fertilizer and manure.
- c) apply on 80% residue cover or 80% crop canopy.
- d) None of the above

16.7 Select the answer that best describes when you apply the majority of nutrients.

Guidance: This question asks about the timing of fertilizer application. Fertilizer applied closer to the time of crop uptake is better.

- a) Most of the manure or fertilizer is applied **more than one month** prior to planting or **more than one month** prior to “greenup” of perennial crops.
- b) Most of the manure or fertilizer is applied **within one month** prior to planting or **within one month** prior to “greenup” for perennial crops.
- c) Most of the manure or fertilizer is applied **after crop** emergence or **after annual growth begins** (greenup) for perennial crops.
- d) Most of the manure or fertilizer is applied as a **split application** (pre-plant & post plant), according to soil tests or crop growth stages. Application split must be at least 50% post emergence.

Salinity, Sodicity, and Irrigation Management

17 Do you have any salinity or sodicity (alkaline soils or seeps) concerns on your cropland or hayland? If "YES," answer Questions 17.1 – 17.2.

Guidance: Answer “Yes” if the operation has saline or sodic soils, otherwise answer “No.” The applicant will not be penalized by answering “No.”

17.1 Consider methods to minimize subsurface water flow to saline seep areas, do you grow high water use crops or salt tolerant crops, or do you use cropping patterns to generate this effect?

17.2 Do you manage nutrient application (type and rate) based on yield effects due to salinity?

18 Do you irrigate cropland and/or hayland? If "YES," answer Questions 18.1 - 18.5. NOTE: a “YES” answer includes wastewater application from on farm waste storage facilities.

Guidance: If the applicant does not irrigate, answer “No”. The applicant will not be penalized for answering “No.”

18.1 Have you implemented an irrigation water management plan?

18.2 Do you measure and record the amount of water you use to irrigate?

Guidance: This should be answered based on each irrigation system on the land use. To answer “Yes,” all irrigation systems on the land use must have the amount of irrigated water measured. The methods used to measure water should be documented.

18.3 Do you schedule your irrigations and the amount applied based on the monitoring of soil moisture and/or crop evapotranspiration?

Guidance: This should be based on each irrigation system on the land use. To answer “Yes,” all irrigation systems on the land use must utilize irrigation scheduling. Methods used to measure soil moisture should be documented.

18.4 Has your irrigation system distribution uniformity been evaluated, and necessary changes made based on the test results?

18.5 Do you irrigate areas where you have salinity concerns or that contribute (or may contribute) subsurface water flow to saline seeps. If “YES” answer 18.5.

18.5.1 Do you manage irrigations based on your crop tolerance, and salinity levels in your soil and irrigation water?

Pastureland Existing Activity Conservation Performance

- 1 Do you have an adequate grazing and roughage supply to meet forage demands of livestock and wildlife? Grass and hay for livestock and purchased hay are included in this answer. This includes where wildlife regularly consume forage in pastures.**

Guidance: Does the applicant have enough grass and hay for livestock. Purchased hay can be included in this answer. The answer must include wildlife that regularly consumes forage in pastures.

- 2 SELECT ONE (a-c) Grazing Management level BELOW**

- a) Forages are grazed below established minimum grazing heights.
- b) Forages are grazed at or above established minimum grazing heights. Spot grazing occurs on 50% or more of the acres.
- c) Forages are grazed at or above established minimum grazing heights. Spot grazing occurs on less than 50% of the acres.

Guidance: This question assesses the management capability of the producer and how these decisions impact vegetation, water quality and soil quality.

- 3 From the STATE populated look up table and the choices below (a-d), select the one that best describes the mix of plants growing in your pasture. Note: functional group means warm season, cool season, forbs, legumes, annual, etc. From the State populated look up table-Select 'Species Info' button to view lists.**

- a) One dominant perennial forage species.
- b) Two or more dominant forage species all from one functional group.
- c) Two or more dominant forage species representing two functional groups.
- d) Three or more dominant forage species representing at least two functional groups with at least one being a legume.

Guidance: This question assesses the quality and diversity of forage available for livestock and wildlife. Answer this question based on the average condition for species that are easily identified and distributed across the pasture.

- 4 From the STATE populated look up table and the choices below (a-d), select the one that best describes the mix of plants growing in your pasture. From the State populated look up table-Select 'Species Info' button to view lists.**

- a) Pasture vegetation is composed of species from List B.
- b) Pasture vegetation is predominantly species from List B but one or more species from List A make up at least 30% of the stand.
- c) Pasture vegetation is composed of 1 or 2 species from List A that make up at least 60% of the stand.
- d) Pasture vegetation is composed of 3 or more species from List A that make up at least 60% of the stand.

Guidance: This question assesses the wildlife benefits provided by the forage species that are found in the pasture (s). List B consist of plants that are not preferred by wildlife and would not normally be managed to improve habitat, while List A are plants that are preferred by wildlife and would be managed to improve wildlife habitat. Each list is state specific

- 5 Do you have any areas such as field borders, filter strips, buffers, odd areas, windbreaks, wetlands, brushy draws, hedgerows, seeps, shallow water areas, riparian areas, center pivot corners, CRP land, or other similar areas that provide wildlife habitat within or adjacent to your pasture? You must own or control these areas.**

Guidance: This question is to determine if there are adjacent areas that provide wildlife habitat. The answer can be based on land that will not receive a CSP payment (such as CRP land or other non-pastured areas).

- 5.1 From the choices below (a-c), select the answer that best describes the plants growing on these areas within or adjacent to the pasture.**

- a) Less than 33%** of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provide food and cover for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects.
- b) 33 – 67%** of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provide food and cover for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects.
- c) More than 67%** of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provide food and cover for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects.

Guidance: This question assesses the quality of the vegetation present on adjacent acres in providing habitat for wildlife, pollinators and/or beneficial insects.

- 5.2 From the choices below, select the answer that best describes the AMOUNT of suitable wildlife habitat within or adjacent to the pasture.**

- a) Habitat less than 1%** of the pasture.
- b) Habitat is between 1% and 5%** of the pasture.
- c) Habitat is between 6% and 10%** of the pasture.
- d) Habitat more than 10%** of the pasture.

Guidance: This question assesses the amount of suitable wildlife habitat that would meet the criteria in question 5.1 as a percentage of the pasture acres.

- 5.3 From the choices below (a-d), select the answer that best describes the WIDTH of wildlife habitat within or adjacent to the pasture (must be at least 0.1 acre or more)**

- a) less than 30 feet** wide
- b) 30 to 75 feet** wide
- c) 76 to 120 feet** wide
- d) more than 120 feet** wide

Guidance: This question assesses the average width of the suitable wildlife habitat that would meet the criteria in question 5.1 as a percentage of the pasture acres.

- 5.4 How far is the wildlife habitat from the center of the pasture?**

- a) Average distance from the center of the pasture to the habitat is more than 1320 feet**
- b) Average distance from the center of the pasture to the habitat is 660 to 1320 feet**
- c) Average distance from the center of the pasture to the habitat is 330 to 659 feet**
- d) Average distance from the center of the pasture to the habitat is less than 330 feet**

Guidance: This question assesses the average distance of the suitable wildlife habitat that would meet the criteria in question 5.1 as a percentage of the pasture acres.

Water Bodies, Erosion, & Runoff Information

- 6 Do you manage access roads, stock trails and other critical areas to limit surface water runoff and control accelerated soil erosion? Gully erosion is stabilized.**

Guidance: This question assesses the condition of high traffic areas, either by vehicle or livestock, and/or other critical areas related to erosion and sedimentation

- 7 Are livestock concentration areas such as feeding, watering and mineral areas located away from water bodies or have buffers to protect the water bodies from unfiltered runoff? If there are no water bodies or water courses on or adjacent to your pastureland, select Yes.**

Guidance: This question assesses the water quality impact that livestock concentrated areas might have and the efforts that producers have made to mitigate surface runoff either by locating these areas an appropriate distance from water bodies or by having adequate vegetative buffers.

Pest Management Information

- 8 Do you apply any pesticides on your pastureland acres?** A "No" answer for a forage management system does not generate a negative response for that same system.

8.1 Select the choice that best describes how you manage pests on your pastureland acres.

Guidance: This question assesses the level of pest management being applied on the pastureland using the defined principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), e.g. Prevention, Avoidance, Monitoring and Suppression, as the metric for determining a response.

- a)** Pesticides are applied to all forage management system acres without utilizing any pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, or suppression (PAMS) strategies.
b) Pesticides are applied to some forage management system acres using a site-specific combination of each pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies, **OR** pesticides are applied to all forage management system acres using only one, two or three of the four PAMS strategies.
c) Pesticides are applied to all forage management system acres utilizing a site-specific combination of each pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies.

8.2 Do you use an environmental risk screening tool (such as WIN-PST or similar approved tool) to reduce pesticide risk to soil and water resources?

Guidance: Does the applicant use WINPST or some other decision making tool to choose the least risk pesticide.

Nutrient Management Information

- 9 Do you apply organic or inorganic nutrients on your pastureland acres?** This includes irrigation water, biosolids, organic by-products, and commercial fertilizers. A "No" answer for a forage management system does not generate a negative response for that same system.

9.1 Do you apply nutrients from organic sources?

Guidance: This question is asking specifically about the application of organic amendments and awards points based on benefits when amendments are managed appropriately. If the applicant only applies inorganic fertilizer answer "No".

9.1.1 Are the organic sources analyzed to determine nutrient content, and heavy metal content, if sewage waste/sludge is a source?

Guidance: Answer "Yes" if the organic amendments are analyzed by a lab, otherwise "No."

9.1.1a Consider the primary nutrient (i.e., N, P or K) contained in the organic source in the LEAST quantity, select the answer that best matches the forage management system on your operation.

Guidance: This question focuses on the application of the primary nutrient in the organic amendment found by the lab analysis to be the lowest.

- a) The organic source applied exceeds this nutrient need on all the forages.
- b) The organic source applied exceeds this nutrient need on some of the forages.
- c) The organic source applied meets this nutrient needs on some of the forages.
- d) The organic source applied meets this nutrient need on all of the forages.

9.1.1b Consider the primary nutrient (i.e., N, P or K) contained in the organic source in the GREATEST quantity, select the answer that best matches the forage management system on your operation.

Guidance: This question focuses on the application of the primary nutrient in the organic amendment found by the lab analysis to be the largest.

- a) The organic source applied exceeds this nutrient need on all the forages.
- b) The organic source applied exceeds this nutrient need on some of the forages.
- c) The organic source applied meets this nutrient needs on some of the forages.
- d) The organic source applied meets this nutrient need on all of the forages.

9.2 Do you soil test ALL forage management system fields following local land grant university guidance (e.g., annually, every 3 years, every 4 years, etc)?

Guidance: This question is asking about a minimal level of nutrient monitoring in the soil.

9.2.1 Consider the primary nutrient (i.e., N, P or K) needed the MOST for the forage management system according to the soil test results, select the answer that best matches the forage management system on your operation. The response should consider established yield records or state derived realistic yields in excess of the guidance/recommendations.

Guidance: This question correlates the primary nutrient rate applied to the primary nutrient amount listed by the soil test results to be in the smallest supply thus garnering the greatest need by the forage.

- e) The nutrient application rate applied exceeds the soil test recommendation on all the forages.
- f) The nutrient application rate applied exceeds the soil test recommendation on some of the forages.
- g) The nutrient application rate applied meets the soil test recommendation on some of the forages.
- h) The nutrient application rate applied meets the soil test recommendation on all of the forages.

9.2.2 Consider the primary nutrient (i.e., N, P or K) needed the LEAST for the forage management system according to the soil test results, select the answer that best matches the forage management system on your operation. The response should consider established yield records or state derived realistic yields in excess of the guidance/recommendations.

Guidance: This question correlates the primary nutrient rate applied to the primary nutrient amount listed by the soil test results to be in the largest supply thus garnering the smallest need by the forage.

- e) The nutrient application rate applied exceeds the soil test recommendation on all the forages.
- f) The nutrient application rate applied exceeds the soil test recommendation on some of the forages.
- g) The nutrient application rate applied meets the soil test recommendation on some of the forages.
- h) The nutrient application rate applied meets the soil test recommendation on all of the forages.

9.3 Consider nutrients bound (i.e., residual nutrients) in manure, supplemental feed, organic matter or irrigation water, select the answer that best matches the forage management system on your operation.

Guidance: This question focus on the management of residual nutrients by adjusting nutrient applications to account for credits.

- e) Nutrients are not credited from any source to any forage.
- f) Nutrients are credited from some sources to some of the forages.
- g) Nutrients are credited from some sources to all of the forages.
- h) Nutrients are credited from all sources and to all forages.

9.4 Select all that apply to your methods of application of fertilizer or manure.

Guidance: This question asks about how the fertilizer is applied. Methods may vary between application of fertilizer and manure, that is, different techniques used by either source can be counted.

- a) Inject manure or fertilizer at least 2 inches deep.
- b) Precision agriculture techniques are used in the application of fertilizer and manure.
- c) Apply on 80% surface cover with at least the minimum grazing heights
- d) None of the above

9.5 From choices below (a-b), select the answer that best describes when you apply the majority of nutrients.

Guidance: This question asks about the timing of fertilizer application. Fertilizer applied closer to the time of forage uptake is better.

- a) Most of the fertilizer or manure is applied at the beginning of the growing season as top-dress.
- b) Most of the fertilizer or manure is split applied; usually an initial application of 50% or less at the start of the growing season and then applied as needed after one or more grazing events during the year except following the last one of the growing season.

Salinity, Sodicity, and Irrigation Management

10 Do you have any salinity or sodicity (alkaline soils or seeps) concerns on your pastureland? If "YES," answer Questions 17.1 – 17.2.

Guidance: Answer "Yes" if the operation has saline or sodic soils, otherwise answer "No." The applicant will not be penalized by answering "No."

10.1 Consider methods to minimize subsurface water flow to saline seep areas, do you grow high water use forages or salt tolerant forages?

10.2 Do you manage nutrient application (type and rate) based on yield effects due to salinity?

11 Do you irrigate pastureland? If "YES," answer Questions 18.1 - 18.5. NOTE: a "YES" answer includes wastewater application from on farm waste storage facilities.

Guidance: If the applicant does not irrigate, answer "No". The applicant will not be penalized for answering "No."

11.1 Have you implemented an irrigation water management plan?

11.2 Do you measure and record the amount of water you use to irrigate?

Guidance: This should be answered based on each irrigation system on the land use. To answer "Yes," all irrigation systems on the land use must have the amount of irrigated water measured. The methods used to measure water should be documented.

11.3 Do you schedule your irrigations and the amount applied based on the monitoring of soil moisture and/or forage evapotranspiration?

Guidance: This should be based on each irrigation system on the land use. To answer "Yes," all irrigation systems on the land use must utilize irrigation scheduling. Methods used to measure soil moisture should be documented.

11.4 Has your irrigation system distribution uniformity been evaluated and necessary changes made based on the test results?

11.5 Do you irrigate areas where you have salinity concerns or that contribute (or may contribute) subsurface water flow to saline seeps. If "YES" answer 11.5.1.

11.5.1 Do you manage irrigations based on your forage tolerance, and salinity levels in your soil and irrigation water?

Rangeland Existing Activity Conservation Performance

1 Do you have an adequate grazing and roughage supply to meet forage demands of livestock and wildlife? Grass and hay for livestock and purchased hay are included in this answer. This includes where wildlife regularly consume forage in pastures.

Guidance: Does the applicant have enough grass and hay for livestock. Purchased hay can be included in this answer.

2 CHOOSE ONE (a-d) Grazing Management level BELOW:

a) Rangeland is heavily grazed (more than 65% use).

b) Stocking rates are managed to achieve proper forage utilization. Rangeland is moderately grazed (35-65% use) with even grazing distribution.

c) Stocking rates are managed to achieve proper forage utilization. Rangeland is moderately grazed (35-65% use) with some ungrazed or lightly grazed patches.

d) Rangeland is lightly grazed (less than 35% use) with numerous ungrazed areas creating a patchy appearance.

Guidance: This question assesses the management capability of the producer and how these decisions impact vegetation, water quality and soil quality.

3 From the choices below (a-d), select the one that best describes the mix of plants growing on your rangeland.

a) Rangeland acres are predominantly occupied by non-native plant species. Native plants have mostly been replaced due to invasion, grazing pressure or seeding to non-native species.

b) Number and kinds of plant species represent less than 1/3 of the potential native plant community for the natural site. Plants that increase under grazing pressure (e.g., "increasers") are abundant.

c) Number and kinds of plant species on site is between 1/3 and 2/3rds of the number and kinds of plants typically expected for the natural site.

d) Number and kinds of plant species onsite represent more than 2/3rds of the number/kinds of plant species typical of natural site conditions. Plants that decrease under grazing pressure (i.e., "decreasers") are still abundant.

Guidance: This question assesses the quality and diversity of plant species growing and their general distribution across the rangeland.

4 Do you have watering facilities such as tanks, troughs, etc.?

Guidance: This question is asking about existing watering facilities NOT those that are planned or are being considered.

How many of your Watering Facilities (tanks, troughs, etc.) provide safe access and escape for wildlife, provide water during the frost free parts of the year, and are free of hazards for aerial drinking wildlife (bats, swallows, etc.).

a) less than 25%

b) 25 to 50%

c) 51 to 75%

d) more than 75%

Guidance: Escape access must meet criteria as outlined in the Bat Conservation International publication "Water for Wildlife."

5 Do you apply any brush management?

Guidance: This question is to determine if brush management is being practiced on the producer's rangeland and the degree of success they are achieving. Conservation performance points are awarded for a no answer.

From the choices below (a-c), select the answer that best describes how brush is managed on your rangeland. Noxious and/or invasive woody species such as Russian Olive and Saltcedar may be totally removed, if possible.

a) Woody species are not managed for wildlife. There is an evident browse line; or, brush is totally eliminated with brush management measures.

b) Woody species are managed so that populations are only partially eliminated with brush management measures. There is absence of a browse line, although hedging on key browse plants may be observed.

c) Woody species are managed so that populations are only partially eliminated with brush management measures. Brush management is done in patterns and amounts developed with wildlife considerations.

6 Do you have any fences constructed with considerations for wildlife species and their movements?

Guidance: A "NO" response results in negative conservation points being assigned to this evaluation.

How much of your fencing meets state wildlife agency or NRCS standards with considerations for wildlife species and their movements?

- a) less than 25%
- b) 25 to 50%
- c) 51 to 75%
- d) more than 75%

Guidance: This is an evaluation of existing, permanent fence, including perimeter and interior fencing.

Water Bodies, Erosion, & Runoff Information

- 7 Do you manage access roads, stock trails and other critical areas to limit surface water runoff and control accelerated soil erosion? Gully erosion is stabilized.**

Guidance: This question assesses the condition of high traffic areas, either by vehicle or livestock, and/or other critical areas related to erosion and sedimentation.

- 8 Are livestock concentration areas such as feeding, watering and mineral areas located away from water bodies and water courses or have buffers to protect the water bodies and water courses from unfiltered runoff? If there are no water bodies or water courses on or adjacent to your rangeland, select Yes.**

Guidance: This question assesses the water quality impact that livestock concentrated areas might have and the efforts that producers have made to mitigate surface runoff either by locating these areas an appropriate distance from water bodies or by having adequate vegetative buffers. Well maintained natural vegetation can serve as the buffer.

Pest Management Information

- 9 Do you apply any pesticides on your rangeland acres? A "No" answer does not generate a negative response.**

- 9.1 Select the choice (a-c) that best describes how you manage pests on your rangeland acres.**

Guidance: This question assesses the level of pest management being applied on the rangeland using the defined principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), e.g. Prevention, Avoidance, Monitoring and Suppression, as the metric for determining a response.

- a) Pesticides are applied to all rangeland acres without utilizing any pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, or suppression (PAMS) strategies.
- b) Pesticides are applied to some rangeland acres using a site-specific combination of each pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies, **OR** pesticides are applied to all rangeland acres using only one, two or three of the four PAMS strategies.
- c) Pesticides are applied to all rangeland acres utilizing a site-specific combination of each pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies.

- 9.2 Do you use an environmental risk screening tool (such as WIN-PST or similar approved tool) to reduce pesticide risk to soil and water resources?**

Guidance: Does the applicant use WINPST or some other decision making tool to choose the least risk pesticide.

Salinity and Sodicity Management

10 Do you have any Salinity or Sodicity (alkaline soils or seeps) concerns on your rangeland acres?

Guidance: this question would apply only on soils that have potential problems with salinity or sodicity. Answering "No", does not penalize the applicant.

10.1 Do you manage saline seep discharge areas to maintain and/or improve existing salt tolerant vegetation?

Guidance: Examples of management techniques could include rotational grazing and selection of tolerant species.

Water Existing Activity Conservation Performance

1 Do you have any WATER BODIES (lakes, ponds or wetlands) on or adjacent to your property? Wetlands farmed under natural conditions or farmed wetlands do not fit under this category.

Guidance: Water bodies and water course are separated and evaluated using different questions in the CMT, be careful not to lump them together.

2 Consider all the lakes/ponds/wetlands on your property. What percentage of the total boundary of these areas has at least a 33-foot wide zone of diverse vegetation that is native to the site or introduced species that have become naturalized between the edge of the waterbody and adjacent land? This could be an established filter strip or other riparian buffer.

- a) less than 25%
- b) 25% to 50%
- c) 51% to 75%
- d) more than 75%

Guidance: This question considers the percentage of existing buffers adjacent to the water bodies on the offered acres that meet the vegetative criterion described.

3 Does upland runoff (surface or groundwater) empty directly—without filtration through a vegetated buffer—into any of the lakes/ponds/wetlands on your property?

Guidance: The area that water filters through doesn't have to be a designed buffer, but it should be well vegetated enough to trap sediments and nutrients from surface runoff.

4 Do you have any WATER COURSES (ditches, sinkholes, intermittent or perennial streams, or rivers) on or adjacent to your property?

Guidance: Water bodies and water course are separated and evaluated using different questions in the CMT, be careful not to lump them together.

5 Do you pump (directly or indirectly) or divert water from a river or stream? If "Yes", select appropriate choice below.

- a) Water withdrawal completely dewater stream habitat.
- b) Water withdrawal diminishes streamflow; diversions or pumps are unscreened (for aquatic animals).

- c) Water withdrawal diminishes streamflow; diversions or pumps are screened (for aquatic animals).
- d) None of the above

Guidance: This question is to assess the impact on aquatic life and wildlife that diversion or withdrawal of water has on the stream.

- 6 Do you have instream structures on your property, such as diversion dams, road crossings (bridges or culverts), low-water crossings, and pumping stations. If "YES", select appropriate choice below.**

Guidance: A "No" response removes the conservation points from this total potential points used to evaluate water.

- a) Structure blocks aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream during all or part of the year.
- b) Structure could block aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream part or all of the year.
- c) Structure does not block aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream at any time of the year.

Guidance: Do structures on the farm restrict aquatic organism passage all of the year or just a portion of the year, i.e. water may allow passage during some portions of the year or the structure may block passage completely.

- 7 Considering all water courses on your property, select the choice that best describes 90% of their total length. These areas could be established filter strips or other riparian buffers.**

Guidance: This question considers the amount of vegetation in the riparian area and its affect on aquatic wildlife

- a) The water course has little or no vegetated riparian area. Agricultural activities take place adjacent to the streambank within the state specified minimum distance for a water quality buffer.
- b) The water course is well vegetated. The width of the vegetation meets state minimum buffer width for water quality protection.
- c) The water course is well vegetated. The width exceeds state minimum buffer width for water quality protection AND is at least 33 feet wide or 2.5 times as wide as the stream channel (up to a maximum of 100' for large streams).

Guidance: These responses consider the width of riparian areas as well as the density of the vegetation. It also requires a higher percentage of the total amount to meet the typical conditions.

- 8 Consider all water courses on your property and select the choice below which best describes your situation. Select the condition that best describes the species composition for 90% of the total length of the water courses on your property.**

Guidance: This question considers the composition of vegetation in the riparian area and its affect on aquatic wildlife

- a) Existing vegetation is dominated by a single species and is primarily non-native and may include invasive species.
- b) Existing vegetation is diverse and is primarily non-native to the site. Invasive species are not present.
- c) Existing vegetation is diverse and is predominately native to the site.

- 9 **Do you maintain a minimum setback of 33 feet or greater when applying manure or pesticides** from all intermittent streams/ditches, perennial streams, ponds/lakes, surface water inlets and open sink holes? Spot spraying within the setback is permitted according to the pesticide label.

Guidance: Setback areas do not have to be in a vegetative buffer, could be cropped or grazed without having had manure or pesticides applied.

NIPF – General Inventory

1. **Do you have unpaved farm roads used by farm vehicles (does not include unpaved county roads or other unpaved public roads) or other unpaved areas such as feedlots or material handling areas that frequently result in significant dust generation, reducing visibility along the road or over the unpaved area for extended periods? If yes, check any of the following methods you regularly use to control dust.**

- Regularly spraying water to reduce the dust
- Apply biodegradable oils to reduce the dust
- Gravel surfacing
- Apply other environmentally benign dust control chemicals
- None of the above

Guidance: This question is intended for private farm roads that are owned by the applicant. It does include county, township or other publicly owned roads that are not the responsibility of the applicant. Only answer "Yes" here if the dust from the roads is a persistent and ongoing problem.

2. **Identify each energy conservation reduction method used on your farm:**

Have you replaced electric motors or engines on your farm with high efficiency models in the last 3 years? A yes answer consider the following:

- The motors should be labeled as “premium”, which means they are more efficient than the current DOE standard.
- Consider only electric motors that are used for major activities on the farm such as pumps to move water or waste, ventilation fans, etc.
- Refer to the ANSI/ASABE S612 Performing On-Farm Energy Audits for a list of “major activities”.

Do you use alternative energy sources (solar, wind, biofuels, green energy) to replace fossil fuel energy uses on your farm? A “yes” answer considers the following examples:

- Wind or solar powered pumps
- Solar powered electric fencing
- Any biofuel blend

Have you improved the efficiency of heating, cooling or drying operations on your farm in the last 3 years? A “yes” answer considers the following:

- Evaluation is conducted on how energy efficient a particular grain drying system is rather than a comparison of one system versus another.
- Refer to the decision tree to determine if an applicant has an energy efficient grain drying system

Have you conducted an energy audit on your farm and are now implementing the energy actions? A “yes” answer considers the energy audit complies with ANSI/ASABE S612 Performing On-Farm Energy Audits.

Have you performed a pumping plant evaluation during the last 3 years and implemented the

recommendations? A “yes” answer considers the following:

High efficiency pumping plants installed within the last 3 years or recognized through pumping plant evaluation, include those using solar or other renewable energy sources.

Pumping plants should include:

- A Tier III or Tier IV diesel motor,
- Using a variable frequency drive and/or
- Have had a pumping plant evaluation and implemented its recommendations in the last 3 years.

Guidance: the guidance for each of these questions is included in the question except for the question on drying operations. For this question see “Grain Dryer Decision Tree” in the appendix.

NIPF Existing Activity Conservation Performance

- 1 Select one of the following descriptions that best represents the majority of your forest land.**

Guidance: This question is asking about the diversity of the timber stand in age, species and understory composition. The more diverse the stand in all these categories the higher the score.

- a)** A plantation consisting predominantly of one tree species with little or no understory.
- b)** A plantation consisting predominantly of one tree species, but has a variety of shrubs and/or grasses and forbs in the understory.
- c)** A forest consisting of tree species which naturally occur on the site. Trees are mostly even-aged, generally uniform in height, with little understory vegetation.
- d)** A forest consisting of multiple tree species which naturally occur on the site (certain sites may naturally have only one tree species). Trees are uneven-aged (or occur in uneven-aged groups), with an array of tree heights, with little understory vegetation. The forest is actively managed to retain standing dead trees and large downed trees and limbs.
- e)** A forest consisting of multiple tree species which naturally occur on the site (certain sites may naturally have only one tree species). Trees are uneven-aged (or occur in uneven-aged groups) with an array of tree heights, and an understory shrub and or forb layer. The forest is actively managed to retain standing dead trees and downed large trees and limbs are abundant. The dead trees and debris are actively managed for wildlife habitat.
- f)** Other

- 2 Has a thinning or improvement harvest been completed recently (past 10 years) on your forest land?**

Guidance: Active management of the stand to improve the health of the trees is better.

- 2.1 From the choices below (a-c), select the answer that best describes the thinning or improvement harvesting.**

- a)** Thinning or improvement harvesting completed on <10% of forest land.
- b)** Thinning or improvement harvesting completed on 10-25% of forest land.
- c)** Thinning or improvement harvesting completed on >25% of forest land.

- 2.2 For the forest trails, landings (areas where logs are stacked for loading) and roads used during thinning or harvest activities: SELECT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY.**

Guidance: This question asks about practices that are used during thinning and harvest to reduce erosion.

- a) Designated skid trails for logging/forest product removal were used to limit disturbance and compaction.
- b) Water bars, culverts and/or rolling dips have been installed on roads and safely outletted.
- c) Forest trails, landings and cut- and fill-slopes of roads are seeded following tree harvest.
- d) During heavy use periods dust was controlled through the use of water, wood chips, rock surfacing or paving.
- e) None of the above

2.3 During the thinning or harvest, did you use practices to protect riparian areas such as riparian setbacks, minimum equipment activity in streams and riparian zones and low impact stream crossings when working near streams or watercourses?

Guidance: Riparian areas protected during thinning and harvests are better.

**3 Have you reforested suitable tree growing areas?
From the choices below (a-c), select the answer that best describes the site preparation activities for tree planting or natural regeneration.**

Guidance: Successful reforestation requires site preparation to reduce competition for new seedlings. More preparation should result in a better stand.

- a) Where a timber harvest has occurred, site preparation activities created bare mineral soil and removed slash on less than 10% of the land in the reforested unit. If tree planting took place on abandoned cropland or grassland little or no site preparation was done.
- b) Where a timber harvest has occurred, site preparation activities created bare mineral soil and removed slash on 10-25% of the land in the reforested unit. If tree planting took place on abandoned cropland or grassland, a moderate level of site preparation was applied (mechanical and/or chemical destruction of existing vegetation).
- c) Where a timber harvest has occurred, site preparation activities created bare mineral soil and removed slash on more than 25% of the land in the reforested unit. If tree planting took place on abandoned cropland or grassland, heavy site preparation was applied (mechanical and/or chemical destruction of existing vegetation).

**4 Do you control the access to your forest by people or vehicles?
From the choices below (a-d), select the answer that best describes the majority of your forest land.**

Guidance: Controlling access to forestland will reduce damage to trees, soils and wildlife.

- a) I monitor and control who and what comes on to my property.
- b) I monitor, control and have my property posted.
- c) I monitor and have my property posted, access points are fenced, gated.
- d) None of the above

5 Select any of the following measures (a-f) you have taken to reduce wildfire risks to your forest?

Guidance: Planning ahead for fire control will help reduce the damages from wildfire.

- a) There are access roads to all parts of the property suitable for pumper trucks and other fire vehicles.
- b) There are strategically located firebreaks.
- c) There are strategically located fuelbreaks.
- d) During the fire season water sources are available, clearly identified and accessible.
- e) Prescribed burning is conducted as needed or on a recurring schedule.
- f) None of the above

6 Do you have any WATER BODIES (lakes, ponds or wetlands) on or adjacent to your forest land?

6.1 What percentage of the total boundary of these areas has at least a 33-foot wide zone of diverse vegetation that is native to the site or introduced species that have become naturalized between the edge of the waterbody and adjacent land?

Guidance: This question is asking how well water bodies that are on adjacent to forestlands are protected. If harvest or thinning activities have taken place, the 33 foot buffer should be undisturbed.

- a) less than 25%
- b) 26% but less than 50%
- c) 50% - 75%
- d) more than 75%

6.2 Does upland runoff (surface or groundwater) empty directly—without filtration through a vegetated buffer—into any of the lakes/ponds/wetlands on your forest land?

Guidance: "No," is the response that generates points. Good forest cover as described in question # 6.1 would qualify for a "No."

7 Do you have any WATER COURSES (ditches, sinkholes, intermittent or perennial streams, or rivers) on or adjacent to your property?

Guidance: This set of questions is asking about flowing water as opposed to questions 6, 6.1, and 6.2 which asked about standing bodies of water.

8 Do you pump (directly or indirectly) or divert water from a river or stream? If "Yes", select appropriate choice below.

Guidance: Questions 8 & 9 are wildlife questions related to the effect of water removal on aquatic wildlife.

- a) Water withdrawal completely dewater stream habitat.
- b) Water withdrawal diminishes streamflow; diversions or pumps are unscreened (for aquatic animals).
- c) Water withdrawal diminishes streamflow; diversions or pumps are screened (for aquatic animals).
- d) None of the above

9 Do you have instream structures on your property, such as diversion dams, road crossings (bridges or culverts), low-water crossings, and pumping stations. If "Yes", select appropriate choice below.

- a) Structure blocks aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream during all or part of the year.
- b) Structure could block aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream part or all of the year.
- c) Structure does not block aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream at any time of the year.

- 10 Consider all streams and rivers on your forest land and select the choice below which best describes your situation. Select the condition that best describes 90% of the total length of the streams/rivers on your forest land.**

Guidance: This question asks about the quantity of streamside vegetation.

- a) Natural vegetation sparse or absent along waterways.
- b) Natural vegetation is present along waterway but is not at least 33 feet wide or 2.5 times as wide as the stream channel.
- c) Natural vegetation is present along all margins of waterways capable of supporting vegetation AND is at least 33 feet wide or 2.5 times as wide as the stream channel.

- 11 Consider all streams and rivers on your forest land. Select the choice below which best describes the condition of vegetation along 90% the streams or rivers on your forest land.**

Guidance: This question asks about the quality of streamside vegetation.

- a) Little or no natural vegetation on the majority of streambanks because of unmanaged livestock grazing, motorized vehicle access or other usage.
- b) Natural vegetation is present, but species and age distribution is limited on at least 50% of the streambanks because of unmanaged livestock grazing, motorized vehicle access or other usage.
- c) Natural vegetation is present with good species and age diversity because livestock and motorized vehicle access to all (100%) streambanks are managed and limited according to acceptable guidelines.

- 12 Is your forest grazed by livestock?**

- 12.1 Select the answer below that best describes how grazing is managed?**

Guidance: Question 12 and 12.1 should only be answered if the forestland is grazed by livestock. No grazing does not penalize the applicant.

- a) Livestock usage is heavy and livestock have free access onto forest land with little or no attempt to manage grazing distribution.
- b) Livestock usage is moderate to heavy but livestock are actively managed to control grazing distribution.
- c) Grazing does not exceed forage production on any portion of the land. Livestock are managed to rest individual grazing units as needed to maintain optimal forage production.

- 13 Are you aware of any invasive or noxious non-native species occurring on your forest land?**

Guidance: Almost all forestland has some invasive or noxious species. Understanding that they are a problem is the first step in control.

- 13.1 From the choices below (a-c), select the answer that best describes your invasive or noxious non-native species management.**

- a) Invasive or noxious non-native species have been identified.
- b) Invasive or noxious non-native species have been identified and are being monitored to check extent and if they are spreading.
- c) Invasive or noxious non-native species have been identified, control actions have been taken and monitoring continues.

- 14 Select one of the following answers that describe how pests are controlled on your forest land.**

Guidance: If no pest management actions are used in the forestland, do not enter a selection.

- a)** Pesticides are applied to all forest acres without utilizing any pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, or suppression (PAMS) strategies.
- b)** Pesticides are applied to some forest acres using a site-specific combination of each pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies, **OR** pesticides are applied to all forest acres using only one, two or three of the four PAMS strategies.
- c)** Pesticides are applied to all forest acres utilizing a site-specific combination of each pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies.

Practices

Conservation practices are used in CSP for the purpose of encouraging applicants to meet additional stewardship thresholds. During the application process, applicants may identify resource concern stewardship thresholds by land use they are not meeting with existing activities, and agree to meet with the installation of new conservation practices.

The new conservation practices that need to be installed will be identified by NRCS during the application process. During on-site field verification for approved applicants, NRCS will determine the required practices using the conservation planning process.

General Submenu

In the General submenu under Practices, you may view the resource concern(s) that meet stewardship threshold requirements and select the resource concern(s) by land use you wish to address with additional conservation practices.

Note: If all eight resource concerns for a land use are currently meeting stewardship threshold requirements, then additional conservation practices cannot be scheduled for that land use.

Note: If, initially, less than eight resource concerns for a land use met stewardship threshold requirements and one or more practices were planned, and subsequent changes were made to Inventory questions prompting all eight resource concerns for a land use to meet stewardship threshold requirement, then the planned practices on the subject land use will be automatically removed and the points will be amended to reflect the removal.

The screenshot shows the 'Practices' submenu with 'General' selected. The main content area displays instructions and a table for selecting resource concerns to address with additional conservation practices. A red circle highlights the table.

Resource Concerns	Priority	Cropland	Pastureland	Rangeland	Cropland	Pastureland	Rangeland
Air Quality		Y	Y	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animal	X	Y	N	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy		Y	N	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plants	X	Y	Y	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil Erosion		N	Y	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil Quality	X	Y	N	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality		Y	Y	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Quantity	X	N	N	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: Before selecting the appropriate land use submenu option, it may be necessary to answer the relevant OBD question(s) “needed to address a resource concern.” The OBD questions needing a response are determined by the findings from the on-site field verification for approved applicants. If this step is not completed, no practices will be available for planning.

If the applicant does not want to schedule additional conservation practices OR all eight resource concerns are currently meeting stewardship thresholds for all land uses, then select “Activities’ to schedule enhancement activities.

If a land use is selected in which no resource concerns were selected, a message will be displayed indicating that a resource concern must be selected.



Once you have selected the resource concern, you can select the appropriate land use from the submenu options.

Practices can now be planned for each of the land uses for which an additional resource will be addressed with conservation practices.

Note: Practices can only be planned for initiation in any fiscal year 2 through 5 of the contract.

Drop down selections enforce this policy.

Declining Habitats								
Inventory	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	System	100	Acres	0	0	2013
Practices	645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	System	100	Acres	0	0	2013
Activities	647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	System	100	Acres	0	0	2013

Land Use Submenu

Refer to the ‘Activities’ tab-Land Use Submenu section for how to plan a practice. The process is the same for either practices or activities.

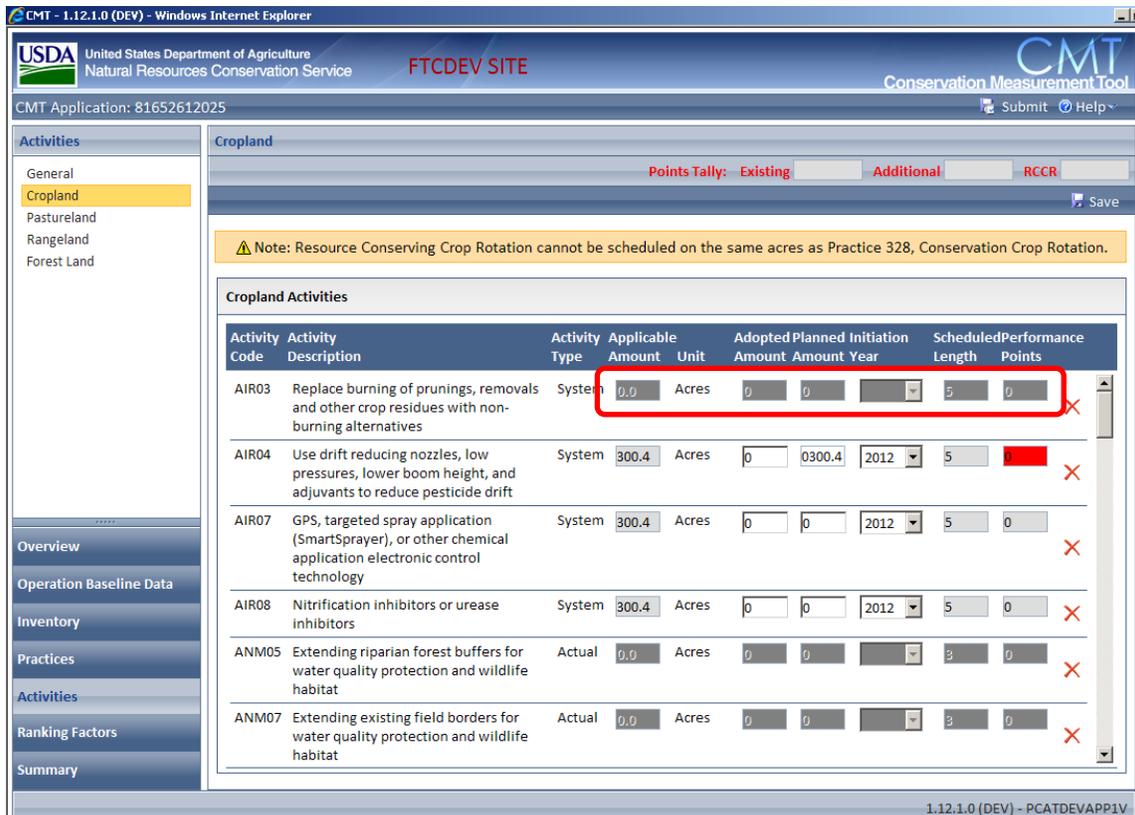
Activities

General Submenu

CSP encourages applicants to improve conservation systems by undertaking additional conservation activities. With this option, you may schedule one or more enhancements for an applicant's agricultural operation. To plan enhancements for inclusion in the application, select the land use to schedule enhancements.

Land Use Submenu

Enhancements that have all cells grayed out are not available for planning. The responses to the respective OBD land use questions control which activities are available for a given application.



The data entry process for any activity will vary by the type of activity (i.e., 'System' or 'Actual').

System Type Activities

For 'System' type activities, the user must provide inputs to three cells: 1) Adopted amount, 2) Planned Amount and 3) Initiation Year.

CMT - 1.12.1.0 - Windows Internet Explorer

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

TEST SITE

CMT Conservation Measurement Tool

CMT Application: 816526122NV

Submit Help

Activities

- General
- Cropland
- Pastureland
- Rangeland
- Forest Land

Cropland

Points Tally: Existing 409.01 Additional 71.91 RCCR 44.14

Save

Cropland Activities

Activity Code	Activity Description	Activity Type	Applicable Amount	Unit	Adopted Planned Initiation			Scheduled Performance	
					Amount	Amount	Year	Length	Points
WQL22	On Farm Composting of Farm Organic Waste	System	1098.0	Acres	0	0	2012	5	0

The value for 'Adopted Amount' is any quantity of an enhancement the applicant has already implemented (i.e., adopted) on their operation. This value is a means to document the policy referenced in 440-CPM-508.74(D)(3).

The value for 'Planned Amount' is the quantity of an enhancement the applicant has agreed to implement beyond any 'Adopted Amount' but not to exceed the 'Applicable Amount.'

The value for 'Initiation Year' is the fiscal year (FY) the applicant agrees to start the activity.

Note: Per policy, enhancements must be planned for initiation by the third year of the contract. The 'Initiation Year' drop down selections will control this requirement.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

TEST SITE

CMT Conservation Measurement Tool

CMT Application: 81652612025

Submit Help

Activities

- General
- Cropland
- Pastureland
- Rangeland
- Forest Land

Cropland

Points Tally: Existing Additional RCCR

Save

Cropland Activities

Activity Code	Activity Description	Activity Type	Applicable Amount	Unit	Adopted Planned Initiation			Scheduled Performance	
					Amount	Amount	Year	Length	Points
AIR03	Replace burning of prunings, removals and other crop residues with non-burning alternatives	System	0.0	Acres	0	0		5	0
AIR04	Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift	System	300.4	Acres	0	300.4	2012	5	10.89
AIR07	GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical	System	300.4	Acres	0	300.4	2012	5	10.89

The 'Scheduled Length' cell will automatically populate based on the response to the 'Initiation Year.' The range of this value is 3 to 5. This range of values correlates to 2013 for 5 or 2015 for 3.

Actual Type Activities

For 'Actual' type activities, the data entry process is the same as for the 'System' type with an addition. Upon clicking the 'Initiation Year' dropdown selection for an 'Actual' activity, a 'Distributed planned amount total' row opens.

Points Tally: Existing 409.01 Additional 71.91 RCCR 44.14

Note: Resource Conserving Crop Rotation cannot be scheduled on the same acres as Practice 328, Conservation Crop Rotation.

Activity Code	Activity Description	Activity Type	Applicable Amount	Unit	Adopted Amount	Planned Amount	Initiation Year	Scheduled Length	Performance Points
WQL22	On Farm Composting of Farm Organic Waste	System	1098.0	Acres	0	0	2012	5	0
WQL24	Apply enhanced efficiency fertilizer products	System	1098.0	Acres	0	0	2012	5	0
WQL25	Split applications of nitrogen based on a PSNT	System	999.0	Acres	0	0	2012	5	0
WQL26	Reduce the concentration of nutrients imported on farm	System	1098.0	Acres	0	0	2012	5	0
WQT01	Irrigation system automation	System	555.0	Acres	0	0	2012	5	0
WQT03	Irrigation pumping plant evaluation	Actual	5.0	Numbers	0	5	2012	3	0
Distributed planned amount total									
					5	0	0	0	0
					Amt/FY 1	Amt/FY 2	Amt/FY 3	Amt/FY 4	Amt/FY 5

The sum of the values entered for in the 'Distributed planned amount total' row must equal but not exceed the value in the Planned Amount cell. The tool will control to ensure this condition is met.

Performance Points

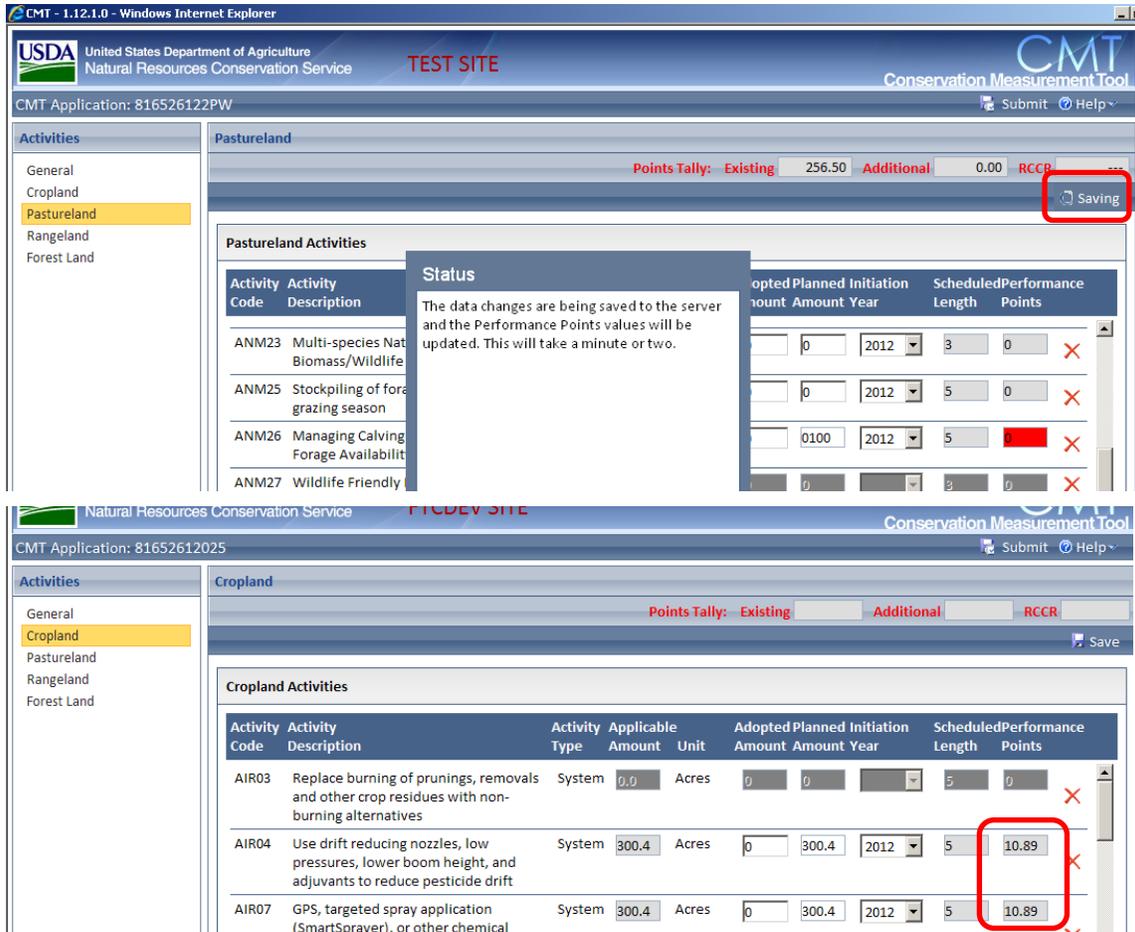
For any activity planned, the 'Performance Points' for that activity will be displayed proportional to three factors: 1) the ratio of the 'Planned Amount' to the 'Applicable Amount,' 2) the 'Initiation Year' selected, and 3) the ratio of the 'Applicable Amount' to the "Total Land use Acres." The 'Performance Points' cell turns **RED** with activity in the 'Adopted Amount, Planned Amount or Initiation Year' cells.

Activity Code	Activity Description	Activity Type	Applicable Amount	Unit	Adopted Amount	Planned Amount	Initiation Year	Scheduled Length	Performance Points
AIR03	Replace burning of prunings, removals and other crop residues with non-burning alternatives	System	0.0	Acres	0	0		5	0
AIR04	Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift	System	300.4	Acres	0	0300.4	2012	5	0
AIR07	GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical	System	300.4	Acres	0	0300.4	2012	5	0

Upon a 'Save,' the performance point cell(s) will populate with the calculated point value.

Note: "Max Actual Performance Points" from the Activity List for Planners document may not be achieved with 100% of the applicable amount planned. Keep in mind factor 3 from above-Proportioning of the applicable amount to the total land use may decrease the "Max

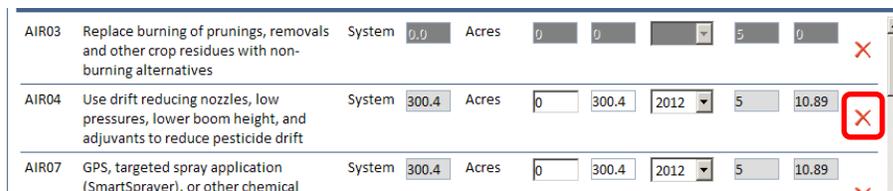
Actual Performance Points.” This feature correlates to one of the critical functions of the OBD.



Note: It is not necessary to 'Save' one activity at a time. Multiple activities can be saved simultaneously.

Delete a Practice

To delete an activity from the schedule, use the red 'X' at the far right.



'Save' Controls

As data is entered in to the cell, if the checks are not met the row will turn 'Yellow' and remain yellow until the error is corrected.

Activity Code	Activity Description	Activity Type	Applicable Amount	Unit	Adopted Amount	Planned Amount	Initiation Year	Scheduled Length	Performance Points
AIR03	Replace burning of prunings, removals and other crop residues with non-burning alternatives	System	0.0	Acres	0	0	2012	5	0
AIR04	Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift	System	300.4	Acres	0	300.4	2012	5	10.89
Adopted Amount plus Planned Amount must be less than or equal to Applicable Amount.									
AIR07	GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology	System	300.4	Acres	200	300.4	2012	5	10.89
AIR08	Nitrification inhibitors or urease inhibitors	System	300.4	Acres	0	0	2012	5	0
ANM05	Extending riparian forest buffers for water quality protection and wildlife	Actual	0.0	Acres	0	0	2012	3	0

Activity Code	Activity Description	Activity Type	Applicable Amount	Unit	Adopted Amount	Planned Amount	Initiation Year	Scheduled Length	Performance Points
WQ101	irrigation system automation	System	555.0	Acres	0	0	2012	5	0
WQT03	irrigation pumping plant evaluation	Actual	5.0	Numbers	0	5	2012	3	4.47
WQT05	Remote monitoring and notification of irrigation pumping plant operation	Actual	5.0	Numbers	0	0	2012	3	0
WQT07	Regional weather networks for irrigation scheduling	System	555.0	Acres	0	555	2012	5	6.45
Total of all years must equal Planned Amount.									
WQT08	Decrease irrigation water quantity or conversion to non-irrigated crop production	Actual	555.0	Acres	0	555	2012	3	9.85
Distributed planned amount total									
					500	0	0	0	0
					Amt/FY 1	Amt/FY 2	Amt/FY 3	Amt/FY 4	Amt/FY 5

If you try to save information that exceeds the Applicable Amount, an error message will be displayed.

Activity Code	Activity Description	Activity Type	Applicable Amount	Unit	Adopted Amount	Planned Amount	Initiation Year	Scheduled Length	Performance Points
AIR03	Replace burning of prunings, removals and other crop residues with non-burning alternatives	System	0.0	Acres	0	0	2012	5	0
AIR04	Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, low boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift	System	300.4	Acres	0	300.4	2012	5	10.89
AIR07	GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology	System	300.4	Acres	200	300.4	2012	5	10.89
AIR08	Nitrification inhibitors or urease inhibitors	System	300.4	Acres	0	0	2012	5	0
ANM05	Extending riparian forest buffers for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Actual	0.0	Acres	0	0	2012	3	0
ANM07	Extending existing field borders for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Actual	0.0	Acres	0	0	2012	3	0

Errors on Page

You must correct highlighted errors on this page before you can save.

Other Messages

If Conservation Practice 328-Conservation Crop Rotation is planned, then Resource Conserving Crop Rotation cannot be planned on the same acres. If 328-Conservation Crop Rotation was planned, a message will appear when planning enhancements to remind you that it has already been planned.

The screenshot shows the CMT application interface in Internet Explorer. The top navigation bar includes the USDA logo, "United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service", "FTCDEV SITE", and the "CMT Conservation Measurement Tool" logo. The application ID is "81652612025". The left sidebar shows "Activities" with "Cropland" selected. The main content area is titled "Cropland" and displays "Points Tally: Existing: Additional: RCCR:". A yellow warning box contains the message: "Note: Resource Conserving Crop Rotation cannot be scheduled on the same acres as Practice 328, Conservation Crop Rotation." Below this is a table of "Cropland Activities":

Activity Code	Activity Description	Activity Type	Applicable Amount	Unit	Adopted Amount	Planned Amount	Initiation Year	Scheduled Length	Performance Points
AIR03	Replace burning of prunings, removals and other crop residues with non-	System	0.0	Acres	0	0		5	0

Note: Before Resource Conserving Crop Rotation can be planned, an activity (practice or enhancement) on any land use must be scheduled first. Resource Conserving Crop Rotation cannot be the only activity. This requirement is enforced via a "Submit Check," see the subject section for details.

At least one activity must be planned in the first year of the application to generate a Conservation Performance Ranking Score.

The screenshot shows the CMT application interface in Internet Explorer. The top navigation bar includes the USDA logo, "United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service", "TEST SITE", and the "CMT Conservation Measurement Tool" logo. The application ID is "816526122PF". The left sidebar shows "Summary" with "Summary Report" selected. The main content area is titled "Summary Report" and displays "Points Tally: Existing: Additional: RCCR:". A yellow warning box, highlighted with a red border, contains the message: "At least one activity must be scheduled for the first year to receive a Conservation Performance Ranking Score. There are no activities currently scheduled for the first year." Below this is a "Summary Report" section with the following details:

Conservation Stewardship Program
Conservation Performance Summary Report

Application Number: 816526122PF Applicant: MATT W RANSOM IV Date: 1/30/2012
 Geographic Area Ranking Pool: Area 3 South Central - Ag lands General-Agricultural Lands - General Signup Number: CSP-2012-1

Conservation Performance

Application Information for Payment Calculations

	Acres	Existing Activity Points	Additional Activity Points*
Cropland	100.0	0.00	0.00

* Cropland - Does not include the Resource Conserving Crop Rotation Conservation Performance Points

A possible scenario that will correctly throw this message but not be readily apparent is as follows:

- Only one activity is selected by the participant
- The selected activity is an 'actual' type
- Initiation year 2013 (i.e., FY1) is selected
- User does not distribute any of planned amount to FY1
- Activity data is saved as expected
- Error message received upon opening "Summary" page

Ranking Factors

This tab displays the four individual ranking factor scores that make up the applicant's final ranking score.

- Ranking factor 1 measures the level of conservation treatment on priority resource concerns at the time of application.
- Ranking factor 2 measures the degree to which treatment on priority resource concerns increases conservation performance.
- Ranking factor 3 measures the number of priority resource concerns to be treated to meet or exceed thresholds by the end of the contract.
- Ranking factor 4 measures the extent to which other resource concerns will be addressed to meet or exceed stewardship thresholds by the end of the contract.

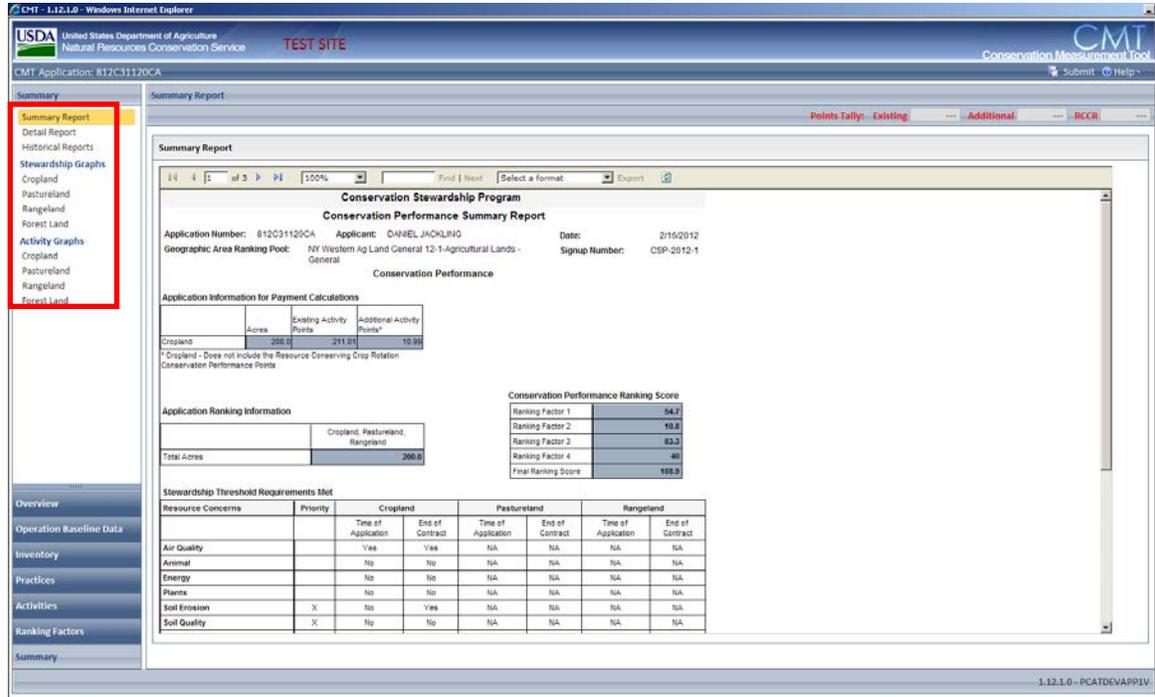
The screenshot shows the 'Ranking Factors' tab in the CMT application. The page header includes the USDA logo, 'United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service', 'TEST SITE', and 'CMT Conservation Measurement Tool'. The application ID is '816526122NV'. The main content area displays the following data:

Ranking Factor	Score
Ranking Factor 1	71.9
Ranking Factor 2	175.6
Ranking Factor 3	0
Ranking Factor 4	172.5
Final Ranking Score	420

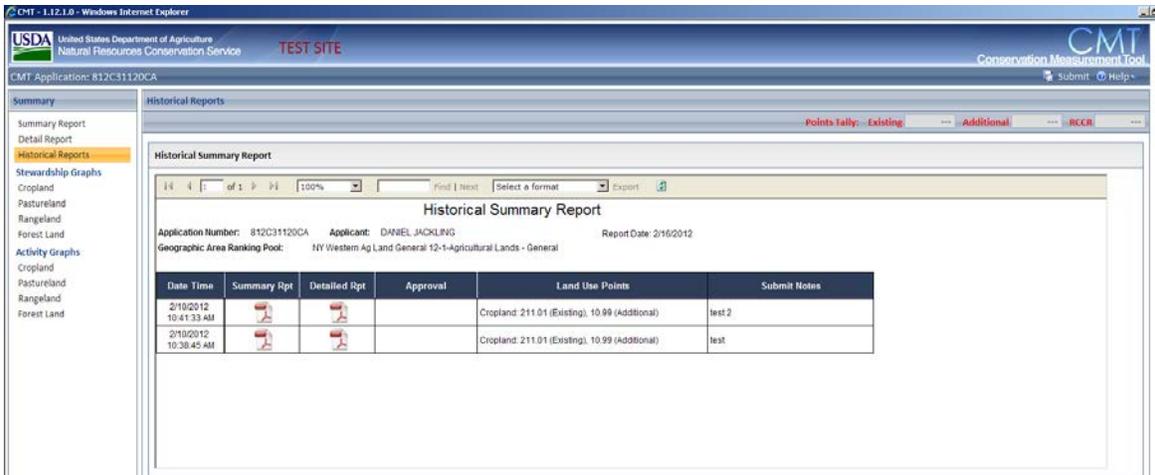
The left navigation menu includes: Overview, Operation Baseline Data, Inventory, Practices, Activities, Ranking Factors, and Summary. The bottom right corner of the page displays the version number '1.12.1.0 - CMTTESTAPP1V'.

Summary

With this option, you may view and print the Conservation Performance Summary Report, Detailed Report of responses including OBDs and existing activity questions, Historical Reports, Stewardship Graphs, and Activity Graphs.

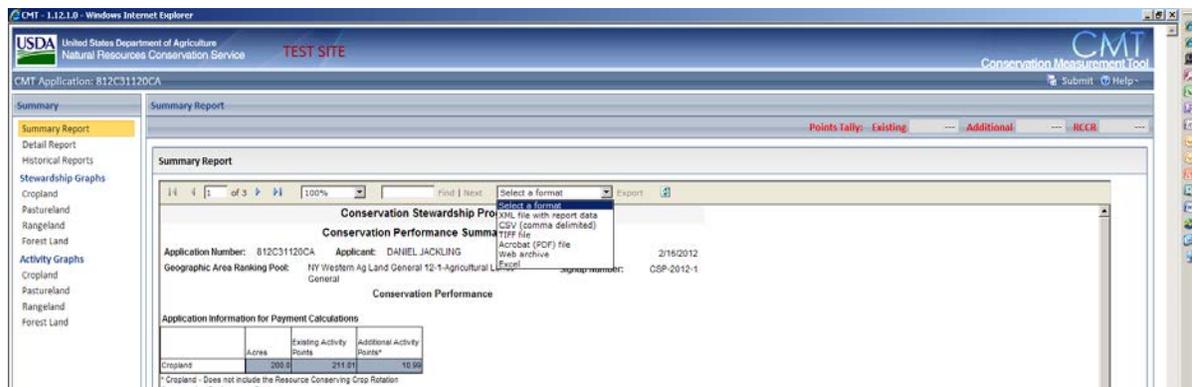


When the Submit button is selected, a PDF copy of both reports will be saved in the submenu option titled 'Historical' with the date submitted.



Print a Report

To print a report, select the file format and select 'Export'. The best option is Acrobat (PDF) file.



Summary Report

The Conservation Performance Summary Report contains Application Information for Payment Calculations, Application Ranking Information, Summary of Stewardship Threshold Requirements Met at time of application and by end of contract, Conservation Performance Levels for existing and additional activities by land use by resource concern, Activity Summary (practices and enhancements), and Application Certification Statements at time of application and field verification.

The different components of the Conservation Performance Summary Report are identified by section in the following screen shots:

Header

- Application number, applicant, date of report, geographic area ranking pool, CSP signup number

Conservation Stewardship Program			
Conservation Performance Summary Report			
Application Number:	812C31120CA	Applicant:	DANIEL JACKLING
Date:	2/16/2012		
Geographic Area Ranking Pool:	NY Western Ag Land General 12-1-Agricultural Lands - General	Signup Number:	CSP-2012-1

Application Information for Payment Calculations

- By land use, Acres and Conservation Performance Points (Existing and Additional Activity)
- If applicable, Resource Conserving Crop Rotation acres, year of initiation, and Conservation Performance Points

Application Information for Payment Calculations:

	Acres	Existing Activity Points**	Additional Activity Points*
Cropland	262.9	170.23	545.84
Pastureland	200.0		62.28
Pastured Cropland	20.0	206.43	
Pastureland	180.0	206.43	
Rangeland	2049.3	146.93	306.68

* Cropland - Does not include the Resource Conserving Crop Rotation Conservation Performance Points

** Existing activity points for pastured cropland and pastureland acres are split to accommodate different existing activity payment rates.

Resource Conserving Crop Rotation	
Acres	160.00
Initial year scheduled	2010
Conservation Performance Points	39.38

Application Ranking Information

- Total acres and Conservation Performance Ranking Score

Application Ranking Information

	Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland
Total Acres	200.0

Conservation Performance Ranking Score

Ranking Factor 1	54.7
Ranking Factor 2	10.8
Ranking Factor 3	83.3
Ranking Factor 4	40
Final Ranking Score	188.9

Summary of Stewardship Thresholds Met

- By resource concern by land use

Stewardship Threshold Requirements Met:

Resource Concerns	Priority	Cropland		Pastureland		Rangeland	
		Time of Application	End of Contract	Time of Application	End of Contract	Time of Application	End of Contract
Air Quality		No	No	No	No	No	No
Animal		Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Energy		No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Plants		No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Soil Erosion		No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Soil Quality	X	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Water Quality	X	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water Quantity	X	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

Conservation Performance Levels of Existing and Additional Activities

- By resource concern by land use

Existing Activities				Additional Activities			
Conservation Performance Levels				Conservation Performance Levels			
	Cropland	Pastureland	Rangeland		Cropland	Pastureland	Rangeland
Air Quality	28.00	0.00	0.00	Air Quality	1.91	0.00	0.00
Animal	20.75	0.00	0.00	Animal	2.47	0.00	0.00
Energy	5.00	0.00	0.00	Energy	2.00	0.00	0.00
Plants	20.13	0.00	0.00	Plants	3.04	0.00	0.00
Soil Erosion	24.25	0.00	0.00	Soil Erosion	0.01	0.00	0.00
Soil Quality	34.25	0.00	0.00	Soil Quality	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water Quality	75.13	0.00	0.00	Water Quality	1.56	0.00	0.00
Water Quantity	3.50	0.00	0.00	Water Quantity	0.00	0.00	0.00
Existing Activity Points	211.01	0.00	0.00	Additional Activity Points	10.99	0.00	0.00

Activity Summary

- Schedule and amount of activities (practices and enhancements)

Activity Summary									
Code	Unit	Activity Name	Total Applicable Amount	Fiscal Year 1	Fiscal Year 2	Fiscal Year 3	Fiscal Year 4	Fiscal Year 5	Total Amount
Cropland Activities									
329	Acres	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	262.90	0.00	262.90	262.20	262.90	262.90	262.90
342	Acres	Critical Area Planting	35.00	0.00	15.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
386	Acres	Field Border	12.00	0.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00
BCR01	Acres	Crop Technology Bundle #1	262.90	262.90	262.90	262.90	262.90	262.90	262.90
ANM05	Acres	Extending riparian forest buffers for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	24.00	10.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00
ANM14	Linear Feet per Year	Riparian forest buffer, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat	55.00	55.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55.00
CCR99	Acres	Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation	262.60	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00
Rangeland Activities									
BRA01	Acres	Range Grazing Bundle #1	2049.30	1280.00	1280.00	1280.00	1280.00	1280.00	1280.00
Pastureland Activities									
ANM09	Acres	Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00

Application Certification Statements

- Stewardship Threshold Requirements Determination
 - At time of application
 - At time of field verification

Conservation Performance Summary Report - Applicant Certification

Stewardship Threshold Requirements Determination*

- Stewardship Threshold Requirements Met
 Stewardship Threshold Requirements Not Met

*To meet the program's land treatment requirements, the applicant's conservation activities must meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for at least one resource concern at the time of the application and one priority resource concern at the time of the application or by the end of the conservation stewardship contract for each eligible land use.

Completed by applicant at time of program application:

The conservation activity and production system information I provided and the written records or documentation supporting that information are accurate to the best of my knowledge. Written records or documentation are available and are being used for the management of my conservation activities and production system. If my application is pre-approved for funding, NRCS will request records and conduct on-site field verification to substantiate the accuracy of the conservation activity and production system information I provided.

I have notified NRCS of all other active USDA conservation program agreements or contracts that are providing payments on any of the land being offered for enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program.

I have not scheduled the installation of new conservation activities for payment under the Conservation Stewardship Program that are also earning payment through any other USDA conservation program.

I have selected and scheduled the additional activities identified on the Activity Summary that I will install and adopt unless NRCS determines they are unfeasible during on-site field verification.

By my signature, I certify the above statements are true, and expressly agree with my agricultural operation's conservation performance levels represented and identified on the Conservation Performance Summary Report, and all information contained on that Report.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Completed by NRCS and pre-approved applicants during on-site field verification of pre-approved applications:

A. Verification of all potential duplicate payments has been completed with the applicants and all contracts have been reviewed to prevent duplicate payments.

B. NRCS will request written records and conduct on-site field verification to substantiate the accuracy of the conservation activity and production system information of the applicant provided during the application process. Upon completion of the field verification, NRCS will identify the appropriate condition and action from below.

- NRCS verified information provided by applicant was accurate. Proceed with conservation stewardship planning, contract development, and contract obligation.

NRCS determined information provided by applicant was inaccurate because:

- Written records or documentation are unavailable. Determine the application is ineligible consistent with 7 CFR 1470.6(a)(4).
- Field conditions or written records do not substantiate the use of the conservation activities and production system information provided. If NRCS determines the misrepresentation was intentional, then determine the application is ineligible consistent with 7 CFR 1470.36.
- Field conditions or written records do not substantiate the use of the conservation activities and production system information represented. If NRCS determines the misrepresentation was unintentional, then rerank the application based on the conservation activities that can be substantiated.

Explanation (needed if inaccurate information is found):

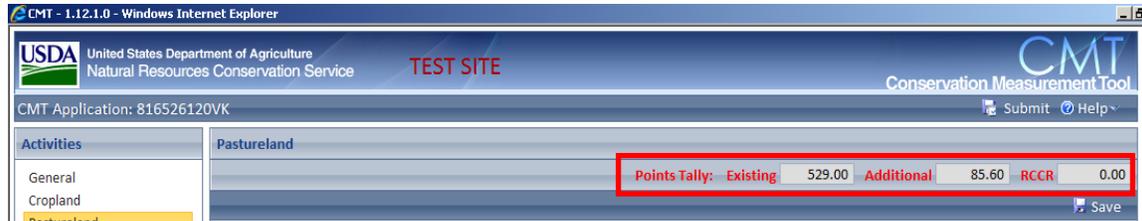
Designated Conservationist: _____ Date: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

This Conservation Summary Report is a part of the CSP application and contract documentation and must be maintained in the applicant case file.

Points Tally Cells

The ability to determine the applicant's existing and additional activity point at various stages while using the tool is now available as the "Points Tally."



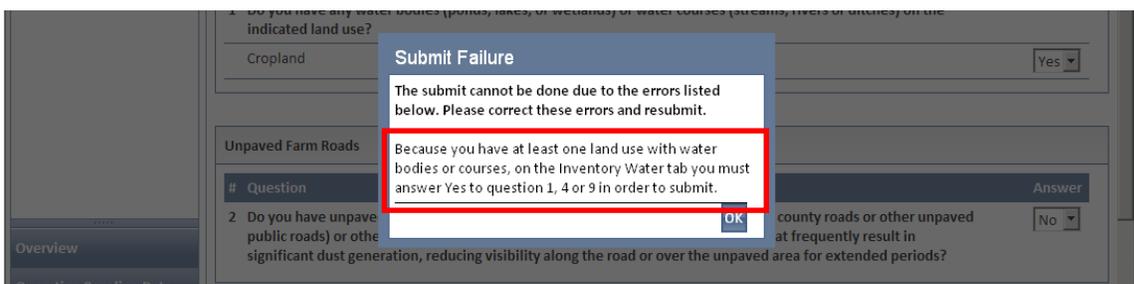
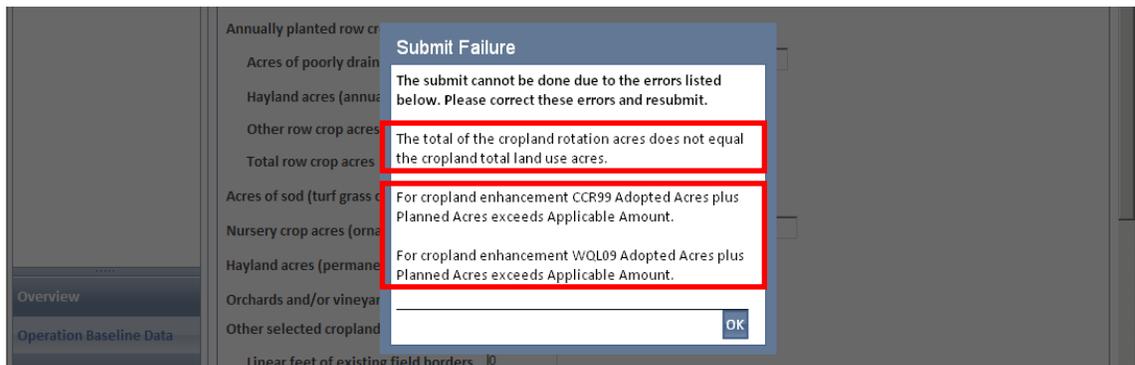
The behavior rules for the Points Tally cells are as follows:

- Overview Page - displays “—”initially
- Overview Page after a CMT run - displays the sum of all land uses
- Inventory Page - General and Water submenus will always display “—”
- Inventory Page - submenus Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland, and Forestland will display the respective points per land use
- Practices Page - General submenu will always display “—”
- Practices/Activities Page - submenus Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland, and Forestland will display the respective points per land use
- Summary Page – will always display “—”

Submit Checks

Before an application will 'Submit' to ProTracts, there are seven checks performed (see below). If any of the seven do not pass, then the submit will be blocked. However, the tool will display a message explaining the submit failure.

1. Sums of rotations equals total land use (crop and/or pasture)
 - a. This test validates increases or decreases in the total land use acres
 - b. See the first screen shot displayed below
2. If Agland-Inventory General Q#1 (Water Bodies on land use) equals "Yes" for any land use; then Inventory Water Q#1, 4 or 9 must be "Yes"
 - a. See the second screen shot displayed below
3. Inventory-Cropland: Q3 response must be less than or equal to Q1 response
 - a. See the third screen shot displayed below
4. Inventory-Cropland: Q6 response must be less than or equal to Q1 response
 - a. See the fourth screen shot displayed below
5. Practices/Activities: Planned Amt plus Adopted Amt must be \leq AA
 - a. This test only validates a decrease in the total land use acres. Increase will not register an error.
 - b. See the first screen shot displayed below
6. Activities: CCR99 cannot be the only activity planned
 - a. See the fifth screen shot displayed below
7. Activities: If ANM27, ANM37, ANM38, or PLT16 are planned on one eligible land use, then the same enhancement must be selected and planned, if the applicable amount is greater than zero, on other eligible land use(s).
 - a. See the sixth screen shot displayed below



radish, Kale, Lettuce, Lima beans, Melons, Mustard greens, Nursery crops, Okra, Onions, Parsley, Peppers, Pimientos, Potted flowering plants, Pumpkins, Radishes, Rapini, bagas, Shallots, Snap beans, Spinach, Squash, Strawberries, Tomatoes, Turnips, Vegetables, Watercress.

ter the number of harvested crops in your rotation or ma
or beans, Chicory, Coffee and other woody perennials (o
be, Flaxseed, Guar, Hops, Lentils, Mungbeans, Mustard s
et potatoes, Tobacco, High Residue Fallow (greater than 1

ter the number of harvested crops in your rotation or ma
Grain/Popcorn, Cranberries, Desert grass, Guava, Herbs
rcane, Teff, Woody perennials with cover in the alleys in
ard/vineyards crops.

ter the number of harvested crops in your rotation or ma
Seed, Legume Hay /Seed, Lotus root, or similar herbaceo

your rotation or management system contain a cover cr

ter the number of years during the rotation length you plant an cover crop not for harvest (if the crop management system is a vineyard, orchard or other similar permanent crop,

Submit Failure

The submit cannot be done due to the errors listed below. Please correct these errors and resubmit.

For rotation "test" the number of times during your rotation or management system that you plant a cover crop that you do not harvest (Question 3) must be less than or equal to the length of the rotation or management system in years (Question 1).

OK

your rotation, orchard or vineyard include perennial hay, grass or legume cover? If NO, skip to Question 7.

many years of hay or other perennial(s) do you have in y

the STATE populated look up table and the choices belo
- Select Species Info button to view lists.

/land is composed of species from List B.

land is predominantly species from List B but one or m

land is composed of 1 or 2 species from List A that make

land is composed of 3 or more species from List A that

t the choice that best describes your schedule for mowing hay. This question assesses the impact of hay mowing practices on wildlife.

s in your orchard or vineyard? – include the establishment
owing in your hay fields. From the State populated look up

Submit Failure

The submit cannot be done due to the errors listed below. Please correct these errors and resubmit.

For crop rotation "test" the Inventory submenu Cropland response to Question # 6.1 must be less than or equal to the response for Question # 1.

OK

Activity Code	Activity Description	System	Adopted Amount	Planned Amount	Initiation Year	Scheduled Length
WQL20	Transition to ORGANIC cropping systems	System	0.0	Acres	0	0
WQL21	Integrated pest management for ORGANIC farming		0	0	2013	5
WQL22	On-farm composting of farm organic waste		0	0	2013	5
WQL24	Apply enhanced efficiency fertilizer products		0	0	2013	5
WQL25	Split applications of nitrogen based on a PSNT		0	0	2013	5
WQL26	Reduce the concentration of nutrients imported or		0	0	2013	5
WQL27	Drainage water management for nutrient, pathogen reduction		0	0	2013	5
WQT01	Irrigation system automation	System	0.0	Acres	0	0
WQT01	Irrigation pumping plant evaluation	Actual		Number		

Submit Failure

The submit cannot be done due to the errors listed below. Please correct these errors and resubmit.

Resource Conserving Crop Rotation (CCR99) cannot be the only scheduled activity. You must schedule at least one additional activity for any land use.

OK

Activity Code	Activity Description	Activity	Applicable	Adopted Amount	Planned Amount	Initiation Year	Scheduled Length
NM33	Prescription buffer, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat			0	0	2013	0
NM37	Prescriptive grazing management system for grazed land			3456	2013	5	30.0
NM38	Retrofit watering facility for wildlife escape and enhancement for bats and bird species			1	2013	3	3.2
RA08	Range Grazing Bundle # 8 (Addresses multiple resource			0	2013	5	0
RA09	Range Grazing Bundle # 9 (Addresses multiple resource			0	2013	5	0
PP02	On-Farm Pilot Projects			0		3	0
RDD1	On-Farm Research and Demonstrations			0		3	0
LT02	Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management			0	2013	5	0
LT06	Renovation of a windbreak, shelter belt, or hedgerow habitat			0		3	0
LT15	Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat			0	2013	3	0
LT16	Intensive rotational grazing			3456	2013	5	16.0
VQL01	Biological suppression and other non-chemical techniques to manage brush, herbaceous weeds and invasive species			0	2013	5	0

Submit Failure

The submit cannot be done due to the errors listed below. Please correct these errors and resubmit.

ANM27is planned on at least one eligible land use but not all. This enhancement must EITHER be planned on all eligible land uses where the enhancement option exists OR not be planned on any eligible land use

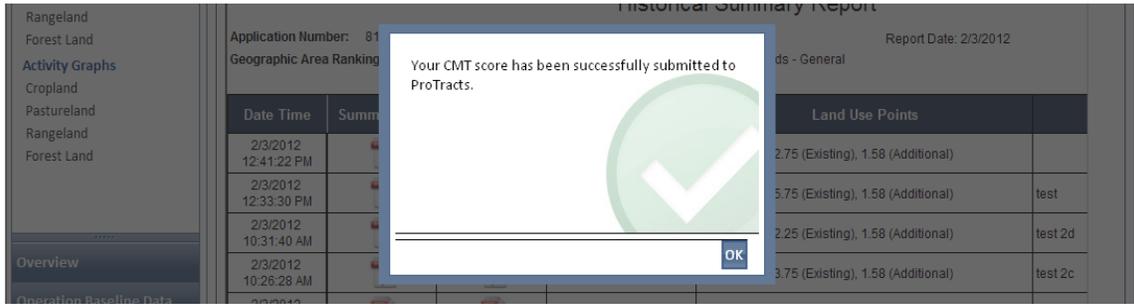
ANM37is planned on at least one eligible land use but not all. This enhancement must EITHER be planned on all eligible land uses where the enhancement option exists OR not be planned on any eligible land use

ANM38is planned on at least one eligible land use but not all. This enhancement must EITHER be planned on all eligible land uses where the enhancement option exists OR not be planned on any eligible land use

PLT16is planned on at least one eligible land use but not all. This enhancement must EITHER be planned on all eligible land uses where the enhancement option exists OR not be planned on any eligible land use

OK

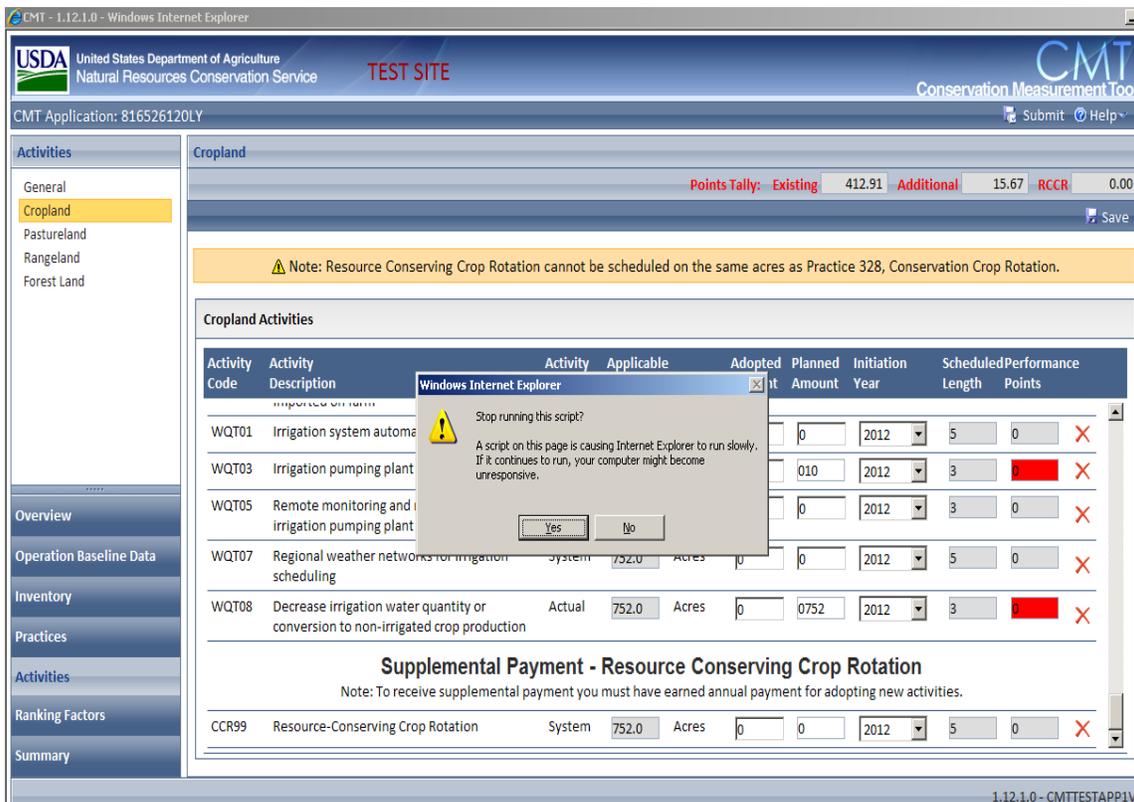
Once all submit checks pass, the following message will be received.



Script Error Message

This message is not expected to be an issue in this version of the tool; however, in the event the message is displayed, follow the below guidance.

When this message is received, **select "NO."** It may take selecting NO multiple times for all of the java script code to load. If "Yes" is selected, the tool will not properly load the data. For example, the applicable amounts for an activity may not transfer from the OBD in order to the activity to be planned.



Appendix A

Procedure to answer Crop, Pasture and Range OBD Q# “Acres of soils that were once prairie”

Step 1

Use the following definition for prairie:

Prairies are an extensive tract of level or rolling land that was originally dominated by herbaceous communities (graminoids and forbs) and are typically free of woody plants (shrubs and trees).

Note: This definition is inclusive of the tallgrass prairies, northern and southern mixed prairies, shortgrass prairies, Palouse prairie, and coastal prairies.

Note: This definition is technically sound in that it is a blend of the definitions by Holechek et al. (2001) and Barbour et al. (1987).

Step 2

Define the soil series within the state’s MLRA boundaries that have a predominance of characteristics that meet the prairie definition.

- The Official Series Descriptions (OSD) and their ‘Use and Vegetation’ section can be used to assist in making this determination.

Step 3

Option 1

Provide a list of soil series that are designated as “prairie” to the Field Offices. The planners can use this list to develop their own map with acres quantity on an operation by operation basis.

Option 2

Generate a map of selected qualifying map unit polygons for distribution to the Field Offices for the planners. The map should include hill shade and infrastructure sufficient to be able to discern the operations’ location. A GIS layer within Toolkit is preferable.

Planners need to use the map to determine the location of an operation as to whether it is within the area designated as “prairie.”

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Helping People Help the Land
www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov

CSP Control of Land Form

I, _____, as landowner of
Farm# (ex: 0001) _____ /Tract# (ex: 0001) _____ do hereby certify that
_____ will be operating my land for the length of the
Conservation Stewardship Program contract (five years).

For the above described land unit that I own, I provide my assurance that the above
Operator will have control of this land and has the authority to act as decision maker
for the management and operation of this land for the purpose of satisfying the terms
and conditions of a Conservation Stewardship Program contract for the proposed
contract period.

If there are any owner/operator changes on this farm/tract, I agree to notify, in writing, the
local NRCS USDA Service Center immediately.

Landowner Signature _____

Date _____

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Helping People Help the Land

www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov

Control of Land Requirements for CSP

- To be an eligible applicant for the program, a producer must have written effective control of the land prior to the date the contract is signed. Effective control means possession of the land by ownership, written lease, or other legal agreement and authority to act as decision maker for the day-to-day management of the operation – both at the time of entering into a stewardship contract and for the required period of the contract (5 years). [See Appendix under Subpart 1 - Program Eligibility Requirements (D) and Subpart 3-Agreement (1).]
- Owners are displayed on the FSA forms 156EZ and/or the Producer Farm Data Report form.
- **To establish effective control for the required period of the contract, Iowa requires the attached Control of Land form to be signed.** The required information is Farm number(s) with all applicable tracts; the statement of effective control and the specific years under contract; the owner's signature and date. One form per owner is sufficient for those who own multiple farms/ tracts. (If control is not granted, leave the farm/tract number(s) off this form.)
- For land that has multiple owners, only 1 owner is required to sign this form. Owner/operators do not need to fill out this form.
- Once properly completed and signed, these forms must be kept by you, the applicant, for the period of the contract (5 years).
- Every CSP contract will be audited at least once within its 5-year period. Auditors will request the Control of Land forms from you. They will verify that farms and tracts are under your effective control, confirm that signatures are valid, and note the date the form was signed – it must be dated before the contract was obligated to show valid effective control. (Auditors use the FSA forms – 156EZ and/or Producer Farm Data Report form for the year of obligation.)
- Without valid effective control, a producer faces penalties that could range from removal of the land from the contract with repayment to termination of the contract for cause with repayment and possible recovery costs of up to 10% of the contract obligation. [Possible penalties are covered in your Appendix under Subpart 8 - Misrepresentation and Scheme or Devise and Subpart 12-Recovery of Costs (B).]
- This Control of Land form is a legal document, but it is not a binding document. If changes in effective control occur, such as changes in ownership or an owner removes you as operator during the contract period, contact your local NRCS office immediately.

Note: Any land that you gain during the contract period cannot be included in an existing CSP contract.

If you have questions, contact your local NRCS staff.

NB 300_13_28 LTP – Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Revised Timeline for Ranking Period 2013-1 Contracts

National Bulletin: NB 300_13_28 **Date:** May 29, 2013
Subject: LTP – Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Revised Timeline for Ranking Period 2013-1 Contracts

Action Required By: September 25, 2013

Purpose. To provide States with information on the revised timeframe for obligating CSP Ranking Period 2013-1 contracts.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2013

Background. Applicants may submit CSP applications on a continuous signup basis throughout the year. NRCS will conduct one or more ranking periods each fiscal year based on funds.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) apportioned NRCS with FY 2013 CSP funds in mid-April 2013. As a result, a ranking period (2013-1) will be conducted in FY 2013. CSP applications accepted by the cutoff date will be evaluated and selected for contract obligation by the end of FY 2013.

Explanation. The target dates for processing applications in the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT), ranking applications, making funding decisions, conducting onsite field verifications, developing stewardship plans and contract documents, and obligating funds have been established for Ranking Period 2013-1.

Actions need to be completed in accordance with the following timeline:

Action	Date
Ranking Period 2013-1 cutoff date for accepting applications	June 14, 2013
Complete application evaluations and resource inventory in CMT, select applications for funding, and set applications to preapproved status in ProTracts	July 12, 2013
Complete onsite field verification, develop stewardship plan, and complete initial fund obligations	August 30, 2013
Final obligation deadline for reallocated acres	September 25, 2013
Note: This schedule applies to all existing CSP CCPI and CCPI/MRBI projects.	

Once acres and funds are provided, States will preapprove the highest-ranked applications while remaining within the State acreage and available

financial assistance fund allocations.

Preapproval letters will be generated through ProTracts and sent to preapproved applicants to schedule field verification appointments. States will document accurate onsite field verification findings and proceed with conservation stewardship planning, contract development and contract obligation. When onsite findings are inaccurate, notification letters will be sent to participants listing appropriate actions per policy.

Additional allocations of acres and financial assistance will be made at intervals throughout the obligation process. National Headquarters (NHQ) will continually analyze available acres and funds and periodically determine what redistribution is needed to meet program goals.

Due to the short timelines described in this bulletin, States are encouraged to closely monitor applications with eligibility and vendor issues, which can be difficult and time consuming to resolve. Applicants should be reminded early and often in the application process that eligibility and vendor issues must be resolved before contract obligation may occur. Escalate unresolved eligibility and vendor issues to appropriate business tool support contacts at local, State, and national levels.

FY 2013 CSP support documents can be found in the Conservation Stewardship Program Community on USDA Connect. Additional information is also available on the [CSP public Web site](#).

Contact. If you have questions, contact Jeff White, CSP Team leader, at (202) 720-3524.

/s/

ANTHONY J. KRAMER
Deputy Chief for Programs

Conservation Stewardship Program Toolkit Procedure

Overview:

The following guidelines were developed to help streamline the plan and plan map creation of CSP in 2013. The planning and reporting process for CSP has been modified from previous versions, due to the issuance of NB 300_13_4 – LTP Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP 2008) and Performance Results System Reporting, which now requires reporting of CSP practices from Toolkit.

Please note the following:

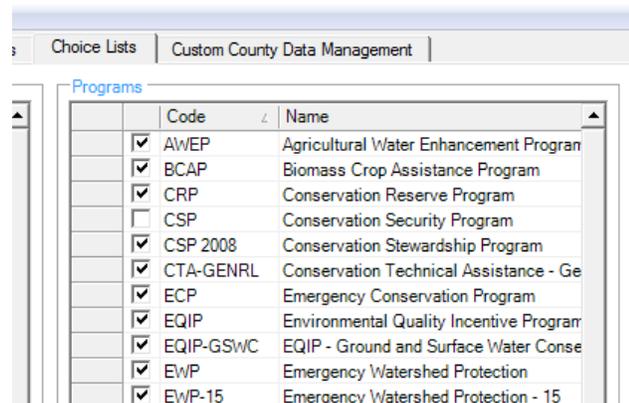
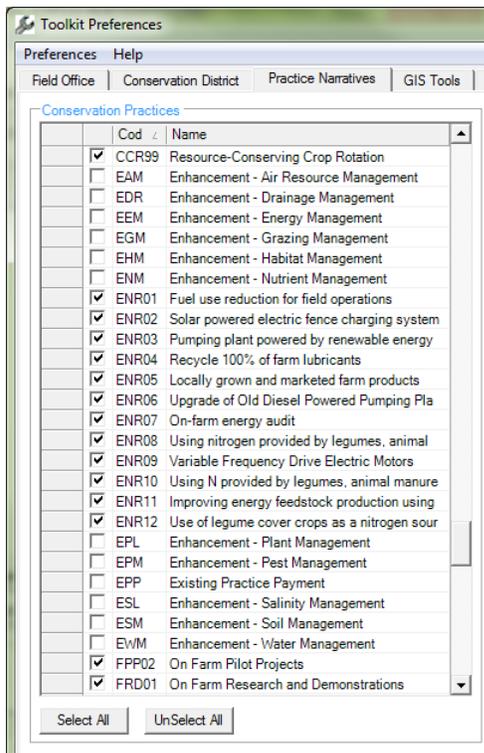
- All applicants/producers are required to provide the field office with maps of their operation.
- All applications must contain a Farm Data Report and 156EZs; each tract must have a note indicating whether or not the tract is Eligible or Not Eligible, with a note explaining why. For example – Eligible (Producer has COL form) or Not-Eligible (Producer does not have control for life of the contract) or Not-Eligible (Tract is enrolled in CSP Contract #____)
- Wildlife areas will be identified on maps in the contract folder. Denote the location of the wildlife area, the size and distance as explained in the CMT.
- Crop History: For this sign-up, you will have the choice of two ways to confirm crop history; Hay is considered a crop. Please note that it will not be necessary to confirm a crop history of land that is considered pasture.
 - Option 1 – map of each tract with labels at 1" = 660' scale, titled 'Crop History' and year of imagery printed on the map (2002 or 2004 imagery must be used). If there is a discrepancy in the crop history, then additional maps for the other years will need to be printed, as well as, research with FSA to determine the appropriate details of crop history. (This will help us to identify land that was not devoted to crop production for at least 4 of the 6 years proceeding June 18, 2008). These maps will need to be placed in the 6-part folder.
 - Option 2 – use the FSA crop certification documents for 2002-2004 and the current crop year will be needed. If there are no crop certification documents for these years, then subsequent years will be needed to confirm the year that the land went into production. These will need to be placed in the 6-part folder.

Conservation Stewardship Program Toolkit Procedure

TOOLKIT: Go to “File” and click on “Reload Domain Data” to capture new CSP Enhancements.

Setting Preferences:

Preferences: On the “Practice Narratives” tab, turn **OFF** prior year Conservation Security Program Enhancements (11 enhancements, 1 EPP, 1 SP). This will reduce confusion and have no impact on existing Conservation Security Program contracts that were developed in 2005-2008.



- On the “Choice Lists” tab, be sure that there is a checkmark next to CSP 2008 and that there is not a checkmark next to CSP (right screen above).
- Also on the “Choice Lists” tab, enter the following items in the LOCAL LAND USE, be sure to put a checkmark in front of each of them, so they will be visible for you to pick from when you attribute the fields.

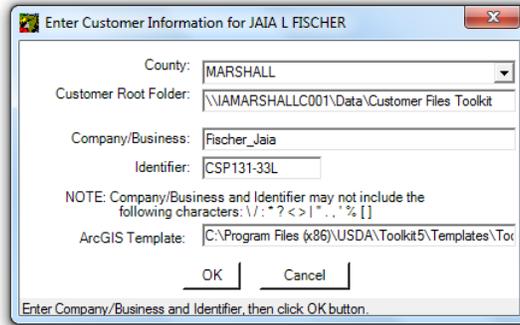
E-Crop	E-Pasture
E-NIPF	E-Pastured Cropland
NE-Not Eligible	

Conservation Stewardship Program Toolkit Procedure

Toolkit:

1. Create a CSP Toolkit Customer Folder and name it appropriately CSP131-### (CSP=Conservation Stewardship Program, 13=current fiscal year, 1=ranking period, - for a space holder, ###-Last 3 characters in the contract number) as shown below.

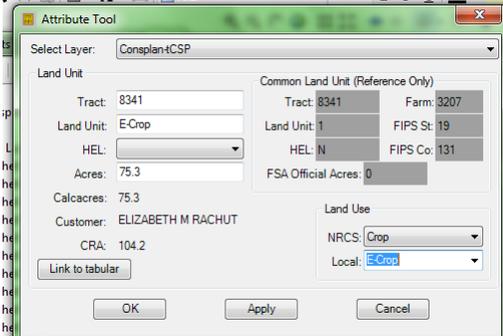
Note: Since you aren't checking out individual customer folders for each tract, check with neighboring counties to ensure participants have not applied for the same land in adjacent counties and that they are not receiving other program payments for practices/activities.



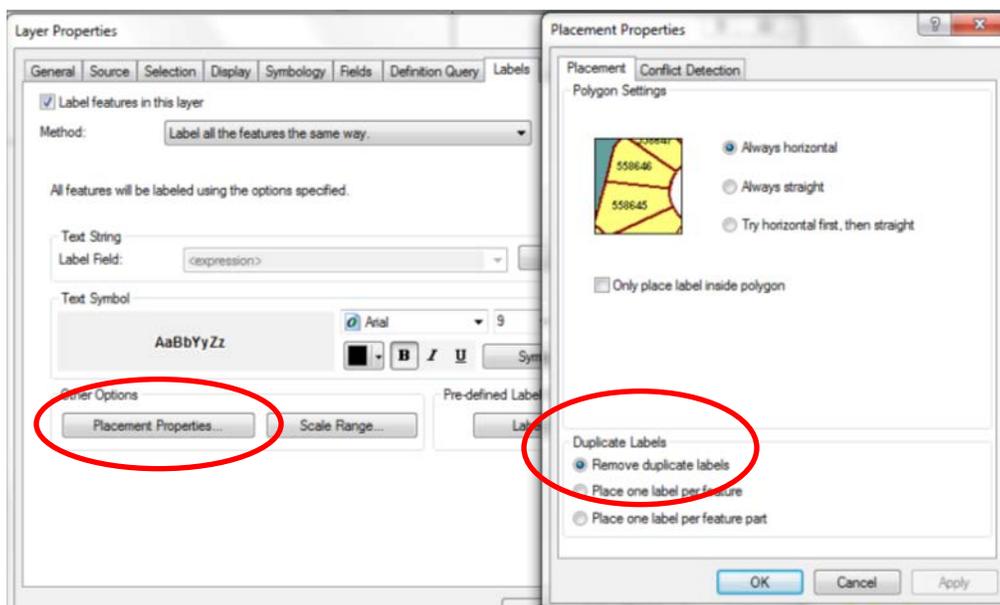
2. Open your Toolkit_Template_your county.mxd in your Customer File tab.
3. Create Planned Land Units Layer using the "Hardees Star"
 - a. The Planned Land Unit Layer will be named Consplan-CSP
 - b. The Consplan-CSP layer will contain all tracts/fields (from all counties and/or states) that are offered as the Ag Operation. The producer must be listed as operator on the Farm Data Report/156EZs and has certified that they have control for the life of the contract.
 - c. **Fields will be merged based on land use and eligibility for each tract. Do not merge any tracts.** It may be necessary to split fields when there is no field boundary to distinguish between land uses such as pasture and timber (Example: NIPF and Pasture does not have a field number on the FSA maps). **Note: Total eligible crop acres for each tract should match Effective DCP Acres, if they do not; document the discrepancy on the Farm Data Report/156EZs.**
 - d. Save and stop editing.

Conservation Stewardship Program Toolkit Procedure

4. Attribute the Consplan-CSP layer using the “Attribute Tool”
 - a. Tract # (official FSA Tract Number)
 - b. Field # for all fields (E-Crop, E-Past, E-PastC, E-NIPF, NE)
 - c. Acres (enter the total eligible acres for the land use for each tract)
 - d. NRCS Land Use
 - e. Local Land Use (denotes eligibility)

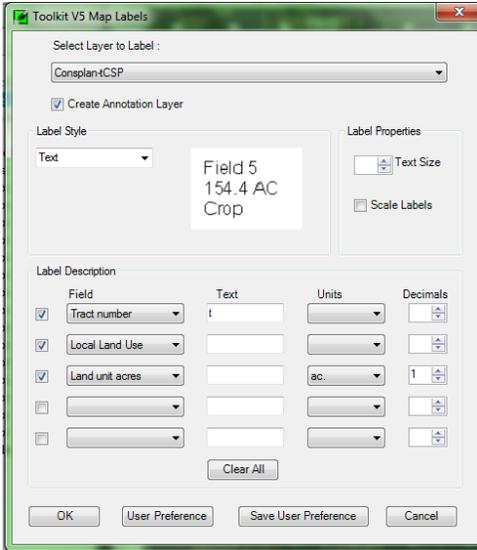


5. Save the map as Consplan-CSP
6. Symbology & Labeling
 - a. Right click on the Consplan-CSP layer, click on Properties
 - b. Select the Symbology tab, on the left side of the window select Categories, and then click on “Unique values”.
 - c. Set the value field to Local land use”.
 - d. Click on “Add All Values”. Uncheck “All Other Values”.
 - e. Double click on the symbol next to the first item in the Symbology window. The symbology selector window opens, find the corresponding symbol for the eligibility such as “E-Crop” select the symbology and click on “OK”. Repeat this process for all items in the legend. Click “apply.”
 - f. While still in properties, select the Labels Tab. Click on Placement Properties and select “Remove duplicate labels.” Click OK. Click OK to exit Layer Properties.

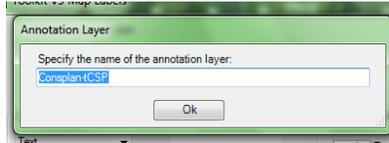


Conservation Stewardship Program Toolkit Procedure

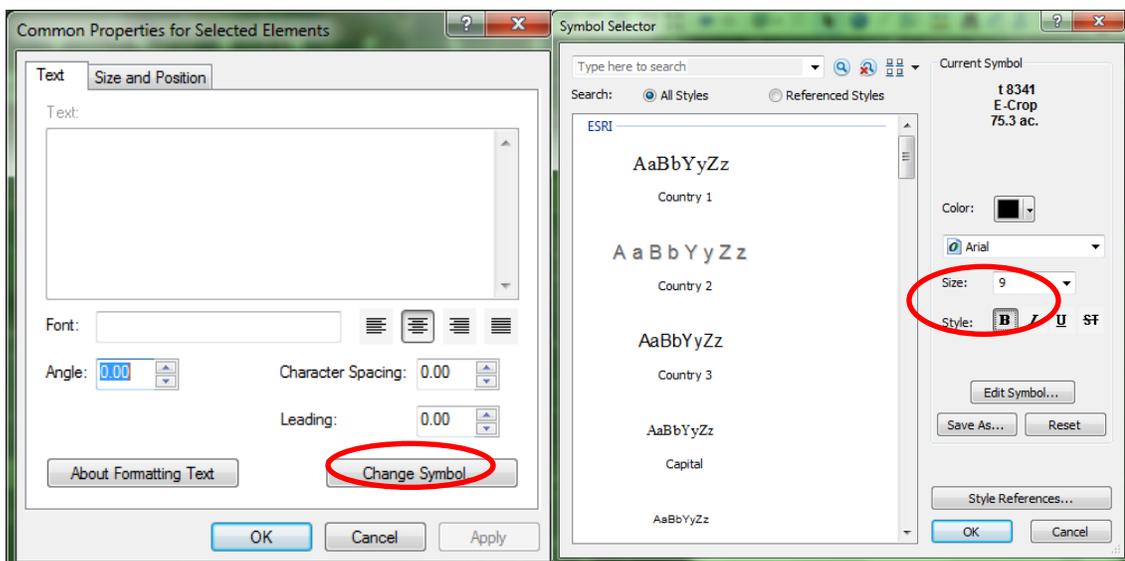
7. Select the map labels icon or “Paint Brush.”
 - a. Create Labels using the Toolkit Labeling tool.
 - b. The Label Description includes Tract Number (t), Local Land Use, and Land Unit Acres (ac with 1 decimal). Click OK.



- c. Name the annotation layer “Consplan-tCSP.”

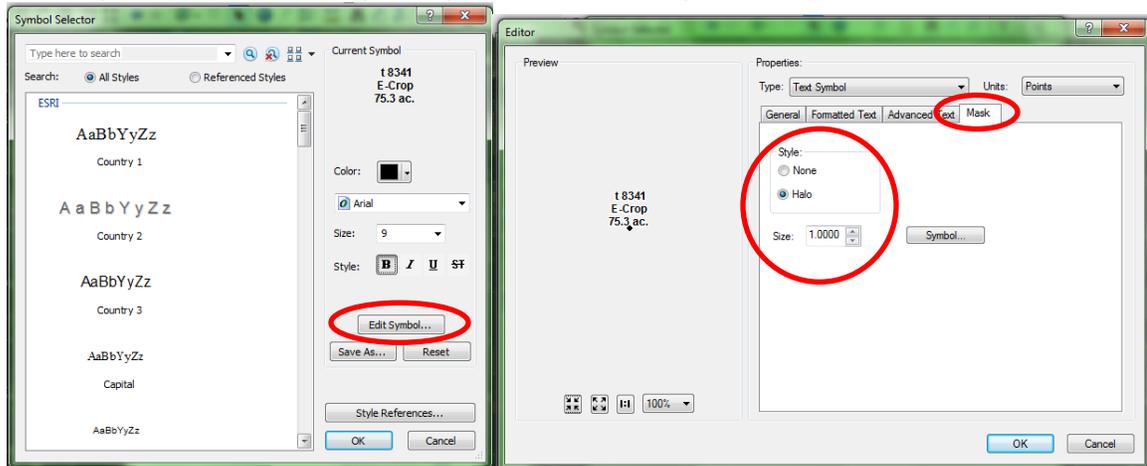


- d. Click edit and choose Select All Elements.
 - e. Right click over one of the labels on the map and choose Properties.
 - f. Click Change Symbol. Change the font size to 9 and select the style to Bold.



Conservation Stewardship Program Toolkit Procedure

- g. Select Edit Symbol. Select the Mask tab. Under style, choose Halo. Change the size to 1.0. Click Ok. Click OK on Symbol Selector and Layer Properties to close all open windows.



8. Use the Map Products button to change the view to that of the printed map. The label or text box will need to include the information as shown below. For your convenience and to avoid typos, either print labels that contain the contract specific data and apply to each printed map OR type the information into a word document and then copy and paste in into the text box on each map before you print.

Stewardship Plan Map for 8161141333L
Tracts: t3390, t5421, t1654
Total Acres by land use and planned enhancements:
Crop – 955 ac AIR07, WQL04
Pasture – 68 ac WQL19, ANM09

9. Print the map at 660 scale.
10. Save each map as a PDF. There must be 1 set of maps for each contract. When exporting the maps to PDF, set the resolution to 150 DPI. This will make the digital files smaller, but does not impact the quality of the imagery. Save all the maps that have been printed to a .pdf named so that you know which map is which (for example CSP-t###.pdf). Be sure to save the PDF in the Resource Maps folder within the customer folder in Toolkit.

Certification Maps: At certification time, make a black and white copy of the map. The participant must document on the certification map for each tract where activities were applied (acres) and what activities were applied (actual acres). **Note: This is a very important step in the process, as you will be required to use these maps to report applied acres for reporting.**

Conservation Stewardship Program Toolkit Procedure

Stewardship Plan: Due to the reporting requirement, all activities will now be “mapped” in the practice scheduler.

1. Go to the “Practice Schedule” Tab and schedule all of the activities for each tract (enhancements and practices) for September of the first year of the contract (9/2013). (Years and total acres must match the CMT summary report page for each enhancement.)
 - a. Adjust the acres if the activity will be implemented on less than the entire land use acres. (If the land planned acres are less than the system acres, have the participant identify which tracts they are planning to apply the practice.)
 - b. Do not use the recurring practice button; schedule the activities in all of the years for each of the tracts on the contract. **Note: At certification time, we will now be required to enter applied acres for each tract and report that information to PRS. This will be the actual applied acres and not the total acres for system enhancements.**
2. Create the Conservation Stewardship Plan using the plan wizard.
3. In the plan objectives box, enter the following “Stewardship Plan for Contract #.
4. In the Sort By box, select Practice.

Conservation Plan Wizard

Set Preferences

Check Options

Display Practice Narrative Display Participants Signature Box(es) Display Applied Practices

Total Practice Acres

Limit to land unit acres Do not limit to land unit acres

Sort By

Land Use Practice

How to print Recurring Practices

Consolidate Recurring Practices to first year, Mark with

Signature Box

Field Office: WASHINGTON SERVICE CENTER

Conservationist Name: Tony G. Maxwell

Conservationist Title: District Conservationist

Conservation District: WASHINGTON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Standard Statements

Plan Objectives

Stewardship Plan for 816114134C4

5. Create the plan and save as “CSP131-###.xlsx”.
6. **CAUTION! Check the total acres for each activity and be certain that the acres in the “total” match the total on the CMT summary report. You may have to manually have to change these. Print the plan.**

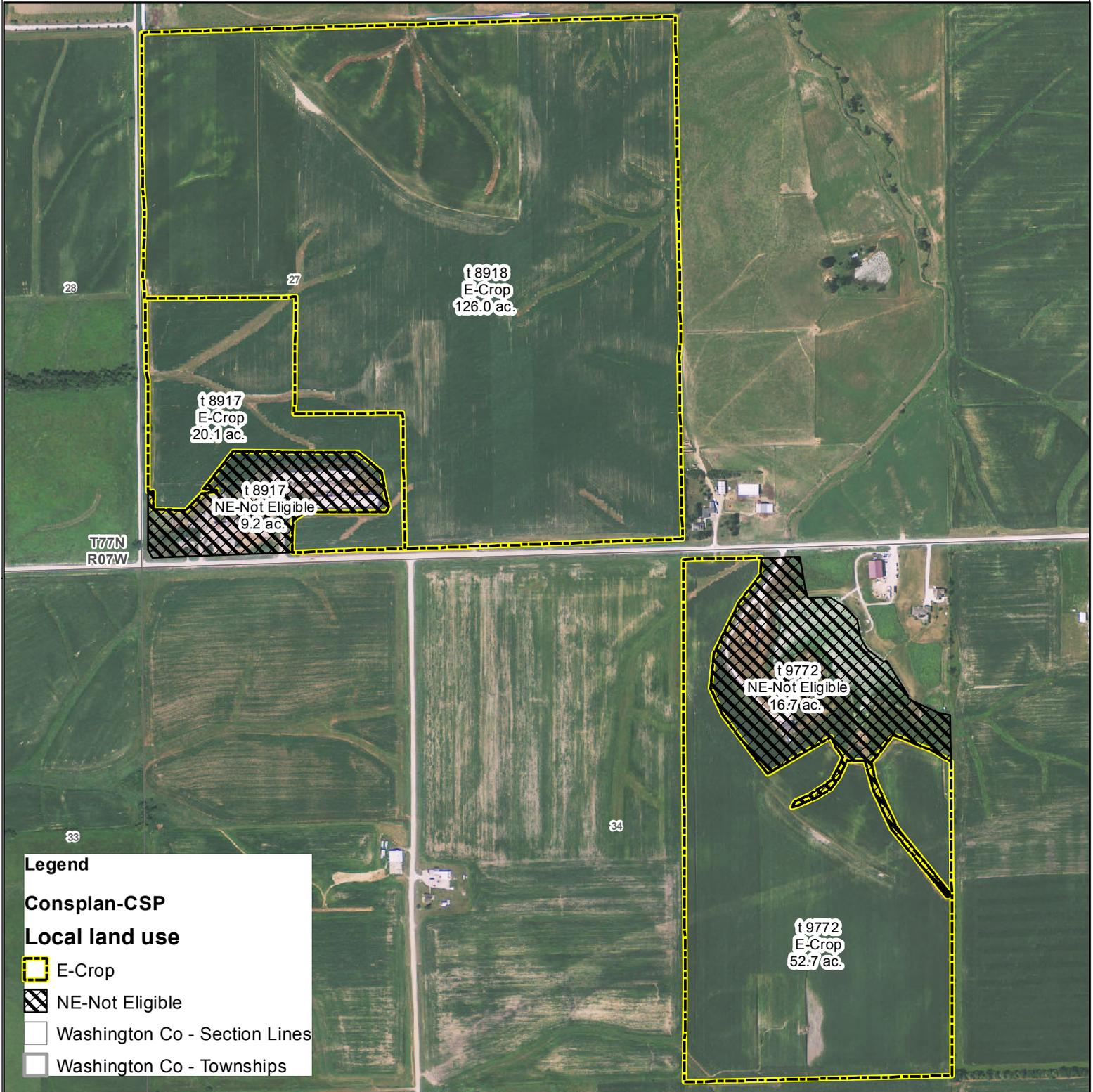
Conservation Stewardship Plan

Customer(s): JOE FARMER

Field Office: WASHINGTON SERVICE CENTER

Legal Description:
2011 Imagery

Agency: USDA-NRCS
Assisted By: SARAH HAM



Legend

Consplan-CSP

Local land use

-  E-Crop
-  NE-Not Eligible
-  Washington Co - Section Lines
-  Washington Co - Townships

Stewardship Plan Map for 816114134C4
 Total acres by land use and planned enhancements
 Washington County: t8917, t8918, t9772
 Crop – 198.8 ac. AIR04, SQL02



1:7,920





WASHINGTON SERVICE CENTER
 1621 E. WASHINGTON ST. SUITE 3
 WASHINGTON, IA 52353-2157
 (319) 653-6654

TONY G. MAXWELL
 DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Conservation Plan

JOE FARMER
 320 E Washington
 Washington, IA 52353

OBJECTIVE(S)

Stewardship Plan for 816114134C4

Use of Cover Crop Mixes (SQL04)

This enhancement is for the use of cover crop mixes that contain two (2) or more different species of cover crops or cultivars of a single species.

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
8917	E-Crop	20.1 ac	10	2013		
8917	E-Crop	20.1 ac	10	2014		
8917	E-Crop	20.1 ac	10	2015		
8917	E-Crop	20.1 ac	10	2016		
8917	E-Crop	20.1 ac	10	2017		
9772	E-Crop	20 ac	10	2013		
9772	E-Crop	20 ac	10	2014		
9772	E-Crop	20 ac	10	2015		
9772	E-Crop	20 ac	10	2016		
9772	E-Crop	20 ac	10	2017		
	Total:	40.1 ac				

Use techniques to reduce pesticide drift (AIR04)

Use drift reduction technologies to reduce the drift of agricultural chemicals away from the intended target when spraying.

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
8917	E-Crop	20.1 ac	10	2013		
8917	E-Crop	20.1 ac	10	2014		
8917	E-Crop	20.1 ac	10	2015		
8917	E-Crop	20.1 ac	10	2016		
8917	E-Crop	20.1 ac	10	2017		
8918	E-Crop	126 ac	10	2013		
8918	E-Crop	126 ac	10	2014		
8918	E-Crop	126 ac	10	2015		
8918	E-Crop	126 ac	10	2016		
8918	E-Crop	126 ac	10	2017		
9772	E-Crop	52.7 ac	10	2013		
9772	E-Crop	52.7 ac	10	2014		
9772	E-Crop	52.7 ac	10	2015		
9772	E-Crop	52.7 ac	10	2016		
9772	E-Crop	52.7 ac	10	2017		
	Total:	198.8 ac				

CERTIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS

JOE FARMER DATE

CERTIFICATION OF:

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

TONY MAXWELL DATE

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WASHINGTON SWCD DATE

PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collections is 0578-0013. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 45/0.75 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection information.

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The above statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C 522a). Furnishing this information is voluntary; however failure to furnish correct, complete information will result in the withholding or withdrawal of such technical or financial assistance. The information may be furnished to other USDA agencies, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Justice, or other state or federal law enforcement agencies, or in response to orders of a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal.

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Conservation Stewardship Program 2013 Ranking Period 1 Activity List for Planners

Code	Eligible Land Use				Enhancement Name	Enhancement Description (See Job Sheet criteria for requirement details)	Units	Actual/System	Max Actual Performance Points	Conditions Where Enhancement Applies	Information States Need to Develop Prior to Signup	May Be Applicable on Land Adjacent to Eligible Land
AIR03	Crop				Replace burning of prunings, removals and other crop residues with non-burning alternatives	The use of non-burning alternatives to dispose of prunings, removals and other crop residues from orchards, vineyards and other woody perennial crops. Non-burning alternatives include chipping, grinding, shredding, mowing or composting of these materials.	acre	System	2.26	Only applies to acres of orchards, vineyards, and other woody perennial cropping systems that produce significant residues that have used burning in prior years.	State List of acceptable alternatives to burning	No
AIR04	Crop	Pasture			Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift	Use drift reduction technologies to reduce the drift of agricultural chemicals away from the intended target when spraying.	acre	System	10.68	Applies to all crop or pasture land use acres.	List of acceptable drift reducing methods that are applicable to their states	No
AIR07	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology	Utilize electronically-controlled or managed chemical spray application technology to more precisely apply agricultural pesticides to their intended targets.	acre	System	10.66	Applies to all crop, pasture, range or forest land use acres.	List of acceptable chemical application electronic control technologies.	Yes
AIR08	Crop	Pasture			Nitrification inhibitors or urease inhibitors	The use of an ammonia or ammonium fertilizers with a substance that inhibits the biological oxidations of ammoniacal nitrogen to nitrate nitrogen or the use of surface applied urea products with a substance that inhibits hydrolytic action on urea by urease enzyme that when applied to soils results in less urea nitrogen lost by ammonia volatilization (AAPFCO). This enhancement is only applicable to nitrogen applied within 30 days of planting. This does not apply to "pop-up" or starter nitrogen sources applied at planting time.	acre	System	3.92	Applies to climatic areas and soils on cropland or pastureland where nitrogen fertilizer is applied and where either nitrification inhibitors or urease inhibitors are recommended by the Land Grant University.	States need to identify those materials that are considered to meet this criteria	No
ANM03		Pasture			Incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15% or more of herbage dry matter productivity	Improve pasture by increasing native grasses and/or legumes to 15% of herbage dry matter (productivity by weight) using adapted species and varieties, appropriate seeding rates, and timing of seeding. Pastures containing about 15% native grasses and/or legumes by weight dry matter are approximately equal to 30% foliar cover.	acre	Actual	8.03	Only applies to acres of pasture land use that DO NOT currently have a mixed stand of native grasses and/or legumes.	States need to identify adapted species, seeding rates, and seeding dates.	No
ANM05	Crop	Pasture	Range		Extending riparian forest buffers for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Where existing riparian forest buffers (i.e., buffers) are utilized, extend them to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow, reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals, and for wildlife habitat.	acre	Actual	15.04	Only applies to acres of <u>existing</u> riparian forest buffer(s) on crop, pasture or range land uses.	States need to identify list of 5 species of non-noxious, wildlife friendly trees and/or shrubs. List should include species for pollinator food and habitat.	Yes
ANM07	Crop	Pasture			Extending existing field borders for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Where existing field borders are utilized, extend them to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals, and for wildlife habitat.	acre	Actual	9.86	Only applies to acres of <u>existing</u> field borders on crop or pasture land uses.	States need to identify list of 5 species of non-noxious, wildlife friendly grasses, perennial forbs and/or shrubs.	Yes
ANM09		Pasture	Range	Forest	Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat	Implement a grazing management plan that allows for rest periods to provide adequate residue for nesting and fawning cover and increase diversity of vegetation structure to benefit a variety of wildlife species.	acre	System	7.13	Applies to all pasture (including silvopasture), range or forest land use acres.	States need nesting/ fawning dates	No
ANM10	Crop				Harvest hay in a manner that allows wildlife to flush and escape	Harvesting hay using conservation measures that allow wildlife to flush and escape. These measures include timing of haying to avoid periods when upland wildlife are nesting or fawning, idling hay land during the nesting or fawning period, and applying haying techniques that reduce mortality to wildlife.	acre	System	6.29	Only applies to any annual planted or perennial hayland acres (a sub-component of the crop land use).	States need nesting/ fawning dates and minimum forage heights.	No
ANM11		Pasture	Range	Forest	Patch-burning to enhance wildlife habitat	Use prescribed burning with livestock grazing to create patches of different vegetation structure and species composition for the benefit of wildlife.	acre	System	7.54	Applies to all pasture, range or forest land use acres. This enhancement is not for the purpose of conducting wildfire reduction burns or forest stand improvement burns on forest land use acres.	States need nesting/ fawning dates	No
ANM12	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Shallow water habitat	Construct or renovate small, shallow sites to impound or hold water seasonally, typically from late winter through early summer (e.g., vernal pools).	acre	Actual	5.79	Applies to all crop, pasture, range or forest land use acres.		No
ANM17		Pasture	Range		Monitoring nutritional status of livestock using the NUTBAL PRO system	Use of the NUTBAL PRO software to determine if current diet is sufficient to meet livestock nutritional needs. This requires the collection and laboratory analysis of forage or fecal samples to determine the nutritional value of grazing forages.	acre	System	5.58	Applies to all pasture or range land use acres.		No
ANM21	Crop	Pasture	Range		Prairie restoration for grazing and wildlife habitat	This activity consists of restoring/renovating prairie habitat by establishing native vegetation and managing the restored plant community.	acre	Actual	13.66	Applies to sites that have soils that indicate it was once a prairie or can sustain native prairie species.	States will need to develop seed mixes (i.e., at least 4 species of native perennial and at least 4 species of native forbs) for prairie restoration.	No
ANM23	Crop	Pasture	Range		Multi-species native perennials for biomass/wildlife habitat	This enhancement consists of establishing native perennial vegetation for biomass production and wildlife habitat.	acre	Actual	14.70	Applies to all crop, pasture, or range land use acres.	States will need to identify suitable native perennial planting mixes and the species of concern.	No

Conservation Stewardship Program 2013 Ranking Period 1 Activity List for Planners

ANM25		Pasture			Stockpiling of forages to extend the grazing season	Livestock are excluded from forages on specified acres during the growth season. The "stockpiled" forages are grazed at a later time using strip grazing to allow animals to utilize the forage within a strip for a specified period of time.	acre	System	11.03	Applies to all pasture land use acres.	States need to identify the grazing season	No
ANM26		Pasture	Range		Managing calving to coincide with forage availability	This enhancement uses a controlled breeding season to match livestock nutrient requirements to available pasture forage and reduce supplemental feeding. This enhancement is applicable to all grazing livestock.	acre	System	5.68	Applies to all pasture or range land use acres.	States need to identify the grazing season	No
ANM27	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Wildlife friendly fencing	This enhancement involves the use of wildlife friendly fencing techniques that allow free passage of daily wildlife movement and seasonal migration; and/or increase visibility to prevent entanglement and mortality. <u>Selection of this enhancement requires the activity to be planned concurrently on all eligible land use acres.</u>	Ft.	Actual	2.59	Applies to all existing fencing in need of a retrofit on all grazing acres in the operation..	Review fence standard to see if it has criteria for wildlife friendly fencing	Yes
ANM29		Pasture	Range	Forest	On-farm forage based grazing system	A forage based grazing system that supplies all roughage (forage and supplemental hay) requirements for a livestock operation.	acre	System	8.80	Applies to all pasture, range or forest land use acres.	States need to define beginning and ending grazing heights by forage species.	No
ANM31	Crop				Drainage water management	This enhancement consists of seasonal hydrology management during non-cropping periods for wildlife habitat on working lands.	acre	Actual	9.98	Applies to cropland that has been artificially drained (surface or subsurface) and which is flat enough that significant portions can be flooded or saturated by controlling outflow from the drainage system.	Identify types of landscape that have the potential for seasonal hydrology management and the targeted species or suite of species.	No
ANM32	Crop	Pasture	Range		Extend existing filter strips or riparian herbaceous cover for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Where existing filter strips or riparian herbaceous covers (i.e., buffers) are utilized, extend them to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals, and for wildlife habitat.	acre	Actual	12.96	Only applies to acres of <u>existing</u> buffers on crop, pasture, or range land uses.	States need to identify list of 5 species of non-noxious, wildlife friendly grasses and/or perennial forbs	Yes
ANM33	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Riparian buffer, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat	This activity consists of managing riparian zones by utilizing select conservation measures (such as re-locating equipment operations, trails, or livestock; establishing diverse native vegetation and controlling invasive species; fencing; and extending the width of the riparian zone to enhance wildlife habitat adjacent to riparian zones of streams, ponds, lakes, or wetlands) to achieve stream side cover and vegetative diversity and structure to improve terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat.	acre	Actual	8.74	Only applies to <u>existing</u> acres of forested riparian zones on crop, pasture, range or forest land uses, OR existing acres of non-forested riparian zones on crop, pasture, or range land uses.	States need list of suitable woody and/or herbaceous plants	Yes
ANM34	Crop				Leave standing grain crops un-harvested to benefit wildlife	Implement a crop management plan that will allow a portion of grain crops to be left in fields un-harvested to provide food and cover for wildlife during winter months.	acre	System	8.71	Applies only to cropland where grain crops such as corn, soybean, sorghum, or small grains are grown.		No
ANM35	Crop				Enhance wildlife habitat on expired grass/legume covered CRP acres or acres with similar perennial vegetated cover managed as hayland	Implement a focused habitat management plan for the benefit of selected wildlife species on expired CRP grass/legume covered acres that has CRP conservation cover or acres with similar perennial vegetated cover managed as hayland.	acre	System	34.96	Only applies to perennial hayland acres (a sub-component of the crop land use) where a management system can be demonstrated or documented	States need nesting/ fawning dates and minimum forage heights.	No
ANM36				Forest	Enhance wildlife habitat on expired tree covered CRP acres or acres with similar woody cover managed as forestland	Implement a focused habitat management plan for the benefit of selected wildlife species on expired CRP tree covered acres that has CRP conservation cover or acres with similar woody cover managed as forestland.	acre	System	37.52	Only applies to forest land acres where a management system can be demonstrated or documented	States need nesting/ fawning dates	No
ANM37	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Prescriptive grazing management system for grazed lands (includes expired CRP grass/legume or tree covered acres converted to grazed lands)	Implement a prescriptive grazing management system for all grazed lands and for all eligible land uses in the operation. This includes expired CRP grass/legume or tree covered acres that are now converted to a grazing system. <u>Selection of this enhancement requires the activity to be planned concurrently on all eligible land use acres.</u>	acre	System	30.83	Applies to all grazing acres in the operation.	States need nesting/ fawning dates. Additionally, review fence standard to see if it has criteria for wildlife friendly fencing.	No
ANM38	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Retrofit watering facility for wildlife escape and enhanced access for bats and bird species	Retrofit all existing watering facilities (troughs, tanks, etc.) to allow for the escape of wildlife that become trapped while trying to drink and to remove obstructions above the watering facility such as boards and wires. <u>Selection of this enhancement requires the activity to be planned concurrently on all eligible land use acres.</u>	no.	Actual	3.25	Applies to all watering facilities on all the grazing acres in the operation.		No
ENR01	Crop				Fuel use reduction for field operations	This enhancement is for fuel savings of 20% or more achieved by a reduction in field operations when compared to existing management system.	acre	System	9.60	Applies to all crop land use acres.		No
ENR09	Crop	Pasture			Variable frequency drive electric motors	This enhancement activity is for upgrading of existing single speed electric motors through the addition of variable frequency electric drives. A motor replacement may also be included in some cases. The primary use of this enhancement is for irrigation water pumping. This enhancement is not intended for farmstead or animal housing applications.	no.	Actual	5.75	Applies to only the number of single speed electric motors without variable speed drives within the selected land use for irrigation water pumping. This enhancement does not apply to single speed electric motors for farmstead or animal housing applications.		Yes
ENR10	Crop	Pasture			Using nitrogen provided by legumes, animal manure and compost to supply 90 to 100% of the nitrogen needs	This enhancement involves using nitrogen (N) produced by legumes and/or available animal manure and compost to supply 90 to 100% of N nutrient needs for crops, hay and/or forages produced on the farm.	acre	System	18.21	Applies to all crop or pasture land use acres.		No

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ENR11	Crop	Pasture			Improving energy feedstock production using alley cropping systems with short rotation woody crops	This enhancement involves the use of short rotation woody plants that produce energy feedstock planted in multiple rows with crops or forages produced in the alleyways between the woody rows.	acre	System	12.93	Applies to all acres of the selected land use.	States need to identify list of suitable short rotation woody plants and maximum alley spacing between woody rows.	No
ENR12	Crop				Use of legume cover crops as a nitrogen source	This enhancement is for the use of legume cover crops as a primary source of nitrogen in a cropping system. Use of legume cover crops is applicable to conventional, specialty and organic crop production systems.	acre	System	15.48	Applies to all crop land use acres.	Follow State Land Grant University guidelines for credits	No
PLT02		Pasture	Range	Forest	Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management	Adjust grazing management based on monitoring data. Monitor key grazing areas to determine if current grazing management is meeting management goals and objectives. A key grazing area is a small area of a grazed field that is identified as being representative of the entire field.	acre	System	10.43	Applies to all acres in the operation for the selected land use.	Need to identify acceptable monitoring methods	No
PLT05	Crop			Forest	Multi-story cropping, sustainable management of non-timber forest plants	This activity involves the manipulation of forest species composition, structure, and canopy cover to achieve or maintain a desired native plant community to facilitate the sustainable management of native non-timber forest plant(s) (e.g., goldenseal, ramps, mushrooms, ginseng, ferns, "sugarbush", etc.).	acre	System	5.65	Applies to forestland and cropland (sugar bush) where the forest is managed for harvestable non-timber plants in addition or instead of timber.	List of common non-timber forest products for the state	No
PLT06	Crop	Pasture	Range		Renovation of a windbreak, shelter belt or hedgerow for wildlife habitat	This enhancement is for the renovation of existing sites that are declining in vigor, need additional woody plants (trees or shrubs) or otherwise no longer provide wildlife habitat benefits. Existing rows of woody plants may be thinned, removed or replaced with new plantings. Existing woody plants may be pruned, either branches or roots or both, to improve windbreak function, health and vigor.	acre	Actual	13.16	Applies only to the acres of existing windbreaks or shelterbelts in the crop or pasture land use.	State list of wildlife species that would benefit from renovation; list of windbreak species that are needed to accomplish this.	Yes
PLT15	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat	Seed or plug nectar and pollen producing plants in non-cropped areas such as field borders, vegetative barriers, contour buffer strips, waterways, shelterbelts, hedgerows, windbreaks, conservation cover, and riparian forest and herbaceous buffers.	acre	Actual	9.07	Applies to all crop, pasture, range or forest land use acres.	State need to develop list of suitable plants for pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat; also, may need a seed source list	Yes
PLT16		Pasture	Range	Forest	Intensive rotational grazing	This enhancement is for the <u>harvest efficiency</u> of grazing livestock to increase forage harvest, and to improve forage quality and livestock health. The grazing system is managed to produce high quality, nutritious forage and maintain plants with sufficient energy reserves to recover quickly when adequate soil moisture is available for regrowth. Generally, livestock are rotated through pastures in the grazing system based on the physiological growth and nutritional stage of the forage plants and the daily dry matter intake and nutritional requirements of the animal. This enhancement is for: rotational grazing systems with increased numbers of pastures or paddocks, the accompanying required infrastructure, shorter grazing periods, and increased stock density. <u>Selection of this enhancement requires the activity to be planned concurrently on all eligible land use acres.</u>	acre	System	16.38	Applies to all grazing acres in the operation.	States may need to develop training material on "harvest efficiency"	No
PLT17				Forest	Creating forest openings to improve hardwood stands	Creating forest openings or patches is a silvicultural practice used to naturally regenerate over-mature and/or degraded hardwood stands while providing added cover and browse for several game and non-game species of wildlife.	acre	System	2.68	Applies to forest land use acres with conifers, hardwoods or mixed stands that have a forest management plan that recommends thinning within the next 3 years.	States will need to identify acceptable post harvest regeneration species	No
PLT18	Crop	Pasture			Increasing on-farm food production with edible woody buffer landscapes	This enhancement is for the enhancing of windbreaks, alley cropping, silvopasture, or riparian forest buffer systems with trees and shrubs that produce edible products for human or wildlife consumption.	acre	Actual	15.16	Applies to all crop or pasture land use acres.	States will need to develop lists of suitable woody plants	No
PLT19	Crop				Herbicide resistant weed management	Adoption of multiple agronomic principles to manage herbicide resistant weeds in annually planted crop fields.	acre	System	9.81	Applies to all acres of annually planted cropland (organic, transitioning to organic or non-organic).	States will need list of suitable and typical crop rotations with STIR values; and MOAs for typical herbicides.	No
PLT20	Crop				High residue cover crop or mixtures of high residue cover crops for weed suppression and soil health	Utilize biomass from a cover crop or cover crop mixture as a living or killed mulch to suppress weed seed germination and to add carbon to the terrestrial carbon pool.	acre	System	30.96	Applies to all acres of annually planted cropland (organic, transitioning to organic or non-organic).	States need to develop list of approved cover crops or cover crop mixes, planting date ranges, and top dress N rates.	No
PLT21				Forest	Forest stand improvement pre-treating vegetation and fuels preceding a prescribed fire	This enhancement is to manage the vegetation and fuels in a forested area with mechanical or manual methods in advance of a prescribed fire AND to complete one or more treatments with prescribed fire during the contract period to restore native forest conditions.	acre	System	21.88	Applies to forest land use acres with conifers, hardwoods or mixed stands that have a forest management plan that recommends burning within the next 3 years.		No
SOE05	Crop				Intensive no-till (Organic or Non-organic systems)	This enhancement is for using an intensive no-till, strip till, or direct seeding method of planting throughout the planned rotation. High residue levels are maintained by including high residue-producing crops, or by low residue crops followed by a cover crop in the rotation. Termination of all cover crops is accomplished using chemical methods or non-chemical methods, such as flail mowing, roller crimper and frost kill.	acre	System	23.42	Applies to all acres of annually planted cropland (organic, transitioning to organic or non-organic).	States need to define high residue, low residue crops	No
SQL01	Crop				Controlled traffic system	Controlled traffic confines heavy traffic from tractor drive wheels/tracks, combine wheels, fertilizer or manure spreaders and grain carts to specific lanes in crop fields year after year.	acre	System	11.09	Applies to all annually planted crop land use acres.		No

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SQL04	Crop				Use of cover crop mixes	This enhancement is for the use of cover crop mixes that contain two (2) or more different species of cover crops or cultivars of a single species.	acre	System	15.48	Applies to all crop land use acres.	States need to develop list of approved cover crop mixes	No
SQL05	Crop				Use of deep rooted crops to breakup soil compaction	This enhancement is for the use of deep rooted crops to break up compacted soils and improve soil quality. Deep rooted crops can be perennial plants like alfalfa or annual plants like forage radish.	acre	System	15.48	Applies to all crop land use acres.	States need to develop list of approved deep rooted crops	No
SQL08	Crop				Intercropping to improve soil quality and increase biodiversity	This enhancement involves the use of intercropping principles (i.e., growing two or more crops in close proximity to each other during part or all of their life cycles) to promote interactions that improve soil and water quality via increased biodiversity and contribute to pest management.	acre	System	10.32	Applies to all crop land use acres.		No
SQL09	Crop				Conversion of cropland to grass-based agriculture	Conversion of cropland to grass-based agriculture is the establishment of mixtures of perennial grasses, forbs and/or legume species on cropland where annually-seeded cash crops have been grown in monocultures. Select perennial species based on species compatibility, forage quality potential, improvements to soil quality, beneficial effects for wildlife and/or production of biomass.	acre	Actual	23.58	Applies to cropland that is currently in annual crop production. It does not apply to cropland that is currently in a permanent perennial crop such as permanent hay, orchards or vineyards.	States need to develop list of acceptable perennial seed mixtures	No
SQL10	Crop				Crop management system where crop land acres were recently converted from CRP grass/legume cover or similar perennial vegetation	Implement a prescriptive crop management system on crop land acres that have been recently converted from CRP grass/legume conservation cover or similar perennial vegetated cover to a rotation of annually planted crops. Note: this enhancement is limited to acres where the conversion event took place not more than 2 years prior (not including hayland).	acre	System	57.10	Only applies to annually planted crop land use acres (excluding hayland) where the conversion to annually planted is not more than 2 years prior.	States need to develop list of approved cover crops or cover crop mixes, planting date ranges, and top dress N rates.	No
SQL11	Crop				Cover cropping in orchards, vineyards and other woody perennial horticultural crops	Grow perennial or annual cover crop mixtures of grass, legumes, native flowering plants and/or other forbs year round to provide soil coverage, organic mulch, beneficial insect habitat, and other conservation benefits in orchards, vineyards or other perennial horticultural crops. Cover crops, once planted, are replanted annually or maintained year after year.	acre	System	18.38	Only applies to acres of orchards, vineyards, and other woody perennial cropping systems.	States need to develop list of approved cover crops or cover crop mixes and planting date ranges.	No
SQL12	Crop				Intensive cover cropping in annual crops	Grow and manage <i>seasonal cover</i> crops of grasses, legumes or forbs to maintain soil coverage and other conservation benefits during all the non-crop production periods in an annual crop rotation. Intensive cover cropping is applicable to conventional, specialty and organic crop production systems.	acre	System	18.38	Applies to all acres of annually planted cropland (organic, transitioning to organic or non-organic).	States will need to be sure their cover crop recommendations are up to date and cover the five different criteria listed in the enhancement.	No
WQL01		Pasture	Range	Forest	Biological suppression and other non-chemical techniques to manage brush, herbaceous weeds and invasive species	This enhancement is for the reduction of woody brush, herbaceous weeds and invasive plants using non-chemical methods. Physical methods include pulling, hoeing, mowing, mulching or other similar techniques. Biological methods include use of natural enemies either introduced or augmented. Use of chemicals is prohibited with this enhancement.	acre	System	8.72	Applies to all pasture, range or forest land use acres.	State will need to get information from LGUs on biological suppression techniques that are suitable for their area. Need analysis information to determine which method is best.	No
WQL03		Pasture	Range	Forest	Rotation of supplement and feeding areas	The proper location and regular movement of livestock concentration areas such as feeding areas and mineral blocks in a manner that will improve livestock distribution, reduce localized areas of disturbances and reduce impacts on water bodies.	acre	System	13.19	Applies to all grazing acres in the operation for the selected land use.		No
WQL04	Crop				Plant tissue tests and analysis to improve nitrogen management	Use plant tissue tests to adjust nitrogen application rates.	acre	System	8.99	Applies to all crop land use acres	States may need to have information available on how to conduct the test, where to send the samples and how to interpret the results.	No
WQL05	Crop				Apply nutrients no more than 30 days prior to planned planting date	This enhancement is for applying nutrients from fertilizer, manures and/or compost no more than 30 days prior to the planned planting date of the crop.	acre	System	4.59	Applies to only annually planted crop land use acres.		No
WQL07	Crop	Pasture			Split nitrogen applications, 50% after the crop emergence or pasture green up	Apply no more than 50% of total crop nitrogen needs within 30 days prior to planting or in the case of pasture or hay after green up of the dormant grasses. Apply the remaining 50% or more of the total nitrogen needs after crop emergence or pasture green up.	acre	System	7.45	Applies to all crop or pasture land use acres.		No
WQL09	Crop				Apply phosphorus fertilizer below soil surface	This enhancement is for the application of all phosphorus fertilizer at least 3 inches deep, including manure, or as a 2X2 row starter. Note: the use of this enhancement may require a revised Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) plan.	acre	System	2.10	Applies to all annually planted crop land use acres.		No
WQL10	Crop				Plant a cover crop that will scavenge residual nitrogen	Plant a cover crop that will scavenge nitrogen remaining in the soil after the harvest of a previous crop. Suitable cover crops include those with at least a "Very Good" rating for scavenging nitrogen as documented in " <i>Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition</i> " (Sarrantonio, 1998), Chart 2 Performance & Roles, pg 67. Examples include cereal rye, barley, forage radish and sorghum sudan.	acre	System	15.48	Applies to only annually planted crop land use acres.	States will need to have list of approved cover crops for this and a way to estimate the amount of N that is scavenged.	No

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WQL11	Crop	Pasture			Precision application technology to apply nutrients	The use of precision agriculture technologies to apply nutrients to fit variations in site-specific conditions found within fields.	acre	System	9.62	Applies to crop or pasture land use acres where: • Crop or forage yields can be monitored and correlated to positions in the field in order to produce a geographically accurate yield map. • Nutrients can be applied according to geographically defined management zone(s) (DMZ).		No
WQL13	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	High level integrated pest management to reduce pesticide environmental risk	Utilize advanced Integrated Pest Management (IPM) prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression techniques, and only apply the lowest risk pesticides available (or if higher risk pesticides are used appropriate mitigation techniques are used to ameliorate the risk) in an environmentally sound manner when monitoring indicates that an economic pest threshold has been exceeded. Pesticide applications must follow all label requirements.	acre	System	11.30	Applies to all land uses where pesticide environmental risks are present that need mitigation options to meet or exceed the criteria in the job sheet.	States need to identify what constitutes the minimum mitigation index score requirement	No
WQL14	Crop	Pasture			Land application of treated manure	This enhancement is for the use of manure that has been treated to reduce both odors and pathogens prior to land application. Acceptable practices include controlled temperature anaerobic digestion (mesophilic or thermophilic), composting and chemical treatment. Waste treatment lagoons and injection of manure alone do not qualify as acceptable practices.	acre	System	4.97	Applies to crop land use acres, not including orchards and vineyards, and all pasture land use acres.		No
WQL17	Crop				Use of non-chemical methods to kill cover crops	This enhancement is for the use of non-chemical methods to kill cover crops prior to planting. These methods include mowing, rolling, undercutting and weather kill.	acre	System	9.23	Applies to all crop land use acres, not including hayland.		No
WQL18		Pasture	Range	Forest	Non- chemical pest management for livestock	The use of management, monitoring, and prevention techniques to manage external livestock pests without the use of pesticides.	acre	System	5.27	Applies to all pasture, range or forest land use acres.	States will need to identify acceptable non-chemical pest control methods	No
WQL19		Pasture	Range	Forest	Transition to ORGANIC grazing systems	"Transition to Organic Grazing Systems" supports the conversion of a conventional to an organic livestock grazing system. Key to the enhancement activity is following ecological and pasture-based grazing requirements, applying materials according to the National List of Allowed Synthetic and Prohibited Natural Substances, and managing livestock according to National Organic Program (NOP) rules (Subpart C – Organic Production and Handling Requirements) for organic certification. This enhancement activity facilitates compliance with NOP rules for organic certification.	acre	System	6.81	Applies to only pasture, range or forest land use acres in the process of transitioning to an organic production system.	States should be familiar with NOP requirements	No
WQL20	Crop				Transition to ORGANIC cropping systems	"Transition to Organic Cropping Systems" supports the conversion of a conventional to an organic cropping system. Key to the enhancement is the inclusion of management activities that improve water and soil quality in an "Organic System Plan (OSP)" that adheres to the National Organic Program (NOP) 205.201 criteria. Included in the plan are specifics on how producers will manage pests, weeds, diseases, and plant nutrients by following a crop rotation that incorporates cover crops and by using other cultural, biological and physical methods. The OSP also covers uses of manure and compost, measures to prevent exposure of organic crops and soils to NOP-prohibited substances, and seed sources.	acre	System	8.93	Applies to only crop land use acres in the process of transitioning to an organic production system.	States should be familiar with NOP requirements	No
WQL21	Crop	Pasture	Range		Integrated pest management for ORGANIC farming	Managing pests on an organic farm, including farms transitioning to organic, with an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system that relies on high level prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression techniques that are based on an understanding of pest ecology. Organic IPM relies primarily on ecologically-based cultural and biological practices that result in healthy soil and habitat for beneficial organisms. Appropriate mitigation techniques are utilized to improve environmental risks from selected suppression techniques.	acre	System	11.30	Applies to all crop, pasture, or range land uses in an organic system where pesticide environmental risks are present that need mitigation options to meet or exceed the criteria in the job sheet.	States should be familiar with NOP requirements; States need to identify what constitutes the minimum mitigation index score requirement	No
WQL22	Crop	Pasture			On-farm composting of farm organic waste	This enhancement consists of composting organic waste generated from the agricultural operation(s) on-farm. This includes animal manures, livestock mortality (where state or local laws allow), and waste from on-farm processing of agricultural products (e.g., slaughter by-products or vegetable culls removed from the field during harvest). It does not include any hazardous household waste, any general hazardous waste products or bio-hazard waste products. Yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves can be included but are not required. Composted products must be used in compliance with all federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.	acre	System	11.10	Applies to farms that produce livestock manure, vegetable waste and/or other organic waste from on farm processing facilities.		No
WQL24	Crop	Pasture			Apply enhanced efficiency fertilizer products	At least 50% of the pre-emergent and early post emergent nitrogen fertilizer and/or phosphorus fertilizers used for crop production must include enhanced efficiency formulations.	acre	System	9.05	Applies to all crop or pasture land use acres.	States need to identify those materials that are considered to meet this criteria	No
WQL25	Crop				Split applications of nitrogen based on a PSNT	Use <u>pre-sidedress</u> soil nitrate test (PSNT) to determine the need and/or amount of additional nitrogen to be applied during a sidedress/topdress N application.	acre	System	9.94	Applies to all annually planted crop land use acres in states where a Land Grant University approves the methodology.	States may need to have information available on how to conduct the test, were to send the samples and how to interpret the results	No

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WQL26	Crop	Pasture			Reduce the concentration of nutrients imported on farm	Grow at least 75% of feed for livestock on the farm and use manure from the livestock to supplement up to 50% of N, 90% of P and 90% K for crops grown on the farm.	acre	System	11.48	Applies to all crop or pasture land use acres.	Follow State Land Grant Uni. Guidelines for credits	
WQL27	Crop				Drainage water management for nutrient, pathogen, or pesticide reduction	This enhancement consists of managing soil and/or surface water levels during the non-cropping season in order to reduce the loss of nutrients, pathogens, or/and pesticides from a crop field through drainage systems and into downstream receiving waters. This enhancement may also be utilized to reduce the oxidation of organic matter in the soil and/or reduce wind erosion or particulate matter (dust) emissions.	acre	Actual	6.25	Applies to cropland that has been artificially drained (surface or subsurface) and which is flat enough that significant portions can be flooded or saturated by controlling outflow from the drainage system.	States need to identify types of landscapes where significant portions can be flooded or saturated by controlling drainage system outflows.	No
WQT01	Crop	Pasture			Irrigation system automation	This enhancement entails using GPS guided variable rate irrigation or other innovative technologies that allow irrigation water application based on variable site conditions within a field.	acre	System	13.45	Applies to only the irrigated acres in the crop or pasture land use.		No
WQT03	Crop	Pasture			Irrigation pumping plant evaluation	This enhancement consists of the evaluation of the pumping plant performance and efficiency using the Nebraska Irrigation Pumping Plant Performance Criteria.	no.	Actual	8.83	Applies to all pumping plants in the crop or pasture land use.		Yes
WQT05	Crop	Pasture			Remote monitoring and notification of irrigation pumping plant operation	A system for monitoring the status of an irrigation pumping plant and notifying the operator by a wireless connection of a change in the operating status of the irrigation system.	no.	Actual	12.79	Applies to all the irrigation pumping plants in the crop or pasture land use.		No
WQT07	Crop	Pasture			Regional weather networks for irrigation scheduling	Crop evapotranspiration (crop ET) information from a regional weather network is utilized as a part of the irrigation water management plan for irrigation scheduling. Water use is planned and adjustments in application rates and timing are made using the regional weather network data.	acre	System	12.79	Applies to irrigated cropland or pastureland where regional weather data is not currently used to schedule irrigation events.	Identify regional weather networks available in the state	No
WQT08	Crop	Pasture			Decrease irrigation water quantity or conversion to non-irrigated crop production	This enhancement consists of reducing the total quantity of irrigation water used to produce crops and forages or the conversion of land to non-irrigated production.	acre	Actual	19.51	Only applies to crop or pasture land uses where there is acreage that has been irrigated a minimum of 2 out of the last 5 years.	States need to develop suitable crop rotations, cultivars, and/or moisture capturing practices	No

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NRCS Code	Eligible Land Use				Supplemental Payment Activity	Enhancement Description (See Job Sheet criteria for requirement details)			Max Actual Performance Points (Adjusted)	Conditions Where Enhancement Applies	Information States Need to Develop Prior to Signup	May Be Applicable on Land Adjacent to Eligible Land
CCR99	Crop				Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation	Resource-conserving crop rotation means a crop rotation that: 1) Includes at least one resource conserving crop as determined by the State Conservationist, 2) Reduces erosion, 3) Improves soil fertility and tilth, 4) Interrupts pest cycles, and 5) In applicable areas, reduces depletion of soil moisture or otherwise reduces the need for irrigation. Resource-conserving crop means a crop that is one of the following: 1) A perennial grass, 2) A legume grown for use as forage, seed for planting, or green manure, 3) A legume-grass mixture, and 4) A small grain grown in combination with a green manure crop consisting of a grass, legume, forbs, or grass-forbs mixture, whether interseeded or planted in rotation.	acre	System	16.37	Applies to all annually planted crop land use acres. The enhancement does not apply to permanent hayland, orchards, or vineyards.	States will need to identify acceptable resource conserving crop rotations	No
NRCS Code	Eligible Land Use				Special Project Activity	Special Project Description (See Job Sheet criteria for requirement details)			Max Actual Performance Points (Adjusted)	Conditions Where Enhancement Applies	Information States Need to Develop Prior to Signup	May Be Applicable on Land Adjacent to Eligible Land
FPP02	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	On-Farm Pilot Projects	On-Farm Pilots showcase conservation activities that have proven environmental benefits, but have not been widely adopted in the local farm community. Participants select and agree to install, monitor and promote conservation activities (practices, components or management techniques) that have been identified by the NRCS State Conservationist as addressing specific resource needs.	acre	Actual	8.80	Applies to all crop, pasture, range or forest land use acres.	States will need to identify acceptable on-farm pilot projects and develop protocols as described in CPM508.82.	Yes
FRD01	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	On-Farm Research and Demonstrations	On farm research and demonstration consists of the implementation of applied research projects on working farms to gather information and demonstrate the efficacy of the activity. The projects must fit within identified state priority topic areas.	acre	Actual	8.80	Applies to all crop, pasture, range or forest land use acres.	States will need to identify acceptable on-farm research projects and develop protocols as described in CPM508.82.	Yes
NRCS Code	Eligible Land Use				Bundle Name	Bundle Criteria	Units	Actual/System	Max Actual Performance Points (Adjusted)	Conditions Where Enhancement Applies	Information States Need to Develop Prior to Signup	May Be Applicable on Land Adjacent to Eligible Land
BCR06	Crop				Crop Technology Bundle #6 (Improves nutrient and pesticide application techniques and widens buffers)	This bundle of enhancement activities includes: AIR04-Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift; AIR07-GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology; WQL11-Precision application technology to apply nutrients; WQL13-High level IPM to reduce pesticide environmental risk; and one of the buffer widening enhancements ANM05, ANM07 or ANM32.	acre	System	63.11	Applies to all crop land use acres.		NA
BCR09	Crop				Crop Technology Bundle #9 (Addresses orchard and vineyard resource concerns)	This bundle of enhancement activities includes: AIR03-Replace burning of pruning, removals and other crop residues with non-burning alternatives; AIR04-Use of drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift; PLT15- Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat; SQL11-Cover cropping in orchards, vineyards and other woody perennial horticultural crops; and WQL13-High level IPM to reduce pesticide environmental risk.	acre	System	59.43	Applies only to acres of orchards and vineyards in the crop land use.		NA
BFO07				Forest	Forest Bundle # 7 (Improves wildlife habitat in conifer or mixed forests)	This bundle of enhancement activities includes: ANM12-Shallow water habitat; PLT15-Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat; PLT21-Forest stand improvement pre-treating vegetation and fuels preceding a prescribed fire; WQL01-Biological suppression and other non-chemical techniques to manage brush, weeds and invasive species; and WQL13-High level IPM to reduce pesticide environmental risk.	acre	System	65.27	Applies only to conifer or mixed forest land use acres.		NA
BFO08				Forest	Forest Bundle # 8 (Improves wildlife habitat in hardwood or mixed forests)	This bundle of enhancement activities includes: ANM12-Shallow water habitat; PLT15-Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat; PLT17-Create forest openings to improve hardwood stands; WQL01-Biological suppression and other non-chemical techniques to manage brush, weeds and invasive species; and WQL13-High level IPM to reduce pesticide environmental risk.	acre	System	43.19	Applies only to hardwood or mixed forest land use acres.		NA
BPA07		Pasture			Pasture Grazing Bundle # 7 (Improves forage utilization)	This bundle of enhancement activities includes: ANM25-Stockpiling of forages to extend the grazing season; ANM26-Managing calving to coincide with forage availability; ANM29-On-farm forage based grazing system; PLT16-Intensive rotational grazing; and WQL07-Split nitrogen applications 50% after the crops/pasture emerge/green-up.	acre	System	56.74	Applies to all pasture land use acres.		NA

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BPA09		Pasture			Pasture Grazing Bundle # 9 (Addresses multiple resource concerns)	This bundle of enhancement activities includes: AIR04-Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift; ANM03-Incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15% or more of herbage dry matter productivity; ANM27-Wildlife friendly fencing; PLT16-Intensive rotational grazing, and WQL07-Split nitrogen applications 50% after the crops/pasture emerge/green-up.	acre	System	51.90	Applies to all pasture land use acres.		NA
BRA08			Range		Range Grazing Bundle # 8 (Addresses multiple resource concerns)	This bundle of enhancement activities includes: ANM09-Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat; ANM26-Managing calving to coincide with forage availability; PLT02-Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management; WQL03-Rotation of supplement and feeding areas; and WQL13-High level IPM to reduce pesticide environmental risk.	acre	System	54.88	Applies to all range land use acres.		NA
BRA09			Range		Range Grazing Bundle # 9 (Addresses multiple resource concerns)	This bundle of enhancement activities includes: ANM09-Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat; ANM11-Patch-burning to enhance wildlife habitat; ANM26-Managing calving to coincide with forage availability, ANM27-Wildlife friendly fencing, and WQL13-High level IPM to reduce pesticide environmental risk.	acre	System	39.39	Applies to all range land use acres.		NA
Code	Eligible Land Use				Practice Name	Practice Definition	Units	Actual/System	Max Actual Performance Points (Adjusted)			
311	Crop	Pasture			Alley Cropping	Trees or shrubs are planted in sets of single or multiple rows with agronomic, horticultural crops or forages produced in the alleys between the sets of woody plants that produce additional products.	acre	Actual	8.28			
314	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Brush Management	Removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants on rangeland, native or naturalized pasture, pasture, hayland and forest lands where removal or reduction of excessive woody (non-herbaceous) plants is desired.	acre	Actual	5.05			
328	Crop				Conservation Crop Rotation	Growing crops in a recurring sequence on the same field to control erosion, improve soil organic matter, balance nutrients, improve water use efficiency, manage saline seeps, manage pests and/or provide food and cover for wildlife	acre	System	10.10			
329	Crop				Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round while limiting soil-disturbing activities to only those necessary to place nutrients, condition residue and plant crops.	acre	System	11.95			
338		Pasture	Range	Forest	Prescribed Burning	Controlled fire applied to a predetermined areas to maintain or enhance fire dependent ecologies.	acre	System	5.41			
340	Crop				Cover Crop	The planting of crops such as grasses, legumes and forbs to provide seasonal cover that will reduce erosion, improve soil organic matter, promote efficient nutrient cycling, fix nitrogen in the soil, suppress weeds, increase biodiversity and/or provide food and cover for wildlife.	acre	System	12.39			
342	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Critical Area Planting	Establishment of permanent vegetation on sites that have or are expected to have high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.	acre	Actual	8.44			
344	Crop				Residue Management, Seasonal	Managing the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface during a specified period of the year, while planting annual crops on a clean-tilled seedbed, or when growing biennial or perennial seed crops.	acre	System	3.07			
345	Crop				Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round while limiting the soil-disturbing activities used to grow crops in systems where the entire field surface is tilled prior to planting.	acre	System	9.65			
346	Crop				Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	Managing the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface year-round, while growing crops on pre-formed ridges alternated with furrows protected by crop residue.	acre	System	8.85			
380	Crop	Pasture	Range		Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Windbreaks or shelterbelts are single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs in linear configurations to reduce surface wind speeds in order to control wind erosion, manage snow deposition, reduce the spread of odors, reduce pesticide spray drift and/or provide wildlife food and cover.	feet	Actual	12.87			
382	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Fence	A constructed barrier to animals or people.	feet	Actual	0.39			
383		Pasture	Range	Forest	Fuelbreak	A strip or block of land on which the vegetation, debris and detritus have been reduced and/or modified to control or diminish the risk of the spread of fire crossing the strip or block of land.	acre	Actual	2.35			
384		Pasture	Range	Forest	Woody Residue Treatment	The treatment of residual woody material that is created due to management activities or natural disturbances.	acre	Actual	4.14			
386	Crop				Field Border	A strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field to provide a buffer between cropland and non-cropped areas to reduce cropland impacts and provide wildlife food and cover.	acre	Actual	6.59	Note: the CPS allows an option for this practice's units to be "feet;" however, for CMT the practice's units are in ACRES.		

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390	Crop	Pasture	Range		Riparian Herbaceous Cover	Grasses, grass-like plants and forbs that are tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils and that are established or managed in the transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats to provide a buffer between agricultural areas and riparian areas and to enhance riparian zone functions.	acre	Actual	9.37
391	Crop	Pasture			Riparian Forest Buffer	An area predominantly trees and/or shrubs that are tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils and that are established or managed in the transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats to provide a buffer between agricultural areas and riparian areas and to enhance riparian zone functions.	acre	Actual	10.67
393	Crop				Filter Strip	A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation established on cropland that removes contaminants from overland flow.	acre	Actual	7.77
394		Pasture	Range	Forest	Firebreak	A permanent or temporary strip of bare or vegetated land established to retard the movement of fire.	feet	Actual	1.41
395	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Stream Habitat Improve/Mgmt	Maintain, improve or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream, and its associated riparian zone, necessary for meeting the life history requirements of desired aquatic species.	acre	System	5.70
449	Crop	Pasture			Irrigation Water Management	The process of determining and controlling the volume, frequency and application rate of irrigation water in a planned, efficient manner.	acre	System	8.68
484	Crop				Mulching	Applying plant residues or other suitable materials produced off site, to the land surface.	acre	System	8.15
511	Crop	Pasture			Forage Harvest Management	The timely cutting and removal of forages from the field as hay, green-chop or ensilage.	acre	System	4.22
512	Crop	Pasture			Forage and Biomass Planting	Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.	acre	Actual	9.66
528		Pasture	Range	Forest	Prescribed Grazing	Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals in order to enhance or maintain good forage production and provide wildfire food and cover.	acre	System	9.73
550			Range		Range Planting	Establishment of adapted perennial vegetation such as grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs and trees in order to establish a function range ecology.	acre	Actual	9.17
612	Crop			Forest	Tree/Shrub Establishment	Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration.	acre	Actual	11.72
614	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Watering Facility	A permanent or portable device to provide an adequate amount and quality of drinking water for livestock and or wildlife.	no.	Actual	5.68
643	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats	Restoring and managing rare and declining habitats and their associated wildlife species to conserve biodiversity.	acre	System	8.78
644	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Retaining, developing or managing wetland habitat for wetland wildlife.	acre	System	6.28
645	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Provide and manage upland habitats and connectivity within the landscape for wildlife.	acre	System	6.97
647	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	Manage early plant succession to benefit desired wildlife or natural communities by increasing plant community diversity.	acre	System	5.81
650	Crop	Pasture	Range		Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	Replacing, releasing and/or removing selected trees and shrubs or rows within an existing windbreak or shelterbelt, adding rows to the windbreak or shelterbelt or removing selected tree and shrub branches.	feet	Actual	10.53
654	Crop			Forest	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	The closure, decommissioning, or abandonment of roads, trails, and/or landings and associated treatment to enhance forest functions.	feet	Actual	4.59
655	Crop			Forest	Forest Trails & Landings	A temporary or infrequently used route, path or cleared area within a forest established to provide access to the forest while limiting damage to the forest.	acre	Actual	3.52
660	Crop			Forest	Tree/Shrub Pruning	The removal of all or part of selected branches, leaders or roots from trees and shrubs to improve forest health and functions.	acre	System	3.28
666	Crop			Forest	Forest Stand Improvement	The manipulation of species composition, stand structure and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation to enhance forest health and functions.	acre	System	7.42

Note: the CPS allows an option for this practice's units to be "feet;" however, for CMT the practice's units are in ACRES.