

# Wisconsin Agriculture Conservation Stewardship Program



## Eligible Participants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service works with farmers and landowners through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). CSP helps producers build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening operations by rewarding farmers for five years, for conservation they are already applying at the time of application.

Ideal CSP participants are farmers who have a current conservation plan, are following a nutrient management plan, are managing for soil health with reduced tillage and cover crops and have field setbacks from surface water.



## Additional Conservation

Participants will need to select at least one CSP activity to further enhance the conservation on their operation. A few of the most popular CSP activities include applying cover crops for soil health, leaving a small stand of unharvested grain to benefit wildlife, extending stream buffers or establishing small areas for pollinator habitat. Participants receive additional payments for implementing a conservation activity.

## Payments

Payments vary among participants. The more conservation already implemented on the operation, and the level of new adoption of conservation farmers are willing to do, the higher the payment.

The minimum a producer can receive each year of their 5 year contract is \$1,500.

How to estimate CSP payment:

$$(A \times B) + (C \times D) = \text{Payment}$$

**A:** Number of Resource Concerns met at time of application

**B:** Standard \$300 rate for each Resource Concern

**C:** Acres in the land use

**D:** Set land use payment rate per acre  
 (Cropland & Farmstead = \$7.50;  
 Pasture = \$3.00;  
 Associated Ag Land = \$0.50)

Example: 500 acres of cropland, 14-acre farmstead and 30 acres associated ag land.

$$\text{Cropland: } (5 \times \$300) + (500\text{ac.} \times \$7.50) = \$5,250$$

$$\text{Farmstead: } (4 \times \$300) + (14 \times \$7.50) = \$1,305$$

Associated

$$\text{Ag Land: } (4 \times \$300) + (30 \times \$0.50) = \$1,215$$

$$\text{Estimated Annual Payment}^* = \$7,770$$

\*Additional dollars are added to payment based on additional conservation activities adopted in contracts.

## How to Apply

For additional information about eligibility and timeline, interested producers should contact their local NRCS Service Center.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. To find a local NRCS Service Center, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/contact/local/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/contact/local/).



**Conservation Stewardship Program participants are seeing real results.**

**Some benefits include an:**

- increase in grazing efficiency,
- increase in crop yields,
- increase in wildlife populations,
- decrease in producer inputs and
- a greater resilience to impacts of weather extremes.

**Wisconsin**  
**Natural**  
**Resources**  
**Conservation**  
**Service**

[nrcs.usda.gov/](http://nrcs.usda.gov/)