

Conservation Stewardship Program

Natural Resources Conservation Service



Overview

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. CSP pays participants for conservation performance - the higher the performance, the higher payment. CSP addresses various resource concerns including soil quality, soil erosion, water quantity and quality, air quality, plant resources, and animal resources as well as energy.

Benefits

CSP may provide many benefits, including increased crop productivity, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to weather extremes. CSP also encourages adoption of new technologies and management techniques.

Program at a Glance

CSP applicants enroll their entire agricultural operation with separate applications for:

- Nonindustrial Private Forest Land (NIPF)
- Agricultural land (Pasture, cropland-annual/mixed, cropland-perennial)

All contracts have a 5-year term, offering payments for:

1. Annual payments for maintaining existing conservation activities
2. Payments for applying additional conservation practices and/or enhancement activities
3. Supplemental payments for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation and/or grazing management.

Eligibility

Eligible lands include private and Tribal agricultural lands, cropland, grassland, pastureland, rangeland, and nonindustrial private forest land. CSP is available to all producers, regardless of operation size or type of crops produced. Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations, or Indian tribes.

Applicant Responsibilities

Applicants must:

- Include all agricultural or private forest land in your operation that you will have effective control of for the 5-year term of the CSP contract
- Farm records must be established with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for these lands for your application to be evaluated meeting all Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland conservation requirements
- Be prepared to provide maps that identify all land in your operation to a NRCS representative. The maps will help determine the land that is eligible for enrollment, payment, and if you have one or more operations to offer for enrollment
- Additional restrictions and program requirements may apply.

How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at farmers.gov/service-locator.

More Information

For more information, visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/csp-conservation-stewardship-program/missouri/conservation-stewardship-program>



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