



Contact us:

Rhode Island State Office: 401-828-1300

Eastern Rhode Island

Serving Bristol & Newport counties

NRCS Field Office: 401-786-1389

Conservation District Office: 401-934-0842

Northern Rhode Island

Serving Providence county

NRCS Field Office: 401-822-8835

Conservation District Office: 401-934-0840

Southern Rhode Island

Serving Kent & Washington counties

NRCS Field Office: 401-822-8837

Conservation District Office: 401-661-5761

USDA is an equal opportunity provider,
employer, and lender.

April 2025



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Conservation Stewardship Program

Is CSP Right for
me?

*If you can answer 'Yes' to
these questions, then CSP
may be right for you!*

- ☐ Do you own, rent, or manage cropland, grassland, pasture, rangeland, or woodland?
- ☐ Have you already been doing conservation work on your land?
- ☐ Do you want to expand your existing conservation efforts to improve environmental stewardship?
- ☐ Do you plan to maintain control of the land for at least five years?
- ☐ Does your land comply with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions (if unsure, ask your local USDA Service Center)?
- ☐ Do you have a social security number or employer identification number issued by the IRS?
- ☐ Is your adjusted gross income less than \$900,000? (does not apply to Indian Tribes)
- ☐ Do you have authority to make management decisions for your business (entity or joint operation)?



RHODE ISLAND

RI.nrcs.usda.gov



What is CSP?

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) provides technical and financial assistance to help farmers and woodland owners improve their conservation efforts.

CSP compensates farmers and woodland owners who agree to maintain and improve existing conservation systems and adopt new conservation activities. CSP is for clients who are passionate about conservation and environmental stewardship.

CSP can provide many benefits like increased crop productivity, decreased inputs (fertilizers or pesticides), improved wildlife habitat, and better resilience to weather extremes. CSP also encourages adoption of new technologies and management techniques.

For example, CSP can help you:

- Schedule cover crop planting and management.
- Develop a grazing plan to improve your forage base.
- Implement no-till to reduce erosion.
- Manage woodlands to benefit wildlife habitat.

If you are already taking steps to improve your land's condition, chances are CSP can help you find new ways to meet your goals.

How does CSP work?

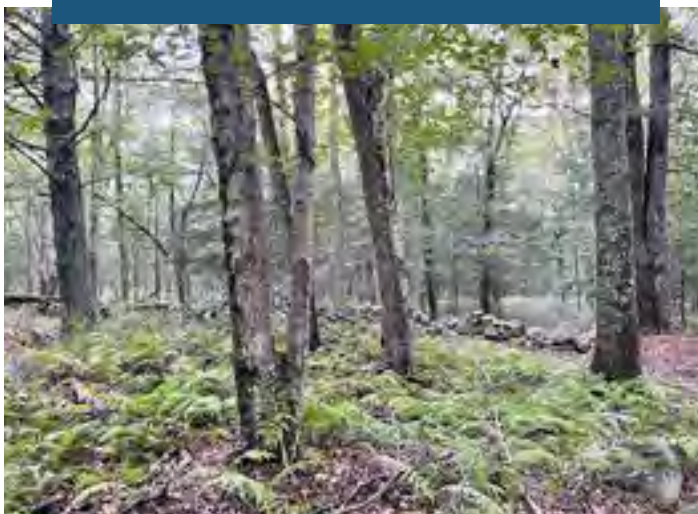
CSP helps boost existing conservation efforts by applying new practices, enhancements, and bundles. These new activities can help improve your farm's natural resources and bottom line.

Enhancements let farmers apply more conservation than what the minimum conservation practice standard requires. For example, if you plant a cover crop, you might try an enhancement of a multi-species cover crop, or plant a deep-rooted cover crop to break up soil compaction.

When you apply for CSP, your NRCS conservation planner will meet with you to evaluate your land's current management system and natural resources. You will work together to select new CSP conservation activities based on your management objectives for your farm or woodlands.

Want to take it a step further? CSP offers **bundles** where you can select a suite of enhancements and receive a higher payment rate. Bundles are groups of enhancement activities that provide greater conservation benefits when applied together.

CSP contracts are for five years, with the option to renew for five more years if you successfully complete your first contract term and agree to apply more conservation activities. Contract renewals are a competitive process.



The minimum payment is \$4,000 per year.

Are you eligible for CSP?

Land Eligibility: Eligible lands include private agricultural lands, Tribal agricultural lands, nonindustrial private forest land, farmstead, associated agricultural lands and public land that is under the control of the applicant and part of their operation. There is no minimum acreage requirement. CSP enrolls your entire operation into the program.

Farmer Eligibility: Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations, or Indian Tribes that own or rent and currently manage land for agricultural or forest production.

Stewardship Threshold Eligibility: Stewardship threshold is a term NRCS uses to determine if a CSP applicant is currently meeting or exceeding an minimum conservation level for each specific natural resource concern. CSP applicants must be currently meeting the stewardship threshold for at least two priority natural resource concerns on every land use included in their contract. By the end of their contract, clients must also agree to meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for at least one additional resource concern on at least one land use.