



## How to apply for CSP

Contact your local NRCS field office and let them know you are interested in CSP. You can find your local service center by visiting [www.nrcs.usda.gov/id](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/id). A conservation planner will have a one-on-one consultation with you to evaluate your current management system and the resources on your land.

If you are new to working with USDA, you will need to establish your Farm Record with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Establishing a Farm Record requires several forms and documents, so make an appointment with your FSA office as soon as possible.

In addition to your Farm Record documents, you will also need to submit to NRCS:

1. NRCS CPA 1200 – Conservation Program Application
2. A map showing all land uses and acres in the operation.
3. A map or other documentation identifying any known ineligible land and associated acreage amounts.

You can find additional resources for small acreage farmers at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/id](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/id) and clicking on the Urban and Small Acreage link or by visiting [Farmers.gov/urban](http://Farmers.gov/urban).



## Contact Us to Learn More

-  [nrcs.usda.gov/ID](http://nrcs.usda.gov/ID)
-  [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov)
-  [@NRCS\\_Idaho](https://twitter.com/NRCS_Idaho)



# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IDAHO SMALL SCALE AND URBAN AGRICULTURE

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) takes your conservation efforts to the next level.



# The Conservation Stewardship Program on Idaho Small Scale and Urban Agriculture

## What is CSP?

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers technical and financial assistance to help agricultural and forest producers take their conservation efforts to the next level.

The program is designed to compensate agricultural and forest producers who agree to increase their level of conservation by adopting additional conservation activities and maintaining their baseline level of conservation. CSP is for producers who are passionate about environmental stewardship.

## What are some conservation activities offered in CSP

**Soil health** – As experts in soil health, NRCS conservationists can assist with conservation activities such as, cover crops, improved and diversified crop rotations or reduced and no-till practices that improve soil health.

**Irrigation Water Conservation** – NRCS can help irrigators conserve water by implementing conservation activities that could include, soil moisture sensors and monitoring, record keeping, updating fuel sources on pumping plants and more.

**Nutrient Management** – If you apply nutrients on your operation, NRCS can assist with record keeping improvements, mitigation techniques and precision application technologies.

**Pasture and Hayland Management** – NRCS can help improve the resources on your pasture or hayland with conservation activities such as forage plantings to increase wildlife habitat, diversifying with forbs or legumes or stockpiling cool season forage for prescribed grazing.

**Weeds and Pests** – NRCS can help with weed and pest management by incentivizing good record keeping, planting buffers for beneficial insects, mulching and use of cover crops.

**Wildlife Habitat** – Wildlife is an integral part of the land. NRCS can help with many conservation activities to improve wildlife habitat, such as pollinator and Monarch butterfly plantings.

**Forestland** – NRCS can help evaluate the health of your forest and assist with conservation activities that improve forest health and productivity through understory thinning, fuels reduction, cull tree removal, and tree and shrub planting. All of which can be implemented with a goal of creating wildlife habitat.

You can hear about NRCS conservation practices from producers themselves through the Conservation at Work video series which can be found [here](#) or with the QR code.



Conservation at  
Work video series



## Who is eligible for CSP?

Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations or Indian Tribes that own or rent and currently manage land for agricultural or forest production. The applicant must have a Social Security number or Employer Identification Number issued by the IRS and must maintain control of the land for the entire span of a 5-year CSP contract. The applicant must have an adjusted gross income of less than \$900,000. The adjusted gross income requirement does not apply to Indian Tribes.

## What land is eligible for CSP?

Eligible lands include private agricultural lands, agricultural Indian lands, nonindustrial private forest land, farmstead, associated agricultural lands and public lands that are 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, not just one specific field or tract. Forest lands require a current Forest Management Plan.

## I am new to farming. Am I eligible for CSP?

Almost. The land must be actively used for producing an agricultural or forest product. Lands being cleared

or prepped for future agricultural production are not eligible for CSP until an agricultural operation has been established and crops, food or fiber have been successfully produced. Be sure to check with your local USDA Service Center before clearing any land to ensure that you will not violate the highly erodible land conservation or wetland conservation requirements. Failing to have NRCS complete proper determinations may impact your ability to participate in USDA programs.

## How long is a CSP contract?

Five years, with the potential to renew for another five-year period if you successfully complete your first contract term, and if your renewal application ranks high enough (renewals are a competitive process).

## How do payments work in CSP?

NRCS makes payments as soon as practical after October 1 of each fiscal year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous fiscal year and completed before September 30.

There are three types of CSP payments available.

- Annual contract payments which are based on two components:
  - a. Payments to maintain the existing level of conservation based on the land uses included in the contract, and
  - b. Payments to implement additional conservation practices and activities.
- Supplemental payments for producers willing to implement a resource conserving crop rotation, improve an existing resource conserving crop rotation or implement advanced grazing management

Beginning in 2024 all CSP contracts will receive a minimum of \$4000 per year as a minimum contract payment.

