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 Non-Industrial Private Forester (NIPF) managers 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 woodland owners or managers who have a current forest management plan, are following forestry best management practices, are maintaining forest trails and have a desire to implement management practices.

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
   (Forest & Associated Ag Land = $0.50; Farmstead = $7.50)

Example: 200 acres of forest with a 2-acre farmstead.

Forestland: \((4 \times 300) + (200\text{ac.} \times 0.50) = 1,300\)
Farmstead: \((3 \times 300) + (2 \times 7.50) = 915\)
Estimated Annual Payment* = $2,215

*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/.

Wisconsin Forestry Conservation Stewardship Program participants are seeing real results.

Some benefits include an:

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

Additional Conservation
Participants will need to select at least one CSP activity to further enhance the conservation on their woodland. A few of the most popular CSP activities include opening small patches for oak regeneration; creating snags, den trees and coarse woody debris for wildlife; improving forest trails to reduce erosion and compaction and forest stand improvement. Participants receive additional payments for implementing a conservation activity.