Conservation Stewardship Program
Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Pacific Islands Area USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.

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 the payment.

Benefits
CSP addresses various resource concerns including soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, air quality, plant resources, and animal resources as well as energy.

How It Works
CSP provides two possible types of payments through five-year contracts: annual payments based on resource concerns already met and practices already installed and supplemental payments for installing new conservation activities.

Conservation Planners help producers identify resource concerns they have met and those that they may be interested in meeting or exceeding. A plan is created that includes any practices or enhancement the producer chooses to implement as well as annual payments for those already met. There is a minimum annual payment of $1500 for all for eligible applicants that are selected for funding.

Who is Eligible?
Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations, or Indian tribes that meet the stewardship threshold for at least two priority resource concerns when they apply. They must also agree to meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of the contract. Producers must have effective control of the land for the term of the proposed contract. 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, in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Caribbean and Pacific Island areas (Guam, CNMI, American Samoa).

How to Apply
Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at farmers.gov/service-locator. Applications are accepted at any time. Payments are made soon as practical after October 1 of each fiscal year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year.

More Information
For more information, visit nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill or farmers.gov.

American Samoa
Michael Daskam
District Conservationist
(684) 633-1031 ext 125

Guam Service Center
Jay Donorila
Acting District Conservationist
(671)300-8591

Hilo Service Center
Kori Hisashima,
District Conservationist
(808)933-8359

Kauai Service Center
David Komorowski
Acting District Conservationist
(808)346-2475

Kealakekua Service Center
Laura Nelson
District Conservationist
(808)339-9046

Lihue Service Center
Jenna Dunn
District Conservationist
(808)245-9014 ext 101

Oahu Service Center
Gavin Jennings
District Conservationist
(808) 600-2912

Saipan Service Center
Pamela Sablan
District Conservationist
(670) 233-3415 ext 103

Waimea Service Center
Scott Cook
District Conservationist
(808)885-6602 ext 106

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