April 2, 2015

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) presents a significant shift in how NRCS provides conservation program payments. Instead of using the traditional compensation model that pays a per-acre rental rate or a percentage of the estimated cost of installing a practice, CSP pays for conservation performance — the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

**Annual Payments**
Under CSP, participants receive annual land use payments for operational level environmental benefits they produce. A split payment structure provides separate annual payments for conservation activities being added (additional activities) and those already in place (existing activities).

A CSP participant’s annual land use payments for both additional and existing activities are calculated as:

\[
\text{Annual Land Use Payments} = \text{Land Use Acres} \times \text{Performance Points (additional or existing)} \times \text{Land Use Payment Rate}
\]

Note: A participant must install additional activities on a land use in order for that land use to earn annual payments.

**Supplemental Payment**
A supplemental payment is available to participants earning an annual payment who also agree to adopt or improve a resource-conserving crop rotation on cropland. The supplemental payment rates are based on differences in crop production costs between conventional and either implementing a new resource-conserving crop rotations or enhancing an existing resource-conserving crop rotation.

**2015 CSP Payment Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land use</th>
<th>Additional Activity Payment Rate</th>
<th>Existing Activity Payment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cropland</td>
<td>$0.40157/point</td>
<td>$0.02897/point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastured Cropland</td>
<td>$0.31870/point</td>
<td>$0.04213/point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture</td>
<td>$0.31870/point</td>
<td>$0.02490/point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>$0.12499/point</td>
<td>$0.00990/point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest</td>
<td>$0.15803/point</td>
<td>$0.00854/point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supplemental Payments**
Adopt Resource-Conservation Crop Rotation - $15.00/acre
Improved Resource-Conservation Crop Rotation - $5.00/acre

Natural Resources Conservation Service

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*