

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Helping People Help the Land

www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov

Control of Land Requirements for CSP

- To be an eligible applicant for the program, a producer must have written effective control of the land prior to the date the contract is signed. Effective control means possession of the land by ownership, written lease, or other legal agreement and authority to act as decision maker for the day-to-day management of the operation – both at the time of entering into a stewardship contract and for the required period of the contract (5 years). [See Appendix under Subpart 1 - Program Eligibility Requirements (D) and Subpart 3-Agreement (1).]
- Owners are displayed on the FSA forms 156EZ and/or the Producer Farm Data Report form.
- **To establish effective control for the required period of the contract, Iowa requires a Control of Land statement to be signed.** The required information is Farm number(s) with all applicable tracts; the statement of effective control and the specific years under contract; the owner's signature and date. One statement per owner is sufficient for those who own multiple farms/tracts. (If control is not granted, leave the farm/tract number(s) off this statement.)
- For land that has multiple owners, only 1 owner is required to sign this statement. Owner/operators do not need to fill out this statement.
- Once properly completed and signed, these statements must be kept by you, the applicant, for the period of the contract (5 years).
- Every CSP contract will be audited at least once within its 5-year period. Auditors will request the Control of Land statements from you. They will verify that farms and tracts are under your effective control, confirm that signatures are valid, and note the date the statement was signed - it must be dated before the contract was obligated to show valid effective control. (Auditors use the FSA forms – 156EZ and/or Producer Farm Data Report form for the year of obligation.)
- Without valid effective control, a producer faces penalties that could range from removal of the land from the contract with repayment to termination of the contract for cause with repayment and possible recovery costs of up to 10% of the contract obligation. [Possible penalties are covered in your Appendix under Subpart 8 - Misrepresentation and Scheme or Devise and Subpart 12-Recovery of Costs (B).]
- This Control of Land statement is not a binding document. If changes in effective control occur, such as changes in ownership or an owner removes you as operator during the contract period, contact your local NRCS office immediately.

Note: Any land that you gain during the contract period cannot be included in an existing CSP contract.

If you have questions, contact your local NRCS staff.