

# Conservation Stewardship Program

## Submitting an Application & Operation Delineation Map



### Enrolling in CSP

If you are interested in applying for CSP the first step is submitting a Form NRCS-CPA-1200, “Conservation Program Application” and an Operation Delineation map. Agricultural land applications compete separately from Non-Industrial Private Forestland (NIPF) operations. If you have both types of land you have the following options:

- Submit one application for NIPF
- Submit one application for Agricultural Land
- Submit two applications, one for each land type

### Application considerations:

Applicants must include their entire eligible NIPF or Agricultural operation in the application. In order for the land to be eligible the applicant must be the owner, operator or other tenant of the land in FSA’s Farm Records Management System and have control of the land for the 5 year contract length. The name on the application must be consistent with how you do business at the Farm Service Agency. In circumstances where it cannot be changed you can request a waiver from NRCS when you apply, ask your local field office for additional information on the waiver.

### What is an Operation Delineation Map?

Applicants must provide a map or aerial photograph to show the land that is part of their agricultural or NIPF operation when they submit an application for CSP.

### What types of maps are acceptable?

Any type of map can be provided as long as it has the required elements and is legible by the field office. The maps you provide will assist

the field office in determining eligibility for the program and developing your application so accuracy is important. Many applicants provide the Farm and Tract maps from FSA, but other maps, like those from your agronomist or farm management software, may have the required elements and can be used.



*A sample delineation map.*

### What should the maps show?

Maps must identify your entire agricultural or NIPF operation. This includes all land that you have control of for the contract length. CSP applications must include Farmsteads (land used for equipment, input, and grain storage and handling and animal housing) and Associated Agricultural Land (AAL) which is land that is associated with the farm but not in production like wetlands, field edges, watercourses and ditches, and odd areas that

### Establishing a Farm Record

Before farm or forestland can be enrolled in a USDA program, a farm record must be established at your local USDA Farm Service Agency office.

FSA will require a social security number or Employer Identification Number and entities will need to provide their articles of incorporation, or another type of partnership paperwork.

A property deed or a lease or rental agreement is needed to establish the operator.

To establish program eligibility, FSA requires completion of Form AD 1026, (Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification), Form CCC 941 (Adjusted Gross Income), and for entities, Form CCC 901 (members’ information for entities and joint operations).

These forms are available at your FSA office or online at; <https://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

are not farmed.

The maps should contain the:

- Boundaries of the tracts and fields
- Approximate Acres of each field
- The current land use:

*Crop* - land used for the production and harvest of annual or perennial fields, forage, food fiber horticultural, orchard, vineyard or energy crops.

*Forest* - land where the vegetation is predominately tree cover managed for production of wood products or non-timber forest products.

*Pasture* - land composed of introduced or native forage that is used for the production of livestock. Pastures are not in rotation with crops, but can receive periodic renovation.

*Farmstead* - Land used for facilities and supporting infrastructure. This includes equipment storage, farm input and output storage, handling facilities, and land used for animal housing.

*Associated Agricultural Lands* - land associated with the farm that is not purposefully managed for food, forage or fiber. This could include center pivot corners, odd areas, ditches and watercourses, riparian areas, field edges, seasonal and permanent wetlands and similar areas.

- Any other features or resource concerns NRCS should be aware of, like previously installed conservation practices, like a grassed waterway, or areas that need treatment, like a gully.
- Identify land that is ineligible to be enrolled:
  - Publicly owned land including Federal, State and local units of government and public universities.
  - Land where the applicant is not listed as Operator and does not have a waiver
  - Land used for crop production that was not considered to be planted or devoted to crop production for 4 out of the 6 years preceding December 20, 2018.
  - Newly acquired land where your management system cannot be demonstrated or documented.

Your field office can assist you with the definitions. Highlight any areas that you are unsure of and discuss with your field staff.

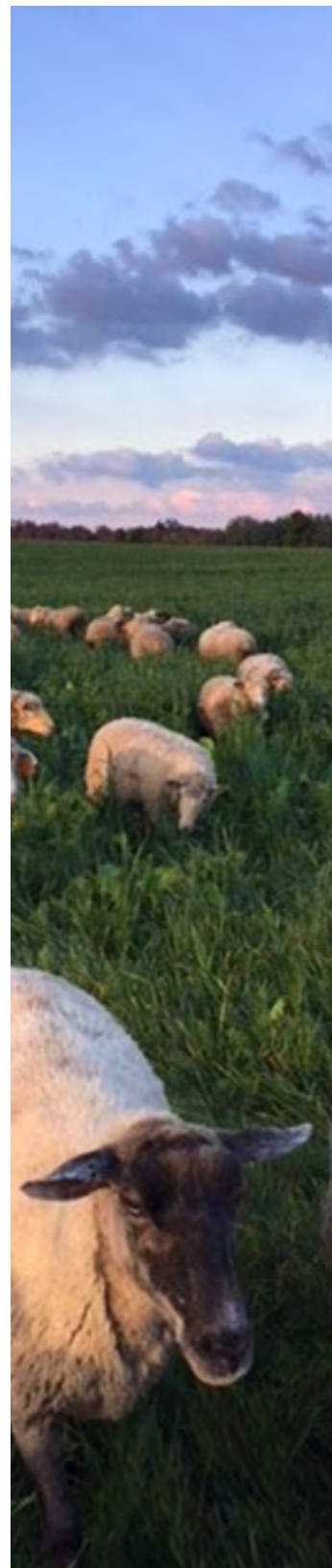


*All types of farming and private forest operations are eligible to be enrolled in CSP.*

## What is the next step?

NRCS will announce one or more ranking periods each year to process applications. Your local field office will contact you to schedule a field visit and complete the application process.

We look forward to working with you!



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[www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/)

