

What is CSP?

CSP encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. CSP is a voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources. CSP provides opportunities to both recognize excellent stewards and deliver valuable new conservation.

Eligibility

CSP is available on private agricultural lands, as well as nonindustrial private forest lands throughout New Hampshire. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location.

Individual producers, legal entities, and corporations may be eligible for the program. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, improved pastureland, rangeland, and nonindustrial private forest land.



Applicants must:

- Be the operator of record in the USDA farm records management system for the eligible land being offered for enrollment;
- Have documented control of the land for the term of the proposed contract;
- Include the eligible land in their entire operation as represented for other USDA programs;
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of 7 CFR Part 12, and adjusted gross income provisions of 7 CFR part 1400.

Benefits to Participants

CSP provides participants with two possible types of payments. An annual payment is available for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing activities. A supplemental payment may be earned by participants who also adopt a resource-conserving crop rotation.

Through 5-year contracts, payments will be made as soon as practical after October of each year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year. For all contracts, CSP payments to a person or legal entity may not exceed \$40,000 in any year, and \$200,000 during any 5-year

period. Each CSP contract will be limited to \$200,000 over the term of the initial contract period.

How CSP Works

The New Hampshire NRCS, in consultation with the State Technical Committee and local working groups, will focus CSP on natural resources that are of specific concern for a State. Agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land will be ranked separately.

Producers interested in CSP are encouraged to begin the application process by completing a producer self-screening checklist. The self-screening checklist helps potential applicants decide for themselves whether CSP is the right program for them. The level of environmental benefit to be achieved will be estimated to determine eligibility, rank applications, and establish payments.

For a pre-approved applicant, NRCS will request the applicant's conservation activity records and conduct on-site field verification to ensure that information provided by the applicant is accurate prior to contract approval. Once information is verified, NRCS and the applicant proceed to develop the contract.



New Hampshire Resource Priorities

The New Hampshire state resource priorities for CSP are: animal, energy, plant, water quality and soil quality (agricultural land) or soil erosion (non-industrial private forest land). The CSP program in NH is state-wide.

NH resource conserving crops are:

- Perennial grasses
- Legumes grown for use as forage, seed for planting, or green manure
- Legume-grass mixtures
- Small grain grown in combination with grasses or legume green manure crops whether inter-seeded or planted in rotation with a grass or legume listed above.

Transitioning to Organics

CSP uses Conservation Enhancements that provide additional environmental benefit(s). Of the 80 enhancements from which producers can select, 39 have a high likelihood of adoption by organic producers or those who are interested in transitioning to organic.

For more information on the New Hampshire CSP program visit:

www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/Farm_Bill/CSP/csp.html

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USDA-NRCS/ Conservation District Offices

New Hampshire State Office

2 Madbury Rd.
Durham, NH 03824
603-868-7581

**Belknap County
Conservation District**
719 North Main St., Rm. 203,
Laconia, NH 03246
603-527-5880

**Concord Field Service
Center
Merrimack County
Conservation District**
10 Ferry St., Suite 211,
Concord, NH 03301
603-223-6021

**Conway Field Service
Center
Carroll County
Conservation District**
73 Main St.
Conway, NH 03818
603-447-2771

**Epping Field Service
Center**
Knightly Plaza
629 Calef Highway, Suite 201
Epping, NH 03042
603-679-1587

**Lancaster Field Service
Center
Coos County Conservation
District**
4 Mayberry Lane, Lancaster,
NH 03584
603-788-4651

**Milford Field Service
Center
Hillsborough County
Conservation District**
Chappell Professional Ctr.,
#468, Rte. 13 South,
Milford, NH 03055
603-673-2409

**Orford Field Service
Center
Grafton County
Conservation District**
19 Archertown Rd., Suite 1
Orford, NH 03777
603-353-4651

**Rockingham County
Conservation District**
110 North Road, Brentwood,
NH 03833
603-679-2790

**Sullivan County
Conservation District**
24 Main Street
Newport, NH 03773
603-863-4297

**Strafford County
Conservation District**
259 County Farm Rd, Unit #3,
Dover, NH 03820
603-749-3037

**Walpole Field Service
Center
Cheshire County
Conservation District**
11 Industrial Park Dr.
Walpole, NH 03608
603-756-2988



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Stewardship Program

in New Hampshire

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