

Wisconsin Agriculture Participant Factsheet

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Eligible Participants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service works with farmers and landowners through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). CSP helps producers build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening operations by rewarding farmers for five years, for conservation they are already applying at the time of application.

Ideal CSP participants are farmers who have a current conservation plan, are following a nutrient management plan, are managing for soil health with reduced tillage and cover crops and have field setbacks from surface water.

Additional Conservation

Participants will need to select at least one CSP activity to further enhance the conservation on their operation. A few of the most popular CSP activities include applying cover crops for soil health, leaving a small stand of unharvested grain to benefit wildlife, managing livestock fencing for wildlife or establishing small areas for butterfly habitat. Participants receive additional payments for implementing a conservation activity.

Payments

Payments vary among participants. The more conservation already implemented on the



operation, and the level of new adoption of conservation you’re willing to do, the higher the payment.

In the 2017 CSP sign-up, typical agricultural land participants in Wisconsin are receiving \$18.00 per acre. The minimum a producer can receive each year, for five years is \$1,500.00.

An example payment through CSP is below.
380 acres enrolled in CSP × \$18.00 an ac/yr = \$6,840.00 per year × 5 years = \$34,200.00

How to Apply

To apply for the latest CSP sign-up, interested producers will need to complete an application and submit it to their local NRCS Service Center by Friday, March 2, 2018.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. To find a local NRCS Service Center, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/contact/local/.

Conservation Stewardship Program participants are seeing real results.

Some benefits include an:

- increase in cattle gains per acre,
- increase in crop yields,
- increase in wildlife populations,
- decrease in producer inputs and a
- greater resilience to impacts of weather extremes.

