



Conservation Stewardship Program



Being a good steward of the land has its rewards.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is designed to help you maintain your present conservation activities and make new conservation improvements, such as improved erosion control, better water quality practices, or wildlife habitat management, or energy efficiency improvements.

Is CSP right for you?

CSP involves a five-year contract in which the farmer agrees to maintain existing conservation and to do more over the life of the contract. It also requires time and good documentation of your farm conservation activities, which are used to determine eligibility and ranking.

Availability

CSP is available statewide with five year contracts that may be renewed. The whole farm operation is enrolled including cropland and pastureland. Private non-industrial forestland may also be enrolled.

Are you Eligible?

Wisconsin farmers can check to see if they may be eligible by completing a self screening checklist. This is available online at www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov. If eligible, contact the NRCS office to schedule a time to apply for CSP.

Conservation Measurement Tool

The Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) was created to estimate the level of environmental benefit projected by each producer's planned conservation activities. The CMT is used for ranking and to determine payment.

Wisconsin Priority Resource Concerns

In CSP, applications are evaluated and ranked based on priority natural resource concerns for Wisconsin, or a specific area of the State.



Your Records

To apply, you must be the operator of record in the Farm Service Agency record system and responsible for the operation's day-to-day management and decision-making. Producers must address at least two priority resource concerns at the time of the contract offer and another priority resource concern by the end of the contract at a minimum, to be eligible.

Payment Types

CSP supports on-going stewardship of private agricultural and forest lands by providing payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources. Payments in Wisconsin range between:

\$7 to \$50 per acre for cropland

\$6 to \$28 per acre of pastureland, and

\$2 to \$6 per acre for woodland

Ranking the Applications

Field verification of the highest ranked applications will occur before contracts are offered to producers.

Benefits of CSP

Conservation benefits derived from maintaining and enhancing natural resources will:

- Improve water and soil quality.
- Assist in addressing global climate change.
- Encourage environmentally responsible energy production.

Sign up now at NRCS offices

CSP sign up is available nationwide on a continuous basis. Contact the NRCS field office at your local USDA Service Center.

*For more information, visit
www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs*



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