

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation practices. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location.

CSP contracts are for 5 years, with the opportunity to compete for a contract renewal if the initial contract was successfully fulfilled and the producer agrees to achieve additional conservation objectives.

Contract payments are based on two components:

- 1) Payments to maintain the existing level of conservation based on the land uses included in the contract and NRCS assessment of existing stewardship at the time of enrollment, and
- 2) Payments to implement additional conservation activities

The entire agricultural operation must be enrolled and must include all agricultural land that will be under the applicant's control for the term of the proposed contract that is operated substantially separate from other operations.

Accepting Applications

CSP applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

Eligibility

Applicants must: 1) control or own eligible land; 2) comply with adjusted gross income limitation (AGI) provisions; 3) be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements; and 4) develop an NRCS CSP plan of operations. Additional restrictions and program requirements may apply.

2020 CSP Enhancements (examples):

Soil health crop rotation	Establish pollinator/monarch butterfly habitat
Resource conserving crop rotation	Brush management to improve wildlife habitat
Cover crops	Leave standing grain crops to benefit wildlife
Controlled traffic farming to reduce compaction	Enhanced field borders to reduce erosion
Reduced tillage	Prescribed grazing management
Utilize precision agriculture technologies	Reduce routine neonicotinoid seed treatments
Improve nutrient uptake efficiency	Tree/shrub planting for wildlife food

There are a total of 139 enhancements available through CSP. Please contact your local NRCS office for more information. Step-by-step assistance can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted>

Benton County NRCS (320) 968-5300	Sherburne/Hennepin/Anoka County NRCS (763) 241-1170
Stearns County NRCS (320) 251-7800	Wright County NRCS (763) 682-1933

