

Example of CSP Enrollment Decision

These resource concerns exist:

Soil - Soil is deep and ranges from poorly drained to very poorly drained silty clay loams to clay with inherently high organic matter. Soils are hydric, but are typically classified as having been converted to cropland use before the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, (referred to as “prior converted” or “PC”) or as farmed wetlands (FW). Soils are not classified as highly erodible (HEL), but have a significant potential for both wind and water erosion (sheet and rill and ephemeral). Soils are subject to compaction and crusting. In normal years, the erosive force and intensity of rain is moderate. Ponding, flooding and inadequate outlets for subsurface drains are common problems.

Water - Water quality in the area is impacted by sediments, as well as misapplication of pesticides and nutrients. Fall application of fertilizer (anhydrous ammonia) is a typical concern.

Air - Air quality from dust is a secondary concern due to wind erosion.

Plants - Noxious and invasive plant species, such as thistles, velvetleaf, cocklebur, and smartweed are present.

Animals - The area is on the southern boundary of the prairie pothole region and the central flyway, but very little natural wildlife habitat remains for waterfowl.

Adequately maintaining these practices allows the farm to meet the quality criteria for soil and water quality as identified in the applicable Field Office Technical Guide. Because of that, the farmer knows he would qualify for Tier II of the program if his application is given a high enough priority. However, the categories and subcategory criteria that were announced for this sign-up are those shown in Table 4 on page 12 of the EA. Therefore, the agricultural operation falls into category H and the farmer knows that with the program funding limitations and the high number of eligible applicants within this watershed, it is unlikely that this operation will receive a CSP contract unless he agrees to implement enhancements.