

# 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.

## *The NEW CSP*

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

## *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](http://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 one resource concern at the time of application 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. Payment for agricultural land are expected to range from about \$12 to \$38 per acre. Payments for forest land are expected to range from about \$6 to \$12 per acre.

## *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.

*More information is available on the web*  
[www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs)



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