

CSP Conservation Security Program

A Time of Change and Transition for All Producers and Landowners

CSP rewards those that have a record of good land stewardship. Take credit for the good work you have done to protect our natural resources.

Protecting soil and water quality, improving wildlife habitat, and conserving energy are the top resource concerns. It will be your responsibility as the applicant to show what you have done.

Soil concerns address gully, sheet, and rill erosion. Practices like conservation crop rotation, conservation tillage, cover crops and conservation practices such as grassed waterways and buffers are all ways to address these soil resource concerns.

Water quality concerns can be addressed by practices such as buffers along tributaries, buffers around ponds, crop rotation every 2 to 3 years, and reduced tillage maintaining at least 30 percent residue.

Wildlife habitat concerns

can be addressed by excluding livestock from sensitive areas such as woodlands and stream corridors, as well as providing/maintaining additional habitat such as fence rows and/or brush piles.

Conserving energy is becoming top priority in our farming operations through nitrogen and energy conservation-biofuels and recycling oil.

Nutrient and pest management have record keeping requirements for the program with soil tests not more than 5 years old and a minimum of 2 years of records for nutrient applications based on these soil test recommendations. Pesticides will need to be recorded by type as well as, show the required rate, timing and location.

CSP has required a 30 feet minimum buffer along tributaries with incentives to install buffers as wide as 60 feet.

Livestock operations that are interested in CSP are also required to meet the criteria mentioned above. It is very important when utilizing manure as a nutrient that you remember to document when, how much, and where you apply it. Soil and/or manure samples will assist with this documentation.

Both producer and landowner may be impacted by CSP in the future. You will want to view the Applicant Eligibility information prior to the program signup.

Eligibility is the key to whether you will be considered an applicant for this program. You must meet program eligibility requirements and have an active interest in the farming operation. Both leased land and owned land can be eligible. The applicant must have control of that land for the life of the contract (typically 5-10 years).

It is important to start now to establish a record keeping system that will be at least 2 years prior to CSP participation. Soil samples, the documentation of crop rotations, yields, pesticide and nutrient applications are all very important for your interview for the program. Everyone must also complete a Self Assessment prior to the program interview.

