



Natural Resource Conservation Service Conservation Stewardship Program

The [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation

CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENTS

Most CSP applicants have already applied conservation [practices](#) to their land. Through CSP, they have the opportunity to give those practices a boost with conservation activities called [enhancements](#). Working one-on-one with an NRCS conservation planner, you'll determine your eligibility and select enhancements that best fit your management goals and [resource concerns](#). The state NRCS has a priority list of resource concerns for each land use (i.e. cropland, pastureland, forestland, farmstead, etc.) it uses for ranking. At least one enhancement or practice per land use at your farm needs to be selected in CSP.



HOW IT WORKS

CSP contracts last five years. An NRCS conservation planner will work closely with you throughout the entire process - from applying to CSP, to notifying you if and when your application is ranked and funded, to helping certify your annual payments and selected enhancements and practices through the lifetime of your CSP contract.

ASSESS YOUR ELIGIBILITY



APPLICANT

- In compliance with [highly erodible land and wetland requirements](#)
- Current farm records with USDA FSA
- Effective control or written lease for at least 5 years (CSP Contract term)
- Actively engaged in the day-to-day operations and shares in risks



LAND

All eligible land (everything operated by entity or individual even if in multiple counties) must be enrolled in CSP. This means under the effective control of the applicant; operated by the applicant with equipment, labor, and management; and has an established, documented management system



STEWARDSHIP

At least two [resource concerns](#) on all land uses must have been met at the time of CSP application and these must be identified and confirmed by your NRCS planner

For forest land use, forest stands should meet Forestry Tech Note 10 densities

Conservation Stewardship Program How to Apply

1. APPLICATION FORMS

Start by completing and submitting all required [USDA paperwork to NRCS and FSA](#). See our website for contact information for the relevant agency offices for questions.



2. SITE VISIT & PLANNING

An NRCS planner will schedule a site visit to begin the [9-step conservation planning](#) process to identify the current challenges and interested enhancements you would like to pursue with CSP. This phase typically takes 1-3 months. A few follow-up visits may be needed to confirm and review your planning paperwork.

3. FINAL REVIEW

Review planning documentation with your planner and select your CSP enhancements before submitting your application to NRCS for [ranking and prioritizing](#). Review typically occurs over 3-6 months, often in the summer. Timing varies each federal fiscal year.

4. NOTIFICATION

Your NRCS planner notifies you once your application has been reviewed, and if it has been prioritized for funding. If prioritized, a contract will be presented to you by your planner and explained in detail in person before signing. Do not start work prior to contract certification.



5. CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION

Once you sign the contract your official five-year CSP window of enhancement and practice work begins. Your NRCS planner will work with you to help you implement your contract stipulations and timeline. CSP contracts last a minimum of five years, but some of the enhancements might only occur for shorter periods within the five-year term. Your planner helps you ensure that your yearly required documentation is updated, and that you receive your CSP payments.

HOW DOES A CSP CONTRACT PAYMENT WORK?

You will be required to maintain the stewardship level of the resource concerns you are already meeting in your application phase, plus meet or exceed at least one additional resource concern per land use by the end of the contract.

Payments are based on the following:

- a yearly payment of \$1500 minimum (this amount could be higher if you have larger acreages and multiple land uses enrolled in CSP)
- a yearly payment to maintain the current conservation practices
- a one-time payment for implementing additional specific enhancements, enhancement bundles, and/or conservation practices during the five-year CSP contract

Ready to GET STARTED?

Contact your local NRCS Field Office using the [Service Center Locator map](#)

We look forward to working with you!

Conservation Stewardship Program Application Forms



Applications are accepted year round, but ranked occasionally for contract the following year. We recommend planning 1 year ahead

[DOWNLOAD FULL APPLICATION PACKET HERE](#)

[NRCS Conservation Program Application \(CPA-1200\)](#)

The NRCS program application outlines your project and your eligibility as a producer. If you wish to apply for more than the EQIP program, be sure to check the appropriate NRCS program box

- Typically due **EARLY OCTOBER**
- Supplemental instructions:
 - [Instructions on how to complete CPA-1200](#)
 - [Continuation page template for program application names](#)
- **Email these forms once signed in ink and scanned to Moani DiRusso** joyal.dirusso@usda.gov
- Questions? Contact Moani (360)488-4824, or the main Mt. Vernon office 360-428-7684 x3

Farm Service Agency Forms

In order to access services through NRCS, you will have to establish your eligibility and farm tract with the Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- Typically due **EARLY NOVEMBER** - Please allow 3 weeks for processing
- **Download, complete digitally, and then print and sign in ink:**
 - [AD-2047 Customer Data Worksheet](#)
 - [CCC-941 AGI Certification](#) (one for each individual represented in the entity, one for the entity, or one for the individual if only applying as an individual)
 - [CCC-902I](#) SHORT FORM Operating Plan for an Individual OR [CCC-902E](#) Operating Plan for an Entity
 - [AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land/Wetland Conservation Compliance Certification](#) (one for each individual represented in the entity, one for the entity, or one for the individual if only applying as an individual)
 - Optional [Properties Worksheet](#) (for properties in addition to those already on your NRCS CPA-1200 or AD-2047)
- **Submit** to FSA Executive Director Sue Chamberlain using one of the following methods:
 - Email these forms once signed in ink and scanned to susan.chamberlain@usda.gov
 - Fax forms to 877-716-5751
 - Mail to: FSA, 2005 E College Way Ste 203, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, OR
 - Turn in in person to the [FSA office](#) in Mt. Vernon by appointment
 - call (360) 428-7684 x 2 to arrange
- **Questions?** Speak with Sue or Dan at (360) 428-7684 x 2
- If you already registered with the FSA, call to see which of these forms you will need
- New applicants may apply as either individuals or entities.
 - If you apply as an entity, ALL members of your entity will need to complete AD-1026, AD-2047, and the CCC-941 AGI forms

