



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Applicant Checklist

If you are applying for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) . . .

. . . you will need to:

- Review the Producer Self-Screening Checklist to determine if Conservation Stewardship is a program for you.
- Be an operator in the FSA farm management records system.
- Have current records in the FSA Farm Management record system.
- Be compliant with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions of the Farm Bill.
- Show the crop history for all your cropland from 2002 to 2009.
- Show proof of control of all land in your agricultural and/or forestry operation for the next 5 years. Year-to-year leases will not be accepted.
- Provide form 156-EZ and subsidiary report from FSA for the current program year.
- Provide a map, certified by you, that delineates tract, farm, and field numbers for your entire operation showing the land use in acres (crop, pasture, range, forest, CRP, and public lands). This must match the FSA records for the land you operate, including lands in other counties and states if applicable.
- Complete pages 1-3 of the NRCS-CPA-1200, *Conservation Program Application for the Conservation Stewardship Program*, signing and dating the 3rd page and the last page of the appendix.
- Review the appendix for the Conservation Stewardship Program so that you will understand the contract terms and conditions if you are offered a contract.
- Review the Activity List and determine which activities may apply to your agricultural and/or forestry operation.
- Review the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) questions and document your answers to prepare for your NRCS office visit.
- Schedule an appointment with the local NRCS office to complete the CMT - plan on spending 2 hours to finalize the CMT.

The above steps are required to complete the application process.

- After you complete the above steps, your application will be ranked. Once ranked, if the application is pre-approved for funding, field verification will be conducted.
- During the onsite field visit, NRCS will review your records to verify the information provided for the Conservation Measurement Tool.
- After the field verification, NRCS will create a Conservation Stewardship Plan to document current and future conservation activities.
- NRCS then determines who will be approved for a CSP contract and funds will be obligated for the selected contracts.

This is a continuous application program, so you may apply at any time. Please contact your local NRCS office with questions.

Further Information is available at the following website: http://nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp/
