



working for strong local economies, vibrant communities, and a healthy environment

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Minimum Eligibility Requirements for Conservation Security Program

CSP is a fantastic program for any farmer or rancher who has been utilizing good conservation practices on their operation and is looking to expand farm income. However, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has minimum requirements any farmer must meet before enrolling in CSP.

Eligible Watersheds

NRCS is taking a watershed approach for enrollment in CSP. In Minnesota, a farmer must have at least 50% of their total agricultural operation in the Sauk, Root, Red Eye, Red Lake, Redwood or the Blue Earth to begin the enrollment process for CSP in the signup lasting until May 27, 2005.

Eligible Applicants Must:

- 1) Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions;
- 2) Meet the Adjusted Gross Income requirements (within 3 preceding years adjusted gross income cannot exceed \$2.5 million, unless 75% of income is derived from agriculture);
- 3) Demonstrate control of rented land for the life of the contract period by providing NRCS with written assurance of control from landowner;
- 4) Share in the risk of production of crops or livestock and share in the crop or livestock profit;
- 5) -Complete a benchmark condition inventory for the entire agricultural operation or portion of operation being enrolled; and
- 6) Supply information, as required by NRCS, to determine eligibility for the program.

Eligible Land

- 1) Private agricultural land;
- 2) Private non-industrial forest land that is an incidental part of the agriculture operation;

- 3) Agricultural land that is Tribal, allotted, or Indian trust land;
- 4) Other incidental parcels (limited to up to ten percent of contract acres) as determined by NRCS;
- 5) Other land that the NRCS determines a conservation treatment will improve a natural resource concern.

Land not eligible for enrollment or payments in CSP

- 1) Land enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program, the Wetlands Reserve Program or the Grassland Reserve Program;
- 2) Public land including land owned by a Federal, State, or Local unit of government; and
- 3) Land used for crop production since May 13, 2002, if that land was not planted or devoted to crop production for at least 4 of the 6 years preceding May 13, 2002.

Potential applicants can determine if they meet the minimum eligibility requirements by completing a CSP Self-Assessment Workbook. Assessments are available at the local NRCS office or can be downloaded on the web from: www.csp.sc.egov.usda.gov

Other Resources

Background, general information and sign-up information available at, www.mnproject.org/csp

Minnesota specific CSP information, www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp