



DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360 712-336-3782, EXT. 3

NOVEMBER 2009

A Quality Environment

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) **Continuous Sign-Up Available**

CSP encourages agricultural producers to improve conservation systems by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining and managing existing conservation activities.

Is CSP right for you?

- Are you willing to commit time to inventory and document your conservation activities and production system to determine eligibility and ranking?
- Do you have records of your farming activities and are you willing to continue maintaining records to document your conservation activities? Records will be used during NRCS field visits to verify accuracy of application information before contracts are approved.
- Are you ready to enter into a 5 year contract requiring you to apply additional conservation activities and to improve, maintain and manage existing conservation activities?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, complete the CSP Self-Screening Checklist items below.

Self-Screening Checklist

To participate in CSP, a producer must meet:

- Applicant Eligibility
- Land Eligibility
- Stewardship Threshold Requirement

Estimated Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Payments:

- \$12 to \$22 per acre for cropland
- \$7 to \$14 per acre for pastureland
- \$12 to \$16 per acre supplemental payment for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation

Applicant Eligibility Requirements **(all requirements must be met)**

- Is the operator of record in Farm Service Agency (FSA) record system, or establish FSA records prior to application.
- Has documented control of the land for the term of the contract (5 years).
- Is in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions.
- Is in compliance with average adjusted gross income provisions. If the average adjusted gross non-farm income is greater than \$1 million, the person or legal entity is not eligible unless 66.66 percent or more of the average adjusted gross income is attributable to farming activities.

Land Eligibility Requirements **(all requirements must be met)**

- Private/Tribal agricultural land or non-industrial private forest land
 - ⇒ Must include the entire agricultural operation (land for which you are the operator in FSA farm records management system).
 - ⇒ Applicant elects whether to include the non-industrial private forest land component.
 - ⇒ Land ineligible for CSP includes land enrolled in CRP, WRP, GRP, Conservation Security Program, public land and land used for crop production not planted or considered planted 4 of 6 years prior to June 2008.

Stewardship Threshold Requirements
(If you can check two or more of the statements for each land use you have, you may be a good candidate for CSP)

Cropland:

- ☐ Fields are managed with few signs of erosion or soil being carried to field edges or water

District Commissioners

Mark Ingwersen Chris Hoffman Scott Mitchell
John Myhre Curt Smith

Assistant Commissioners

Orville Berg Earl Muilenburg Phyllis Nielsen
Keith Van Kleek

District Mission Statement

The Dickinson SWCD will serve its customers and the needs of the District's natural resources through education, promotion, and demonstration.

bodies.

- ☐ Crop residues remain on fields after harvest, or cover crops are planted.
- ☐ Grass or woody buffer areas intercept field runoff prior to entering streams, ditches, lakes, etc.
- ☐ Nutrients are applied according to land grant university recommendations.
- ☐ Areas on your farm are actively managed for wildlife habitat.
- ☐ If you irrigate your cropland, water application is scheduled based on soil moisture monitoring and/or evapotranspiration monitoring.

Pastureland:

- ☐ Pastures show few signs of erosion from livestock trails, feeding areas and watering areas.
- ☐ There is a healthy stand of grass and enough forage for your livestock.
- ☐ Livestock access to streams, ponds and lakes is managed.
- ☐ Pastures or areas adjacent to your pastures are actively managed for wildlife habitat.
- ☐ If you irrigate your pastureland, water application is scheduled based on soil moisture monitoring and/or evapotranspiration monitoring.

Non-industrial private forest land:

Non-industrial private forest land "is rural land with existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees." Applicants elect whether or not to submit non-industrial private forest land for funding consideration. Non-industrial private forest land will be ranked separately for funding approval against other non-industrial private forest land.

- ☐ Forest/woodland is "green certified" by one of the following recognized programs: Tree Farm System, Green Tag, Smart Wood, Forest Stewardship Council, or Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- ☐ One or more improvements have been made to your forest/woodland in the past 10 years according to a written forest management or stewardship plan that was prepared with assistance from a certified/licensed natural resource professional. Examples of improvements may include prescribed thinning, tree

planting, establishing a firebreak, etc.

- ☐ There is no apparent erosion on harvested or burned areas, roads, skid trails and landings.
- ☐ Native trees are appropriately stocked on the property (except temporarily for areas being reforested) and wildfire risk (in wildfire-prone areas) is minimized by strategically placed narrow firebreaks and wider fuel breaks (which may include roads, streams, riparian areas and other areas managed to slow fire spread).

Other Land:

These areas are within the bounds of your operation. They include incidental areas that are not in agricultural production, or developed areas on the farm or ranch such as farm headquarters, ranch sites, barnyards, feedlots, manure storage facilities, machinery storage areas and material handling facilities. All these areas must meet the following condition for stewardship eligibility to be met.

- ☐ Other lands do not have readily observable erosion or point sources of contamination such as gullies, manure runoff or pesticide runoff.

Payments:

Payments will be made for conservation performance payment points estimated for each agricultural operation by the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). Conservation performance payment points are unique for each agricultural operation and will be based on existing and proposed activities.

Basic payment types:

- Annual payment for existing and additional conservation performance estimated by the CMT by land use and;
- Supplemental payment for the adoption of a resource conserving crop rotation.

If you think you meet applicant, land and stewardship eligibility, and are interested in CSP, contact us at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3, or stop in the Spirit Lake NRCS office at 2412 17th Street, for the next step in the application process.

If you are not currently eligible for CSP, NRCS can assist you with your conservation needs utilizing other programs.

NRCS Staff:

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Betty Romero, Soil Conservation
Technician

IDALS-DSC Staff:

Maxine Butler, State Secretary

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