

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

SUMMARY

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) provides funding for expansion of conservation efforts on agricultural lands to have a greater impact and return on investment.

- Created by the federal Farm Bill in 1996; revised in 2018
- Administered by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Annual program funding (2020/21): \$1.697 billion (\$6.3 million PA)
- Total program funding since inception: \$11.8 billion nationwide

ELIGIBILITY

Who is Eligible?

Agriculture producers with existing conservation practices on their land.

Eligible Costs

Paid through a multi-year contract, with an opportunity for a contract extension.

Contracts provide between \$1,500 - \$40,000 per year not to exceed \$200,000 over 5 years.

- All costs associated with installation of practices identified in the yearly technical guide.
- Maintenance costs for these practices and existing practices in a bundle or as a part of an enhancement.



Last Update: March 2021

FEATURES

Program pays farmers to actively maintain existing conservation practices while implementing additional practices.

Provides funds for “bundles” or sets of practices that must be implemented together, while “enhancements” are single practices which will pair with existing efforts.

Growing in use as a way to improve forest stewardship for private landowners; 2018 Farm Bill increased payment rates for crop rotations, cover crops and advanced grazing.

HELPFUL TIPS

Bundles rank higher than individual enhancements for funding.

Enhancements and supplemental practices can be added to bundles increasing fundability.

Target practices are selected each year for the state; be sure to review if your project fits in these priorities.

2018 Farm Bill changed CSP from an acreage based program to a dollar based program.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply to your local NRCS office:
Lancaster County NRCS: Heather Grove, 717-874-2530
York County NRCS: Eric Samus, 717-894-3001

Annual deadline: June

Link to website with application: [CSP Pennsylvania Application](#)