More Information

- The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) allows farmers and ranchers to maintain or improve existing conservation efforts and adopt new ones on their agriculture operations.

- CSP is the largest conservation program in the United States with 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled in CSP. Participants voluntarily enroll in the program because it helps them enhance natural resources and improve their business operations—providing food, fiber, and energy.

- South Dakota leads the nation with the greatest number of acres enrolled at just over 7 million acres statewide.

- For more information visit https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/sd/programs/financial/csp/  


Deadline for signing an application to be considered for a contract in Fiscal Year 2019 is May 10, 2019.

What do you, the producer, need to prepare an application?

1. Complete Form NRCS-CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application. Your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office will assist you in completing the application.
2. Provide Signature Authority if applicable.
   * Copy of the CCC-901 or CCC-902E (from Farm Service Agency) for entities (joint ventures, corporations, limited liability corporations, limited liability partnerships, trusts, etc.).
   * Copy of the corporate charter, bylaws, court order of appointment, etc., identifying who has authority to sign documents for all United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs.
   * Power of Attorney (form FSA-211, dated 12/17/2008 or later) when documents are signed on behalf of another.
3. Complete Direct Deposit Sign-Up Form (Standard Form 1199A). This form is also provided by your local NRCS field office.
4. Obtain Evidence of Land Control. Obtain FSA-156EZ and Producer Farm Data Report to identify operator and landowner(s). If you are not the operator in FSA records, one of the following must be provided to establish control: Lease showing control OR written documentation from the landowner(s) with signature and legal description or farm and tract number(s) assuring control of land. If applicable, you must also provide permission to install, operate, and maintain the conservation practice(s).
5. Gather Farm Service Agency (FSA) aerial maps or other form of map, aerial photograph, or overlay for land listed on the FSA-156EZ and/or Producer Farm Data Report that you are interested in enrolling in CSP.