

What is CSP?

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that supports ongoing stewardship of private agricultural lands by providing payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources. CSP identifies and rewards those farmers and ranchers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations. Through CSP, the conservation benefits gained will help farms and ranches be more economically and environmentally sustainable and will increase the natural resource benefits for all Americans.

Contract Payments

CSP contract payments include one or more of the following:

- An annual stewardship component for the existing base level conservation treatment.
- An annual existing practice component for maintaining existing conservation practices.
- A one-time new practice component for additional needed practices.
- An enhancement component for exceptional conservation effort and additional conservation practices or activities that provide increased resource benefits beyond the prescribed level. The five enhancement activities are: improving a significant resource concern; improving a priority local resource condition as determined by the NRCS; participating in on-farm conservation research, demonstration, or pilot projects; cooperating with other producers to implement watershed or regional resource conservation plans; and conducting assessment and evaluation activities.

Total payments are determined by the tier of participation:

- For Tier I, contracts are for 5 years; maximum payment is \$20,000 annually.
- For Tier II, contracts are for 5-10 years; maximum payment is \$35,000 annually.
- For Tier III, contracts are for 5-10 years; maximum payment is \$45,000 annually.

This brochure provides examples of the incentive payments and compensation levels offered by the CSP.



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Conservation Security Program Incentive Payments



For More Information

If you need more information about CSP, contact your local USDA Service Center, listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture, or your local conservation district. Information is also available on the Internet at:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp>



Tier 1 Example : Part of Farm Operation

Consider a 1000 acre farm, where 200 acres of the farm are eligible for the CSP (e.g. one to two fields). On this 200 acres, the farmer has a two-year corn-cotton rotation under strict no-till. The soil conditioning index for this system is 0.4. In addition, fertilizer is applied on a site-specific basis using management zones of less than 10 acres and a consultant is hired to scout for pests to optimize the use of pesticides on-farm. Farmer agrees to enhance buffer strips along the field by converting to native warm season grasses.

Practice	Incentive Payment per Acre	
	Alabama	Georgia
Stewardship Payment (Rental Rate x Tier Factor (0.05) x Tier Reduction Factor(0.25))	\$0.54	\$0.54
Existing Practice Payment (25% of Stewardship Payment)	\$0.14	\$0.14
Enhancement Payments		
- 0.4 Increase in SCI	\$4.64	\$4.64
- Use of No-Till (Low STIR Index)	\$2.00	\$2.00
- Use of Precision Ag.	\$8.00	\$10.00
- Saving Energy with No-Till	\$0.90	\$0.90
- Scout for pests	\$5.00	\$10.00
- 2 Crops in Rotation	\$5.00	\$0.00
- Enhance Buffers (2 acres total)	\$75.00	\$50.00
Total Payment per Acre per Year	\$26.60	\$28.47
Total Payment for all 200 Acres per Year	\$5320	\$5694

Tier 2 Example: All Fields on Farm Operation

Consider a 1000 acre farm that is eligible for the CSP. On this farm, the farmer grows cotton and peanuts in rotation with a winter rye cover crop using strip tillage. The soil conditioning index for this system is 0.3. The farmer uses GPS to control traffic on the field, conducts annual soil and plant tissue tests to determine optimal fertilizer application rates, and hires a consultant to scout for pests and help determine optimal herbicide application practices.

Practice	Incentive Payment per Acre	
	Alabama	Georgia
Stewardship Payment (Rental Rate x Tier Factor (0.10) x Tier Reduction Factor(0.50))	\$2.15	\$2.15
Existing Practice Payment (25% of Stewardship Payment)	\$0.54	\$0.54
Enhancement Payments		
- 0.3 Increase in SCI	\$3.48	\$3.48
- Use of Strip-Till (Low STIR Index) w/GPS	\$2.00	\$2.00
- Annual Soil/Plant Tissue Testing	\$6.00	\$3.00
- Saving Energy with Strip Till	\$0.70	\$0.70
- 70% of Soil Surface Covered w/Residue	\$0.00	\$7.00
- Scout for pests	\$5.00	\$10.00
- 2 Crops in Rotation	\$5.00	\$0.00
Total Payment per Acre per Year	\$24.87	\$28.87
Total Payment for all 1000 Acres per Year	\$24,870	\$28,870

Tier 3 Example: Whole Farm Operation

Consider an entire 1000 acre farm operation that is eligible for the CSP and has met all the resource requirements established by NRCS. On this farm, the farmer grows corn, wheat and soybeans in rotation with a winter annual legume cover crop using strict no-till. The soil conditioning index for this system is 0.7. In addition, the farmer optimally applies manure to supply 90% of nutrients for crops based on the phosphorus needs of the crop and applies all inputs using precision agriculture techniques.

Practice	Incentive Payment per Acre	
	Alabama	Georgia
Stewardship Payment (Rental Rate x Tier Factor (0.15) x Tier Reduction Factor(0.75))	\$4.84	\$4.84
Existing Practice Payment (25% of Stewardship Payment)	\$1.21	\$1.21
Enhancement Payments		
- 0.7 Increase in SCI	\$8.12	\$8.12
- Use of No-Till (Low STIR Index) w/GPS	\$4.00	\$4.00
- Site-Specific Application of Inputs	\$8.00	\$20.00
- Use of Legume Cover Crop	\$20.00	\$10.00
- 2 Crops in Rotation	\$5.00	\$0.00
- Saving Energy with No-Till and Legume Cover Crop	\$1.00	\$1.00
- Use of manure as source of fertilizer	\$1.10	\$20.00
Total Payment per Acre per Year	\$53.27	\$69.17
Total Payment for all 1000 Acres per Year	\$45,000 (Limit Reached)	\$45,000 (Limit Reached)

*** Incentive payment rates are based upon CSP rates for 2006 for eligible watersheds in Alabama and Georgia. Actual rates for specific farms may vary and change from those presented here. Contact your local NRCS office for specific rates for your area.