

Conservation Stewardship Program FY17

A large, semi-transparent logo of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is positioned on the right side of the slide. It features a stylized, light blue water drop shape with a circular element at the bottom right.

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

John Mayberger
NE CSP Program Manager
December 1, 2016

Brach Johnson

CSP Purpose

- The purpose of CSP is to encourage producers to address priority resource concerns and improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities on eligible land.

Conservation Stewardship Program

- Nationally 70M acres enrolled since 2010
- Nebraska
 - 8.5M acres since 2010
 - Currently
 - 2654 active contracts
 - 5.1M acres
 - \$51M in annual payments

Conservation Stewardship Program

- 2014 Farm Bill allows for a one-time renewal on expiring contracts
 - Nebraska 2017-1 Renewals
 - 291 applications
 - 797,000 acres

CSP Purpose and Applicability

- Through CSP, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers
- CSP is applicable in any of the 50 states, Caribbean Area, and Pacific Islands

CSP Payments

- Annual payments will be comprised of:
 - Existing Activity Payment (EAP)
 - Additional Activity Payments (AAP)
 - Supplemental Payment, if applicable
 - Resource Conserving Crop Rotation

Minimum Payment

Minimum Contract Payment:

- In any fiscal year that a contract's payment amount is less than \$1,500.

Payment Rates

Existing Activity Payment

$$(A \times B) + (C \times D)$$

- Where:
- A= the number of resource concerns met at the time of application.
- B= a standard rate that is the same for all resource concerns.
- C= the acres in the land use.
- D= a standard rate that is determined for each land use.

Payment Rates

- Existing Activity Payment

*Number of resource concerns met at the time of application x \$350 (land use neutral)

Land use rate x acres

- Crop and Pastured Cropland= \$7.50 per acre
- Pasture = \$3.00 per acre
- Range = \$1.00 per acre
- Forest = \$0.50 per acre
- Farmstead=\$7.50 per acre
- Associated Agriculture Land=\$0.50 per acre

Payment Rates

Additional Activity Payment

$$(A \times B)$$

Where:

A= amount of unit (acres, feet, etc.)

B= payment rate

Reminder: For CSP, there is no payment rate increase for HU participants.

Additional Activities

- Practices
- Enhancements



Wildlife friendly fencing



Wildlife Friendly Haying



Unharvested Grain



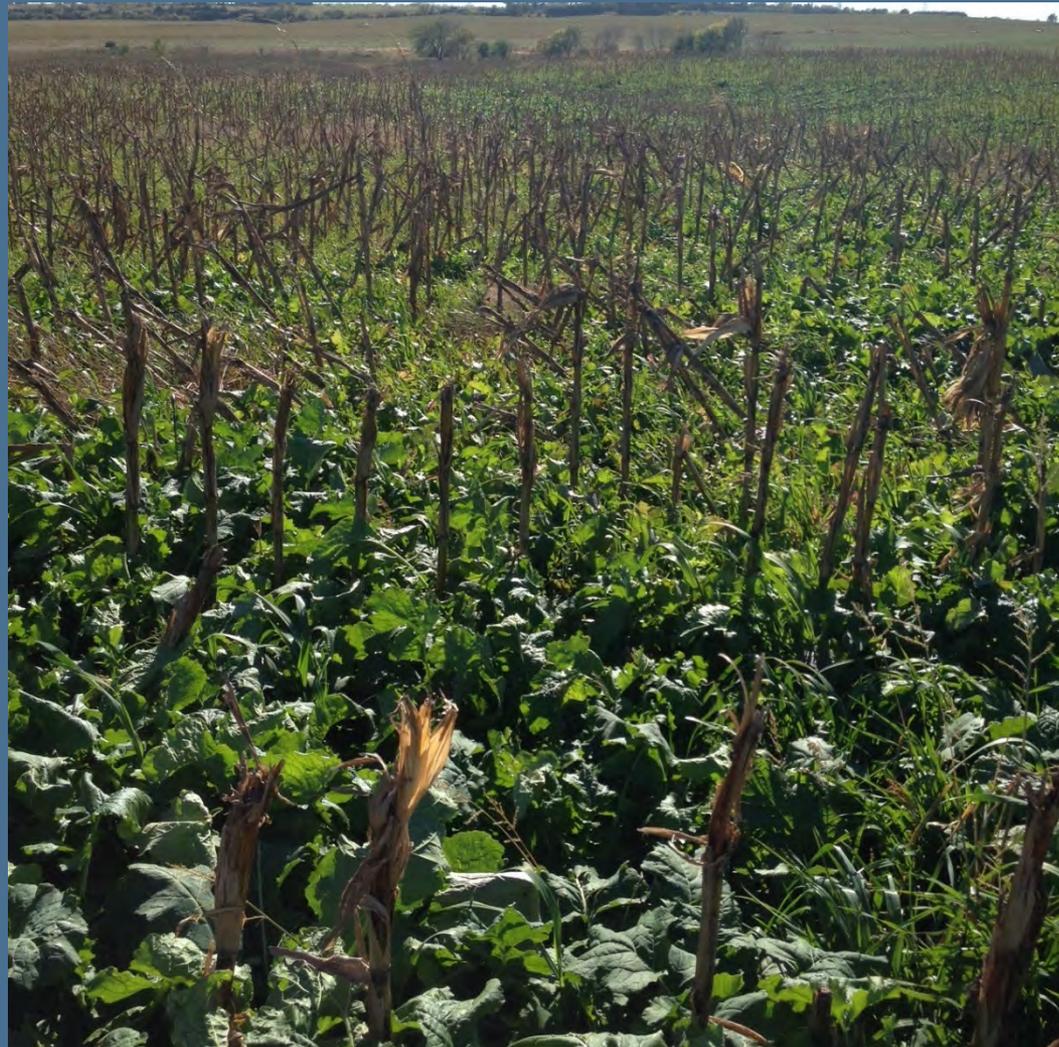
Range Monitoring



Pollinator Seedings



Cover Crops



Field Border



Enhancements

- Full listing can be found on the NE NRCS website



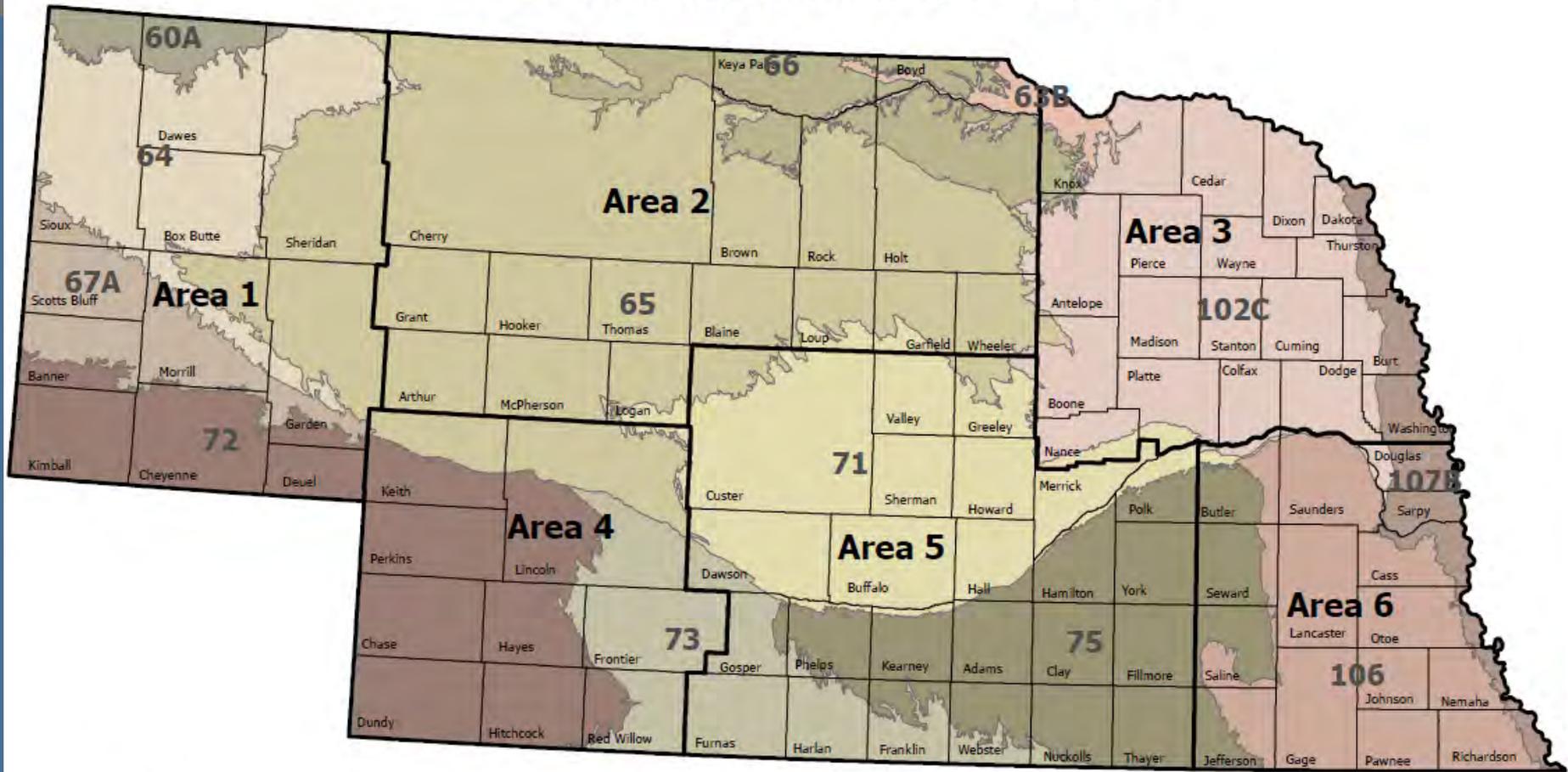
CSP Conservation Activities

- Enhancements are now directly linked to existing NRCS conservation practice standards
- Additional Enhancements are available
 - 120 in FY16 → 223 in FY17
- Additional Bundles are available
 - 14 in FY16 → 32 in FY17
- Additional Practices are available
 - 35 in FY16 → 77 in FY17

2017-1 General Signup

- Signup cutoff – February 3, 2017
- Nebraska allocation
 - 430,872 acres total (2nd in U.S.)
 - 71,000 acres Ogallala Aquifer Initiative

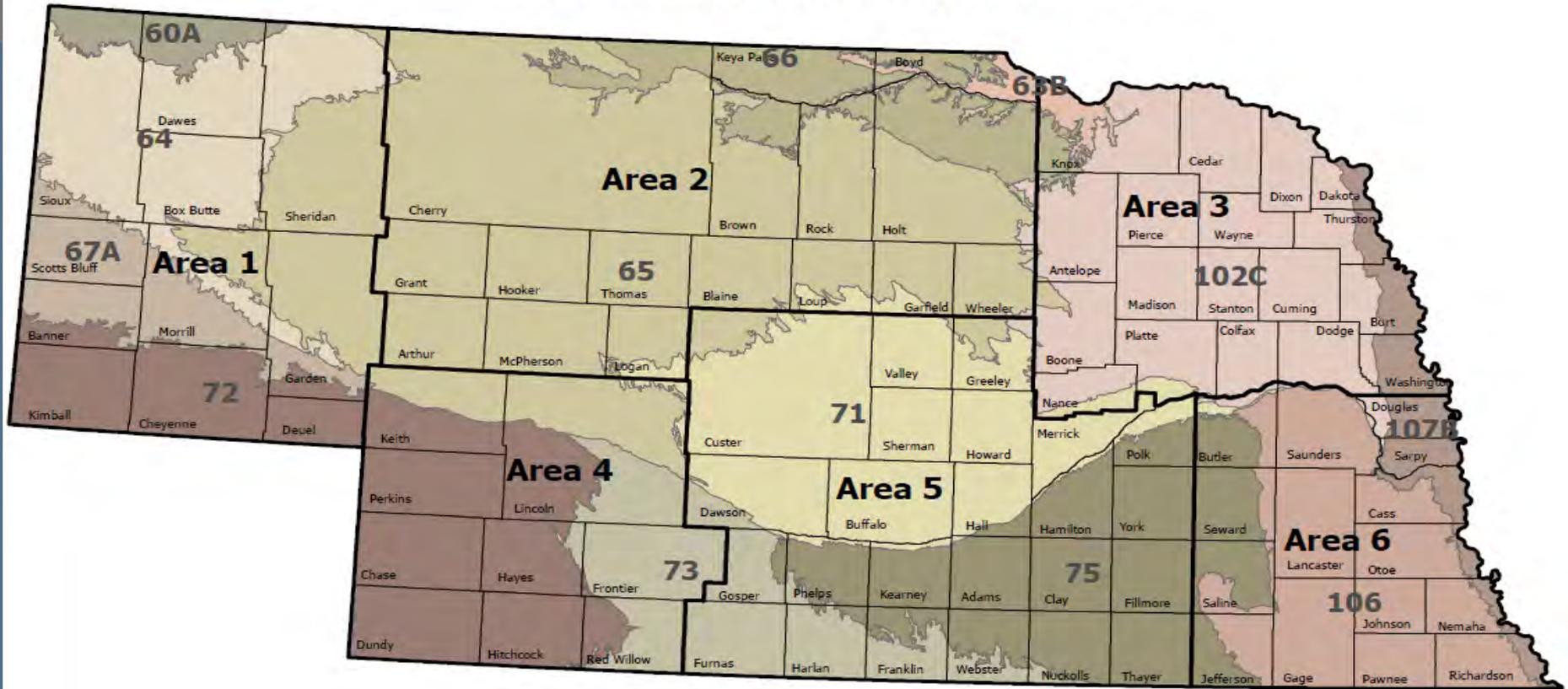
CSP Ranking Pool Proposal 2017



 CSP 2017 Proposed Pools

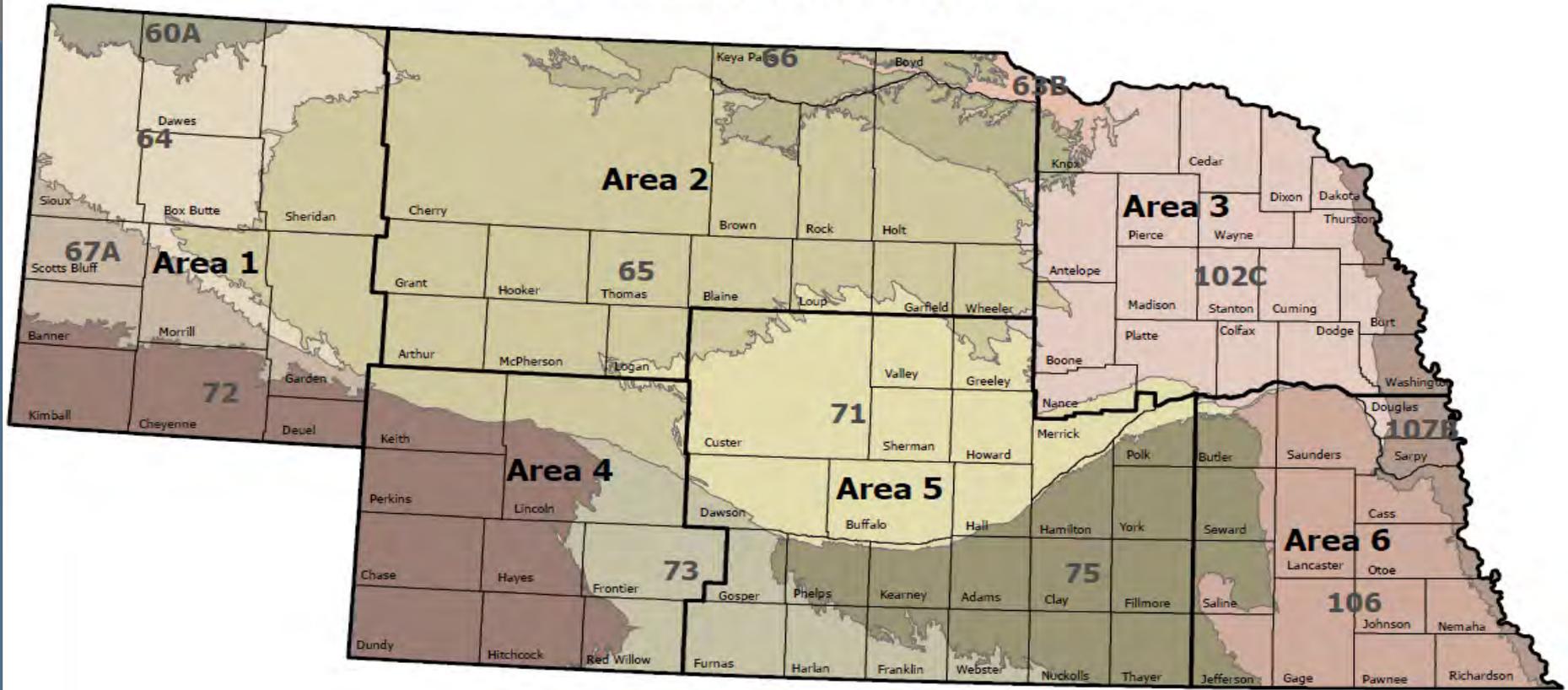
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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Central High Plains, Northern Part |  Dakota-Nebraska Eroded Tableland |  Nebraska and Kansas Loess-Drift Hills |
|  Central High Tableland |  Iowa and Missouri Deep Loess Hills |  Pierre Shale Plains and Badlands |
|  Central Loess Plains |  Loess Uplands |  Rolling Plains and Breaks |
|  Central Nebraska Loess Hills |  Mixed Sandy and Silty Tableland |  Southern Black Glaciated Plains |
|  Nebraska Sand Hills |  Nebraska Sand Hills |  Southern Rolling Pierre Shale Plains |

CSP Ranking Pool Proposal 2017



Resource Concern	Targeted RCs by Pool					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Soil erosion	X	X	X	X	X	X
SQ Degradation		X	X		X	X
Excess Water						
Insufficient water	X			X	X	
WQ degradation	X	X	X	X	X	X
Air quality						
Degraded plants						
Fish & wildlife	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lvstk Prod Limit.	X	X	X	X		X
Inefficient energy						

CSP Ranking Pool Proposal 2017



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Soil erosion	X	X	X	X	X	X
SQ Degradation		X	X		X	X
Excess Water						
Insufficient water	X			X	X	
WQ degradation	X	X	X	X	X	X
Air quality						
Degraded plants						
Fish & wildlife	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lvstk Prod Limit.	X	X	X	X		X
Inefficient energy						

Local Ranking Questions

Area 1

1. Is at least 25% of the application located in an NRD water allocation area? [5 Points]
2. Is at least 25% of the land in the offer located within a Biologically Unique Landscape (BUL)? [5 points]
3. Will the resource concern "Insufficient Water" be treated through the use of conservation activities on at least 50% of the irrigated acres in this application? [15 Points]
4. Will the conservation activities included in the application create or enhance wildlife habitat and/or pollinator habitat on 5% or less of the acres in the application? [4 Points]
5. Will the conservation activities included in the application create or enhance wildlife habitat and/or pollinator habitat on 6% to 20% of the acres in the application? [6 Points]
6. Will the conservation activities included in the application create or enhance wildlife habitat and/or pollinator habitat on more than 20% of the acres in the application? [10 Points]

Ranking Question Values

- National 500 pts
- State 300 pts
- Local 150 pts
- Efficiency 50 pts

State Technical Committee Input

- Ranking Pool Boundaries
- 5 Targeted Resource Concerns for each pool
- Local Ranking Questions
- Please provide comments to John Mayberger
john.Mayberger@ne.usda.gov by December 16, 2016.

CSP Eligibility

- There are three determinations that NRCS must make before NRCS will consider an application eligible:
 - Applicant Eligibility
 - Land Eligibility
 - Stewardship Threshold Eligibility

CSP Eligibility 2017

- Applicant Eligibility
 - No change
- Land Eligibility
 - Two new additional land use types
 - Farmsteads
 - Associated Agricultural Lands (i.e. Riparian areas, field edges, odd areas, etc.)

CSP Eligibility 2017

- Stewardship Threshold
 - General sign-ups:
 - Applicants must meet at least two resource concerns at the time of application and one additional resource concern by the end of the contract on every land use included in the application
 - Exceptions:
 - Farmstead Exemption
 - Associated Ag Land Exemption

CSP Statutory Limitations

- Stewardship Threshold
 - Renewal sign-ups:
 - Either of the following:
 - Renewal offer meets at least 2 Targeted resource concerns per land use at time of renewal application.
- OR
 - Renewal offer will meet at least 2 additional Targeted resource concerns per land use by end of the renewal contract.

CSP Evaluation and Ranking

- NRCS must evaluate each application to determine if the stewardship threshold requirements are met
 - The Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool (CAET) is used for this purpose
- NRCS must rank the applications in order to determine which applications will be selected for funding
 - The Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT), available through ProTracts, will be used to rank CSP applications



NEW



NEW

Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool (CAET)

- Demonstration by Brach Johnson





United States Department of Agriculture

Questions?

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