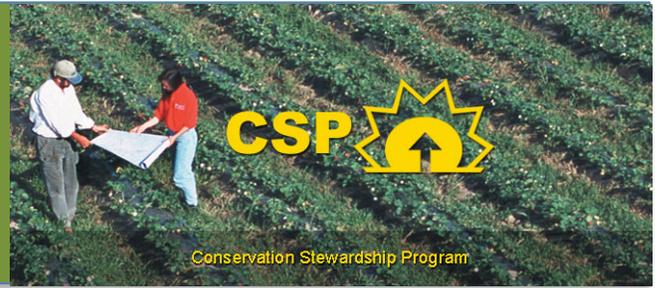




# Payment for Performance:



**April 2, 2015**

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) presents a significant shift in how NRCS provides conservation program payments. Instead of using the traditional compensation model that pays a per-acre rental rate or a percentage of the estimated cost of installing a practice, CSP pays for conservation performance — the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

### Annual Payments

Under CSP, participants receive annual land use payments for operational level environmental benefits they produce. A split payment structure provides separate annual payments for conservation activities being added (additional activities) and those already in place (existing activities).

A CSP participant’s annual land use payments for both additional and existing activities are calculated as:

$$\text{Annual Land Use Payments} = \text{Land Use Acres} \times \text{Performance Points (additional or existing)} \times \text{Land Use Payment Rate}$$

Note: A participant must install additional activities on a land use in order for that land use to earn annual payments.

### Supplemental Payment

A supplemental payment is available to participants earning an annual payment who also agree to adopt or improve a resource-conserving crop rotation on cropland. The supplemental payment rates are based on differences in crop production costs between conventional and either implementing a new resource-conserving crop rotations or enhancing an existing resource-conserving crop rotation.

### 2015 CSP Payment Rates

#### Annual Payments

Land use	Additional Activity Payment Rate	Existing Activity Payment Rate
Cropland	\$0.40157/point	\$0.02897/point
Pastured Cropland	\$0.31870/point	\$0.04213/point
Pasture	\$0.31870/point	\$0.02490/point
Range	\$0.12499/point	\$0.00990/point
Forest	\$0.15803/point	\$0.00854/point

### Supplemental Payments

Adopt Resource-Conservation Crop Rotation - \$15.00/acre

Improved Resource-Conservation Crop Rotation - \$5.00/acre

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*