



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46278

February 13, 2006

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. 300-6-10

SUBJECT: LTP – Conservation Security Program Fiscal Year 2006 Eligibility in Relation to Other Farm Bill Program Contracts

Purpose: To distribute guidance concerning the eligibility of other Farm Bill Program Contracts with the Conservation Security Program.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2006.

The CSP manual (http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiiis.dll/M/M_440_518_E.htm) provides policy on other Farm Bill programs and how they impact Conservation Security Program (CSP) eligibility and payments.

To ensure NRCS Indiana is providing a consistent message to our customers, the following guidance will be used when assisting producers with eligible Farm Bill program contracts in relation to CSP.

CSP ELIGIBILITY: Basic eligibility for CSP requires applicants to verify to the satisfaction of NRCS, with two years of documentation, that they are addressing the water quality and soil quality resource concerns on their offered acreage. In fiscal year 2006, the national Water Quality Tool determines the water quality eligibility. **There is no requirement for CSP applicants to currently meet NRCS Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) standards to be eligible for CSP. CSP applicants must meet Quality Criteria for treating resource concerns, which does not necessarily require them to meet an individual practice standard such as Nutrient Management (590).**

OTHER FARM BILL PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY: Basic eligibility for other Farm Bill program incentives and cost-share requires that the applicant is currently not addressing their resource concerns according to the eFOTG standards.

Provided all other eligibility criteria are met, Farm Bill program Participants scheduled for practices in existing Farm Bill Program contracts are eligible to apply for CSP.

For example, participants currently in the first or second year of an EQIP contract scheduled to receive Nutrient Management (590) incentives may be eligible for CSP. The fact that they were not meeting the 590 standard in the eFOTG for at least 2 years prior to CSP **does not** automatically make them ineligible for CSP.

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In this example, the producer may not have been applying all of the necessary treatments to meet the Nutrient Management standard when they applied for EQIP, but may have the documentation necessary to support a passing score on the Water Quality Tool for CSP from their prior nutrient management activities.

Consult National Bulletin No. 300-6-14 for restrictions on receiving CSP enhancement payments on acreage currently receiving payments for the same activity at the same time.

http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiis.dll/NB/NB_300_6_14.htm.

NRCS should verify CSP eligibility if needed through review of records or other documentation provided by the applicant.

Decisions made in prior year CSP watersheds that contradict the above guidance are not impacted since the use of the Water Quality Tool specifies the minimum eligibility for CSP in fiscal year 2006, and was not available in prior years.

Please ensure that NRCS is telling potential and existing program participants the correct information to help them make the best business decisions concerning Farm Bill Program participation.

Direct all questions related to this bulletin to Joe Williams at (317) 290-3200 ext. 311, or to Shannon Zezula, Acting Assistant State Conservationist - Programs, at (317) 290-3200 ext. 388.

/s/

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