

Conservation Stewardship Program Conservation Activity List



Name: _____

Date: _____

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages agricultural producers to improve conservation systems by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. Conservation activities include enhancements and conservation practices.

Enhancements – Conservation activities selected by producers that are used to treat natural resources and improve conservation performance

Practices – Conservation practices are used in CSP for the purpose of encouraging producers to meet additional stewardship thresholds. During the application process, an applicant may identify resource concern stewardship thresholds by land use that they are not meeting with existing activities, and agree to meet them by installing new conservation practices. The new conservation practices that need to be installed will be identified by NRCS during the application process. During on-site field verification for approved applicants, NRCS will determine the required practices using the conservation planning process.

Activities that interest you	NRCS Code	Eligible Land Use				Enhancement Name	Enhancement Criteria
		Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest		
	AIR01	Crop				Injecting or incorporating manure	Injecting manure 2 inches or more below soil surface or incorporating applied manure within 24 hours to keep nutrients in place and manage odors.
	AIR02	Crop	Pasture			Nitrification inhibitors for nitrous oxide control	Use of a nitrification inhibitor with all ammonia-based nitrogen fertilizer to control the rate of ammonia conversion.
	AIR03	Crop				Replace burning of prunings, removals and other crop residues with non-burning alternatives (chipping, grinding, shredding, mowing or composting)	Use of non-burning alternatives to dispose of prunings, removals and other crop residues from orchards, vineyards and other crops. Non-burning alternatives would include chipping, grinding, shredding, mowing or composting these materials.
	AIR04	Crop	Pasture			Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift	Use chemical drift reduction technologies to reduce drift of applied agricultural chemicals from the intended target. Drift reduction reduces damage to non-target desirable plants and animal habitats and reduces pollution of water bodies. Reducing chemical drift may improve air quality by decreasing particulate matter in the air, and in some cases reduce the potential for release of volatile organic compounds (ozone precursors) into the air.
	AIR05	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Dust control on unpaved roads and surfaces	Use of a dust palliative on unpaved roads and other surfaces to keep road material in form of aggregates which are large enough to prevent entrainment into the air.
	AIR06	Crop				Replacing oil- and wood-fired heaters in orchards and vineyards	Replace oil- and wood-fired heaters in orchards and vineyards to manage particulate matter emissions from frost protection.
	AIR07	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology	Utilize electronically-controlled or managed chemical spray application technology to more precisely apply agricultural pesticides to intended targets, which can reduce the total amount of chemical applied, and reduces the potential for chemical drift.
	ANM01	Crop				Drainage water management for seasonal wildlife habitat	Managing soil and/or surface water levels during the off-season to provide seasonal wildlife habitat.
	ANM02	Crop				Defer crop production on temporary and seasonal wetlands	Deferring crop production on temporary and/or seasonal wetlands until after spring migratory bird season to promote early successional wetland habitat.
	ANM03		Pasture			Incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15% or more of the forage base	Incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15% or more of the forage base using adapted species and varieties, appropriate seeding rates, and timing of seeding.
	ANM04	Crop	Pasture			Extend existing filter strips for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Extend existing filter strips to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals. Wider filter strips provide more effective habitat for terrestrial animals and provide more inputs to benefit instream habitats.
	ANM05	Crop	Pasture			Extending riparian forest buffers for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Extend existing buffers to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals. Wider buffers provide more effective riparian habitat for terrestrial animals and provide more inputs to benefit instream habitats.
	ANM06	Crop	Pasture	Range		Extending existing riparian herbaceous cover for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Extend existing buffers to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals. Wider buffers provide more effective riparian habitat for terrestrial animals and provide more inputs to benefit instream habitats.
	ANM07	Crop	Pasture			Extending existing field borders for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Extend existing field borders to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals. Wider field borders provide more effective habitat for terrestrial animals.

Conservation Stewardship Program Conservation Activity List



	ANM08	Crop	Pasture			Improve the plant diversity and structure of non-cropped areas for wildlife food and habitat	Improve plant diversity and structure of non-cropped areas for wildlife food and habitat through the planting and/or management of native plant species.
	ANM09		Pasture	Range		Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat	Implement a grazing management plan that allows for rest periods to provide adequate residue for nesting and fawning cover and increase diversity of vegetation structure to benefit a variety of wildlife species.
	ANM10	Crop				Harvest hay in a manner that allows wildlife to flush and escape	Harvest hay using conservation measures that allow wildlife to flush and escape. Includes timed haying to avoid periods when upland wildlife are nesting or fawning, idling paddocks or pastures and idling hay land during the nesting or fawning period, leaving a residual forage height conducive to wildlife nesting and fawning for the following year, and applying haying techniques that reduce mortality to wildlife.
	ANM11		Pasture	Range	Forest	Patch-burning to enhance wildlife habitat	Use prescribed burning to create patches of different vegetation structure and species composition for the benefit of wildlife.
	ANM12	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Shallow water habitat	Construct, manage or renovate small, shallow wetland sites to encourage water to remain seasonally, often from late winter through early summer (e.g., vernal pools).
	ANM13	Crop	Pasture	Range		Non-forested riparian zone enhancement for fish and wildlife	Utilizing select conservation measures such as relocating equipment operations, trails, or livestock; establishing diverse native vegetation and controlling invasive species; fencing; and extending the width of the riparian zone to enhance wildlife habitat adjacent to riparian zones of streams, ponds, lakes, or wetlands.
	ANM14	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Riparian forest buffer, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat	Managing forested riparian zones to achieve streamside cover and vegetative diversity and structure to improve terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat.
	ANM15				Forest	Forest stand improvement for habitat and soil quality	Creating snags, den trees, and coarse woody debris on the forest floor to a level optimum for native wildlife usage and long-term forest soil health. May be implemented separately or during thinning or harvesting.
	ANM16	Crop				Harvesting crops using a stripper header	Harvesting crops using a combine with a stripper header so residue of a minimum of 18 inches high remains in the field.
	ANM17		Pasture	Range		Monitoring nutritional status of livestock using the NUTBAL PRO System	Use of the NUTBAL PRO software to determine if current diet meets livestock nutritional needs. Requires collection and laboratory analysis of forage or fecal samples to determine the nutritional value of grazing forages.
	ANM18		Pasture	Range	Forest	Retrofit watering facility for wildlife escape	Retrofit existing watering facilities (troughs, tanks, etc.) to allow for escape of wildlife that become trapped while trying to drink.
	ANM19	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Wildlife corridors	Participants will establish corridors with vegetation suited to the natural site conditions and appropriate for the kinds of wildlife present.
	ANM20		Pasture		Forest	Silvopasture for wildlife habitat	Manage silvopastures to promote plant diversity for wildlife habitat.
	ENR01	Crop				Fuel use reduction for field operations	Fuel savings of 20% or greater achieved by a reduction in field operations.
	ENR02		Pasture	Range	Forest	Solar powered electric fence charging systems	Replacement of electric fence charging systems with solar powered systems.
	ENR03	Crop	Pasture	Range		Pumping plant powered by renewable energy	Requires the use of renewable energy—solar or wind – to power pumping plants for irrigation, drainage, livestock, or wildlife.
	ENR04	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Recycle 100% of farm lubricants	Recycle all lubricants used on the farm at an approved petroleum recycling center.
	ENR05	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Locally grown and marketed farm products	At least 85% of the nutrients and /or feed needed for crops and/or livestock come from sources within 100 miles of the farm. Products from the farm are retail marketed within 400 miles of the farm.
	PLT01	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Establish pollinator habitat	Establish nectar and pollen producing plants in non-cropped areas such as field borders, vegetative barriers, contour buffer strips, waterways shelterbelts, windbreaks, conservation cover, and riparian forest and herbaceous buffers.
	PLT02		Pasture	Range	Forest	Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management	Monitor key grazing areas on pastureland and rangeland to determine if current grazing management meets management goals and objectives. A key grazing area is a small area of a pasture that is identified as being representative of the entire pasture.
	PLT03				Forest	Forest stand improvement pre-treating vegetation and fuels	Manage vegetation and fuels in a forested area with mechanical/manual methods to facilitate future treatment with prescribed fire to restore native forest condition.
	PLT04				Forest	Forest Stand Improvement, Prescribed burning	Prescribed use of fire in a forest to restore native forest conditions with a focus on improving the condition of fire-adapted plants and wildlife habitat and reducing the risk of damage from intense, severe wildfires.
	PLT05				Forest	Multi-story cropping, sustainable management of nontimber forest plants	This enhancement is the manipulation of forest species composition, structure, and canopy cover to allow the management and sustainable harvest of native non-timber forest plant(s) such as goldenseal, ramps, mushrooms, ginseng, ferns and maple syrup while maintaining a healthy forest ecosystem.
	PLT06	Crop	Pasture			Renovate a windbreak or shelter belt for wildlife habitat	Renovate a windbreak or shelter belt to add diversity for wildlife habitat. Replace plants threatened by invasive pests such as the emerald ash borer.
	SOE01	Crop				Continuous no till with high residue	Utilize continuous no-till/strip till/direct seed in the rotation in combination with high and low residue producing crops or cover crops to maintain a high level of residue cover through critical erosion periods.
	SOE02	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Protect cultural resources sites with conservation cover	Protect cultural resources by establishing conservation cover on culturally significant sites.
	SQL01	Crop				Controlled traffic system	Confines heavy traffic from tractor drive wheels/tracks, combine wheels, fertilizer or manure spreaders and grain carts to specific lanes through crop fields year after year.

Conservation Stewardship Program Conservation Activity List



SQL02	Crop				Continuous cover crops	Growing continuous seasonal cover crops of grasses, legumes or forbs following all annual crops during all the non-crop production periods of the rotation. Continuous cover cropping is applicable to conventional, specialty and organic crop production systems.
SQL03	Crop				Drainage water management for nutrient, pathogen, or pesticide reduction	Managing soil and/or surface water levels during the off season to reduce nutrients, pathogens, or pesticides leaving the field through drainage systems and flowing into downstream receiving waters. This enhancement may also be utilized to reduce the oxidation of organic matter in the soil and/or reduce wind erosion or particulate matter (dust) emissions.
SQL04	Crop				Use of Cover Crop Mixes	Use of cover crop mixes that contain two (2) or more different species of cover crops.
SQL05	Crop				Use deep rooted crops to breakup soil compaction	Use deep rooted crops to break up pans in the soil to improve internal drainage.
WQL01		Pasture	Range		Biological suppression and other non-chemical techniques to manage brush	Removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants with biological suppression methods.
WQL02		Pasture	Range		Biological suppression and other non-chemical techniques to suppress herbaceous weeds	Removal, reduction or manipulation of herbaceous plants with biological suppression methods.
WQL03		Pasture	Range	Forest	Rotation of supplement and feeding areas	Rotation of Supplementation and Feeding Areas to manage areas of concentrated livestock use to improve livestock distribution and reduce localized areas of disturbances.
WQL04	Crop				Stalk or leaf tissue tests for N application	Use corn stalk and/or leaf tissue tests to adjust nitrogen application rates.
WQL05	Crop				Apply nutrients no more than 30 days prior to planned planting date	Apply nutrients (fertilizer, manure, etc.) no more than 30 days prior to the planned planting date of the crop.
WQL06	Crop	Pasture			Apply controlled release nitrogen fertilizer	Apply only slow-release or controlled release formulations of nitrogen fertilizer.
WQL07	Crop				Split nitrogen applications 50% after crop emergence	Apply 50% or more of the total nitrogen needs after crop emergence.
WQL08	Crop				Apply split applications of nitrogen based on a pre-sidedress nitrogen test on cropland	Use of a Pre-Sidedress Nitrogen Test (PSNT) to determine the need and/or rate of additional nitrogen to be applied during a sidedress application.
WQL09	Crop				Apply phosphorus fertilizer below soil surface	Apply all Phosphorus fertilizer at least 3 inches deep and/or as a 2X2 row starter.
WQL10	Crop				Plant an annual grass-type cover crop that will scavenge residual nitrogen	Plant an annual, grass-type cover crop that will scavenge nitrogen left in the soil after the harvest of a previous crop.
WQL11	Crop	Pasture			Precision application technology to apply nutrients	Use of precision agriculture technologies to apply nutrients to fit the variation in site-specific conditions found within fields.
WQL12		Pasture	Range	Forest	Managing livestock access to water bodies/courses	Install structures or implement grazing management actions that assist in managing livestock access to water bodies and water courses.
WQL13	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	High level Integrated Pest Management to reduce pesticide environmental risk	Utilize advanced Integrated Pest Management (IPM) prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression techniques, and only apply the lowest risk pesticides available in an environmentally sound manner when monitoring indicates that an economic pest threshold has been exceeded. Pesticide applications must follow all label requirements.
WQL14	Crop	Pasture			Land apply only treated manure	Field apply only manure that has been treated to stabilize nutrients and reduce odors and pathogens. Acceptable treatment alternatives are composting, anaerobic digesters or storage in a composting barn.
WQL15	Crop	Pasture			Reduce the concentration of nutrients on farm by limiting the amount of feed and fertilizer brought on livestock farms	Grow at least 75% of feed for livestock on the farm and use manure from the livestock to supply at least 50% of N, 90% of P and 90% K for crops grown on the farm.
WQL16	Crop				Use of legume cover crops as a nitrogen source	Produce at least 70% of the operation's nitrogen needs through the use of cover crops or the utilization of manure.
WQL17	Crop				Use of non-chemical methods to kill cover crops	Where cover crops are grown, eliminate herbicide use by using a roller crimper to kill the cover crop or use a cool season crop that will die back naturally as summer crops grow.
WQT01	Crop	Pasture			Irrigation system automation	Using GPS guided variable rate irrigation or other innovative technologies that allow irrigation water application based on variable site conditions within a field.
WQT02	Crop				Mulching for moisture conservation	Using plastic or fiber mulch to reduce irrigation evaporation losses from bare soil surfaces.
WQT03	Crop	Pasture			Irrigation pumping plant evaluation	Evaluate existing pumping plant and identify and implement maintenance items needed to improve efficiency.
WQT04	Crop	Pasture			Regional weather networks for irrigation scheduling	Use data from a regional weather network to improve irrigation scheduling.
WQT05	Crop	Pasture			Remote monitoring and notification of irrigation pumping plant operation	A system for monitoring the status of an irrigation pumping plant and notifying the operator by a wireless connection of a change in the operating status of the irrigation system.

Conservation Stewardship Program Conservation Activity List



Conservation practices that interest you	Code	Eligible Land Use			Practice Name	Practice Definition	
	314		Pasture	Range	Forest	Brush Management	Removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants on rangeland, native or naturalized pasture, pasture, hayland and forest lands where removal or reduction of excessive woody (non-herbaceous) plants is desired.
	328	Crop				Conservation Crop Rotation	Growing crops in a recurring sequence on the same field to control erosion, improve soil organic matter, balance nutrients, improve water use efficiency, manage saline seeps, manage pests and/or provide food and cover for wildlife
	329	Crop				Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round while limiting soil-disturbing activities to only those necessary to place nutrients, condition residue and plant crops.
	338		Pasture	Range	Forest	Prescribed Burning	Controlled fire applied to a predetermined areas to maintain or enhance fire dependent ecologies.
	340	Crop				Cover Crop	The planting of crops such as grasses, legumes and forbs to provide seasonal cover that will reduce erosion, improve soil organic matter, promote efficient nutrient cycling, fix nitrogen in the soil, suppress weeds, increase biodiversity and/or provide food and cover for wildlife.
	342	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Critical Area Planting	Establishment of permanent vegetation on sites that have or are expected to have high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.
	344	Crop				Residue Management, Seasonal	Managing the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface during a specified period of the year, while planting annual crops on a clean-tilled seedbed, or when growing biennial or perennial seed crops.
	345	Crop				Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round while limiting the soil-disturbing activities used to grow crops in systems where the entire field surface is tilled prior to planting.
	346	Crop				Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	Managing the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface year-round, while growing crops on pre-formed ridges alternated with furrows protected by crop residue.
	380	Crop	Pasture	Range		Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Windbreaks or shelterbelts are single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs in linear configurations to reduce surface wind speeds in order to control wind erosion, manage snow deposition, reduce the spread of odors, reduce pesticide spray drift and/or provide wildlife food and cover.
	383		Pasture	Range	Forest	Fuelbreak	A strip or block of land on which the vegetation, debris and detritus have been reduced and/or modified to control or diminish the risk of the spread of fire crossing the strip or block of land.
	384				Forest	Forest Slash Treatment	Treating woody plant residues created during forestry, agroforestry and horticultural activities to reduce fire hazards, insect infestations and/or improve the site for natural regeneration.
	386	Crop				Field Border	A strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field to provide a buffer between cropland and non-cropped areas to reduce cropland impacts and provide wildlife food and cover.
	390	Crop	Pasture	Range		Riparian Herbaceous Cover	Grasses, grass-like plants and forbs that are tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils and that are established or managed in the transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats to provide a buffer between agricultural areas and riparian areas and to enhance riparian zone functions.
	391	Crop	Pasture			Riparian Forest Buffer	An area predominantly trees and/or shrubs that are tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils and that are established or managed in the transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats to provide a buffer between agricultural areas and riparian areas and to enhance riparian zone functions.
	393	Crop				Filter Strip	A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation established on cropland that removes contaminants from overland flow.
	394		Pasture	Range	Forest	Firebreak	A permanent or temporary strip of bare or vegetated land established to retard the movement of fire.
	395	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Stream Habitat Improv/Mgmt	Maintain, improve or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream, and its associated riparian zone, necessary for meeting the life history requirements of desired aquatic species.
	449	Crop	Pasture			Irrigation Water Management	The process of determining and controlling the volume, frequency and application rate of irrigation water in a planned, efficient manner.
	511		Pasture			Forage Harvest Management	The timely cutting and removal of forages from the field as hay, green-chop or ensilage.
	512		Pasture			Pasture and Hay Planting	Establishing native or introduced forage species.
	528		Pasture	Range	Forest	Prescribed Grazing	Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals in order to enhance or maintain good forage production and provide wildlife food and cover.
	550			Range		Range Planting	Establishment of adapted perennial vegetation such as grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs and trees in order to establish a function range ecology.
	612				Forest	Tree/Shrub Establishment	Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration.
	643	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats	Restoring and managing rare and declining habitats and their associated wildlife species to conserve biodiversity.
	644	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Retaining, developing or managing wetland habitat for wetland wildlife.
	645	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Provide and manage upland habitats and connectivity within the landscape for wildlife.
	647	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	Manage early plant succession to benefit desired wildlife or natural communities by increasing plant community diversity.
	650	Crop	Pasture	Range		Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	Replacing, releasing and/or removing selected trees and shrubs or rows within an existing windbreak or shelterbelt, adding rows to the windbreak or shelterbelt or removing selected tree and shrub branches.

Conservation Stewardship Program Conservation Activity List



	654				Forest	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	The closure, decommissioning, or abandonment of roads, trails, and/or landings and associated treatment to enhance forest functions.
	655				Forest	Forest Trails & Landings	A temporary or infrequently used route, path or cleared area within a forest established to provide access to the forest while limiting damage to the forest.
	660				Forest	Tree/Shrub Pruning	The removal of all or part of selected branches, leaders or roots from trees and shrubs to improve forest health and functions.
	666				Forest	Forest Stand Improvement	The manipulation of species composition, stand structure and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation to enhance forest health and functions.
	CCR99	Crop				Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation	A rotation consisting of (1) at least one annual crop combined with two or more years of a perennial grass and/or legume; or (2) a minimum of three different full-season crops where at least 1/3 of the rotation shall include a crop defined as a resource conserving crop.
	FRD01	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	On Farm Research and Demonstration	On farm research and demonstration consists of the implementation of applied research projects on working farms to gather information and demonstrate the efficacy of the activity. The projects must fit within identified state priority topic areas.
	FPP02	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	On Farm Pilot Project	On farm pilots consist of the installation, monitoring and publicizing of projects that fit within the identified state priority areas. Pilots should be practices, components, or management techniques that have shown environmental benefits through research but are not used by farmers in the project area. Practices, components, or management techniques must be implemented, monitored and publicized according protocols developed specifically for the project.