



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

CSP Overview Sheet

Air Quality and Atmospheric Change: Basic Eligibility and Enhancement Activities

Basic Eligibility

In order to qualify for any CSP enhancement payments under Air Resources (Air Quality and Atmospheric Change), clients must meet all applicable agriculturally-related requirements for their state's air quality State Implementation Plan (SIP), if the watershed in which they are located lies within a non-attainment area.

Enhancement Activities

Beyond meeting basic eligibility criteria, clients must initiate or maintain one or more activities that have been identified with improving air quality and/or mitigating atmospheric change. There are many of these “enhancement” activities specifically related to air resources. These enhancement activities fall under six general agriculturally-related air resource categories or issues. These are:

- Reducing particulate matter (both coarse—PM₁₀, and fine—PM_{2.5})
- Reducing odors
- Reducing airborne chemical drift
- Reducing ammonia emissions
- Reducing ozone precursors (both volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, and nitrogen oxides)
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O) and increasing carbon sequestration



Benefits

These activities will directly benefit air quality, including: Improving visibility; reducing near-surface ozone levels; reducing transport of fine and coarse particulates; decreasing livestock-related off-site odor issues; reducing the potential for airborne agricultural chemicals and volatile organic compounds to affect human habitation; decreasing agriculture's potential contribution to the buildup of greenhouse gases; and increasing the sequestration of carbon on crop, range and pasture lands.