

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

(CSP)



What Incentives Does CSP Offer?

Existing Activity Payments:

Landowners can receive payments to maintain conservation activities that are already in place.

Additional Activity Payments: CSP also incentivizes additional conservation activities.

Supplemental Payments: Producers who choose to adopt or improve a resource-conserving crop rotation as part of their CSP contract will receive an additional payment.

-How Does CSP Work?-

The Conservation Stewardship Program is a natural resources protection program, administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), that's geared toward working farmers. CSP enhancements improve natural resources and conservation outcomes. Farmers work with CSP to develop individualized plans tailored to their land and conservation goals. By providing comprehensive conservation assistance to whole farms, CSP offers farmers the opportunity to earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, rotational grazing, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and the transition to organic farming – which can improve yields, increase outputs, and make farms more resilient to weather. CSP contracts last for 5 years. CSP contributes to the long-term goals of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Strategy by incentivizing practices that can enhance carbon sequestration, water quality, soil health, energy efficiency and more.

Who Is Eligible?

Eligible Lands: CSP is available for private agricultural lands, tribal lands, and non-industrial forest land under effective control of the CSP applicant.

-Cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, and more land types are eligible.

Landowners: Land must be under control of the CSP applicant for the duration of the 5-year CSP contract. The landowner's entire agricultural operation must be enrolled.

-And-

-Farmers and ranchers must meet conservation-based NRCS standards or "Stewardship Thresholds". Contact your local NRCS office for details.

-Beginning, socially disadvantaged, and military veteran farmers are given special priority.

5

Steps to NRCS Assistance

1

PLANNING

Visit your local NRCS office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.

2

APPLICATION

With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.

3

ELIGIBILITY

As part of applying, NRCS will file paperwork to ensure your eligibility for assistance.

4

RANKING

NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.

5

IMPLEMENTING

Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.



BUTTE COUNTY

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation



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-How to Apply-

Sign-ups for CSP are available annually. To apply for the CSP, visit your local NRCS office, in your local USDA Service Center:

Oroville Service center
150 Chuck Yeager Way
Oroville, CA 95965-9215
Phone: (530) 534-0112



Email: Daniel.taverner@ca.usda.gov

Website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

-Resources and Information-

-Learn more about the **Conservation Stewardship Program**:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/financial/csp/?cid=nrcs143_008316

-**Get Started** with NRCS:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/home/?cid=stelprdb1193811>

-The SALC Strategy is a set of tools and information intended to assist farmers, ranchers, and other members of the public in voluntarily conserving agricultural lands, and in implementing farming and ranching practices that will help achieve the key sustainability goals of carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, water conservation, and groundwater recharge.

-Learn more about the Butte County Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation (SALC) Strategy:

<https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/planning/grants/SALC>

Butte County Department of Development Services

SALC Strategy

7 County Center Drive

Oroville, CA 95965

Phone: 530.538.7601

Website: [http://
www.buttecounty.net/dds/
home.aspx](http://www.buttecounty.net/dds/home.aspx)



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