



**Natural Resources  
Conservation Service**

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# News Release

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## USDA NRCS Announces Sign-Up for Conservation Stewardship Program

The next deadline for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications to be considered for funding this year is May 10, 2019. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plans to invest up to \$700 million for new enrollments and contract extensions in fiscal year 2019. The 2018 Farm Bill made several changes to this critical conservation program, which helps agricultural producers take the conservation activities on their farm to the next level.

Through CSP, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, tree/shrub establishment, pasture improvements, and pollinator habitat – all while maintaining active agriculture production on their land.

The program provides many benefits including increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to weather extremes. CSP is for working lands including cropland, pastureland, and nonindustrial private forestland.

NRCS recently made several updates to the program to help producers better evaluate their conservation options and the benefits to their operations and natural resources. These tools also enable producers to see potential payment scenarios for conservation early in the process.

Applications are available at the USDA local service center in Park Rapids. To be considered for this year's funding a completed application must be filled out by May 10, 2019. For more information contact the staff at the Park Rapids Field Office at 218-732-9723 ext 3.

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