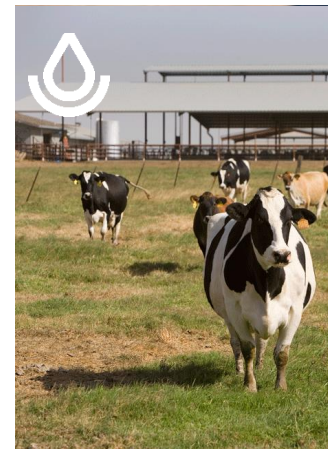




United States Department of Agriculture



Arkansas Grazing Lands Conference Conservation Stewardship Program

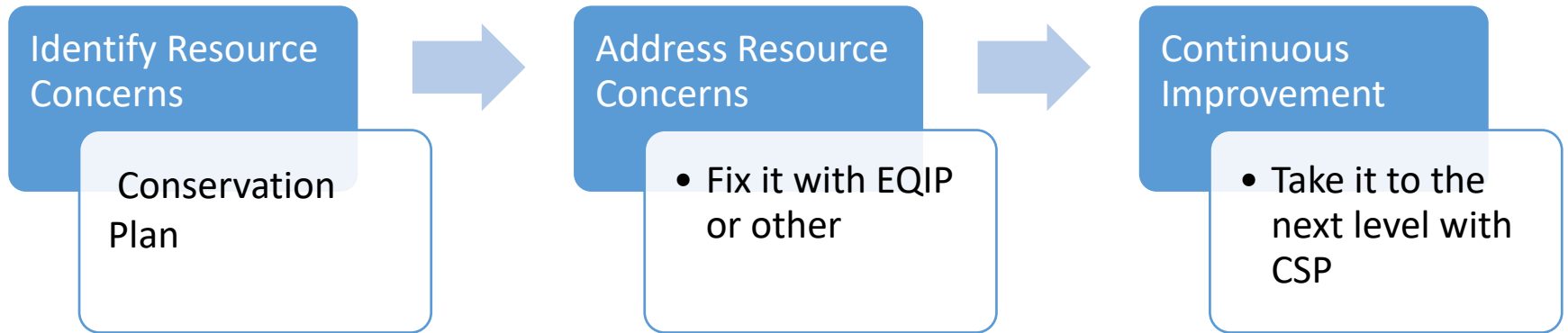
March 2018 | Jena M. Moore, CSP Program Manager

CSP Purpose

- Encourage producers to address priority resource concerns and improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities on eligible land.



Ideal Process Flow



CSP Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility –

- Must be the operator of record
- Obtain waiver from State Conservationist

Land Eligibility –

- Must be private land
- Not enrolled in CRP, WRP, ACEP-WRE
- Agricultural and Forest land compete separately



CSP Eligibility

Stewardship Eligibility –

- Applicants must meet at least 2 resource concerns at the time of application and 1 additional resource concern by the end of the contract on every land use included in the application.

**Exceptions:*

- Associated Ag Land Exemption
 - Farmstead Exemption
- Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool (CAET)



CAET Operation Summary Report

Resource Concerns Met - At Time of Application

Resource Concerns	Targeted Resource Concern	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Associated Ag Land	Farmstead
SOIL EROSION	X	NA	NA	NA	No	NA	Yes
SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION	X	NA	NA	NA	Yes	NA	No
EXCESS WATER		NA	NA	NA	No	NA	No
INSUFFICIENT WATER		NA	NA		Yes	NA	No
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION	X	NA	NA	NA	No	NA	Yes
AIR QUALITY IMPACTS	X	NA	NA	NA	No	NA	No
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION		NA	NA	NA	No	NA	No
FISH and WILDLIFE - INADEQUATE HABITAT	X	NA	NA	NA	Yes	NA	No
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION		NA	NA	NA	No	NA	
INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE		NA	NA		No	NA	No
Totals - Target RC	5	NA	NA	NA	2	NA	2
Totals - Non-Target RC	5	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	0
Grand Totals	10	NA	NA	NA	3	NA	2
Meets 2 resource concerns for each land use at time of application?							Yes



CSP Conservation Activities – Pasture

Activity	2018
Enhancements	58
Bundles	2
Practices	31



300 Series

Herbaceous Weed Control

Brush Management

Patch Burning

Silvopasture



500 Series

Forage Harvest Management

Forage and Biomass Planting

Prescribed Grazing



CSP Payments

- Annual payments comprised of:
 - Existing Activity Payment (EAP)
 - Additional Activity Payment (AAP)
- Minimum Payment
 - \$1500 per year



Payment Rates

Existing Activity Payment

Number of resource concerns met at the time of application x \$350 (land use neutral)

Land use rate x acres

- Crop and Pastured Cropland= \$7.50 per acre
- Pasture = \$3.00 per acre
- Forest = \$0.50 per acre
- Farmstead=\$7.50 per acre
- Associated Agriculture Land=\$0.50 per acre



Payment Rates

Additional Activity Payment

Payment rate per unit of new activity adopted

Enhancement Example



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E511139Z2

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

Forage harvest management that helps maintain wildlife habitat continuity (space)

Conservation Practice 511: FORAGE HARVEST MANAGEMENT

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial); Pasture

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

The timely cutting and removal of forages from the field as hay, green-chop, or ensilage in such as way and time frames so as to optimize both forage yield/quality and wildlife cover and shelter for habitat and/or continuity between otherwise disconnected habitats.

Criteria

- Wildlife species of concern for cover and shelter will be specified on the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG), and will be a species that would be present for at least part of their life cycle in the geographical/physiographic region.
- The state's WHEG will be completed by an NRCS or partner wildlife biologist. Cover and shelter habitat requirements for the wildlife species of concern will be specified on the WHEG. The total WHEG score after installation of this practice will be 0.60 or greater.
- Proposed wildlife habitat locations involve hayfields or other habitats connected by this enhancement.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, ensure that forage harvesting tool/machinery is capable of cutting the forage at the height required to provide suitable habitat for the desired wildlife species, and without compromising plant vigor and stand longevity.
- Prior to implementation, review the map delineating the fields selected for improving wildlife cover and shelter and enrolled in the enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, develop a plan to harvest forage in a manner that protects stand longevity and also maintains or improves wildlife habitat. Plan must include specifications detailing the wildlife protection measures, such as time periods to avoid forage harvest to protect wildlife and ensuring that suitable wildlife habitat exists during critical nesting periods. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Forage Harvest Management (Code 511).
- During implementation, take photographs of forage cutting heights with fields and date of harvest identified.
- During Implementation, keep the following documentation:

Field	Forage species selected for harvest	Harvest height (inches)	Harvest Date

- After implementation, make documentation and photographs of forage cutting heights available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

NRCS will:

- As needed, provide technical assistance to meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, complete the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) as certified by an NRCS or partner wildlife biologist when applicable. Specific bird species targeted will be notated on the WHEG, and total score after implementation will equal 0.60 or greater.

Wildlife Species of Concern	
Cover & Shelter Requirements	
Total WHEG Score Planned after implementation	

- Prior to implementation, verify a map has been developed delineating the fields selected for improving wildlife habitat continuity (space) and delineating the connectivity corridors, which will have the enhancement implemented.
- Prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed to:
 - Develop a plan to harvest forage in a manner that protects stand longevity, while also maintaining or improving wildlife habitat. Plan must meet requirements of NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Forage Harvest Management (Code 511).
 - Develop specifications detailing the wildlife protection measures, such as time periods to avoid forage harvest to protect wildlife and ensuring that suitable wildlife habitat exists during critical nesting periods.



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