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## **USDA Announces Application Deadline for Conservation Stewardship Program for Fiscal Year 2021**

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM, December 16, 2020** – Farmers and ranchers are urged to contact their local USDA Service Center for information on how to apply for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The deadline to apply for the classic signup is January 15, 2021. A separate application deadline will be announced for contracts eligible for renewal. NRCS accepts applications year-round from agricultural producers who have established farm records with the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Applications must include all agricultural or private forest land in the agricultural operation that the applicant will control for the 5-year term of the CSP contract. Applicants must provide a map of the operation with the application form NRCS-CPA-1200, “Conservation Application Form.” The application form can be downloaded from <https://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/welcomeAction.do?Home>

“New Mexico staff have been working year-round despite the COVID pandemic to provide financial assistance to eligible producers. The foundation of the Conservation Stewardship Program is technical assistance that requires an assessment of the land in the operation and a conversation between NRCS and the producer on the improvements that can be made. Farmers and ranchers need to present their goals and concerns and NRCS works with the producer to identify the enhancements and practices that can fit those goals and needs,” said Kenneth Branch, New Mexico Assistant State Conservationist for Programs.

### **About the Program**

CSP is offered in all 50 states and the Pacific and Caribbean areas. 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, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

### **More Information**

For additional information about CSP, contact your local USDA service center and visit and <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nm/programs/financial/csp/> and <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>



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