

Conservation Security Program

Water Quality Checklist



Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Minnesota, 2006

Please answer the following questions by checking either “yes” or “no”. These questions should be answered for the acres that you wish to offer for enrollment in CSP. In order to answer “yes”, the question must be true on ALL acres. For example, in order to answer “yes” to question 5, you must have vegetated buffers at least 20 feet wide bordering ALL perennial streams and/or surface water on the acres you are offering for enrollment in CSP.

These questions will assist NRCS in determining whether or not you are eligible for CSP. A “yes” or “no” answer does not automatically exclude you from the program or guarantee an eligible application.

		Yes	No
1	Do you have surface water on the acres you are offering enrollment in CSP?		
2	Do you use pesticides on your operation? This includes organic farming operations that do not use pesticides. If no, skip questions 3 and 4.		
3	Do you use integrated pest management techniques on your operation? This may include such techniques as using pest free seeds, planting trap crops, using pest scouting to determine when to initiate control methods and/or using biological controls)		
4	Do you use partial treatment by spot treatment, banding, or directed spraying to reduce the amount of pesticide applied?		
5	Do you have vegetated buffers at least 20 feet wide bordering all perennial streams, ponds and lakes?		
6	When applying pesticides, do you maintain a minimum setback distance of 33 feet between the application area and intermittent streams/ditches, perennial streams, surface water, ponds/lakes, surface water inlets and/or open sink holes?		
7	When applying manure, do you maintain a minimum setback distance of 33 feet between the application area and intermittent streams/ditches, perennial streams, surface water, ponds/lakes, surface water inlets and/or open sink holes? Application rates for liquid manure do not exceed the Available Water Capacity of the soil. Winter manure application is limited to daily haul.		
8	Does a minimum of 30% surface cover remain after planting annual crops on 2/3 or more of the rotation OR does hay/pasture make up more than 1/2 of your rotation?		
9	For an annual cropping system, are two or more different crops rotated for annually planted crops, within a 3 year period? For a perennial based cropping system, does no single annual crop make up more than 1/2 of the rotation? Two or more crops (within a three year period) are included in the rotation to improve crop diversity for soil health, pest management and erosion control.		

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		Yes	No
10	Is erosion controlled in the concentrated flow areas on your offered acres?		
11	Are conservation measures maintained to reduce erosion and minimize sediment from entering intermittent streams/ditches, perennial streams, ponds/lakes, surface water inlets and/or open sink holes? Conservation measure may include but are not limited to crop rotation, residue management, contouring and/or buffers.		
	Do you apply nitrogen? If no, skip question 12 and 13.		
12	Do you apply greater than 75% of your nitrogen (manure and/or fertilizer) close to planting or as a sidedress?		
13	If nitrogen (manure and/or fertilizer) is applied, is the rate based on a nutrient management plan? A nutrient management plan provides recommendations or procedures to determine the amount, form, placement and timing of plan nutrients to obtain optimum yields while minimizing the risk of surface and ground water pollution. The procedure used to determine nutrient recommendations should be based on one or more of the following: realistic crop yield goals, soil test results, previous crop credits, leguminous crop credits, manure application history and/or leaf tissue analysis (if appropriate). The nutrient management plan should address all sources of nutrients.		
14	Do you utilize cover crops or is permanent vegetation established between rows such as orchards and vineyards?		
15	Where applicable, are nitrogen and phosphorus credits from manure, irrigation water, previous crop, and soil organic matter calculated from analyses or book values and used to plan nutrient application rates?		
16	Are soil tests taken at least once every 5th years?		
17	Do you apply phosphorus (excluding starter) where soil tests have indicated a “very high or excessive” rating?		
18	Do you apply phosphorus via fertilizer, manure, biosolids or other amendments? If no, skip question 19		
19	Do you inject or incorporate phosphorus (manure or fertilizer) at least 2 inches deep within 24 hours OR is phosphorus applied on 80% surface residue cover or 80% crop canopy cover according to soil test requirements?		

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the above information is correct and that, if requested, I will provide additional documentation to support the above information.

Signature _____ **Date** _____