



# CSP Job Sheet EPL44

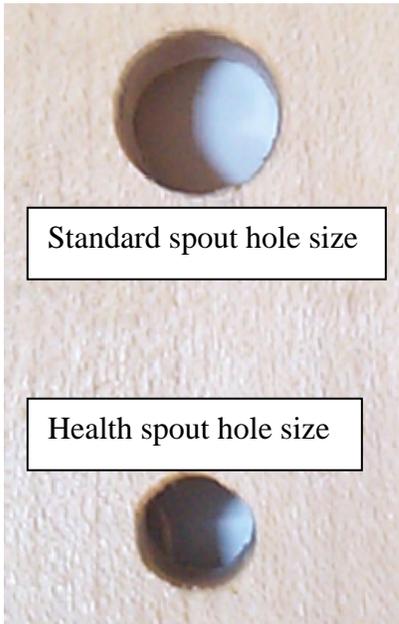
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Plant Management Enhancement Activities

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) offers a new enhancement activity opportunity to reward or encourage the increased health and vigor of plants by using health spouts at 5/16" or smaller and utilizing the live circumference of each tree to determine the number of these health spouts per tree. If the tree is 10-17.9" in diameter (36-54" circumference), then one health spout should be utilized per tree. If the tree is 18-23.9" in diameter (55" in circumference), then two health spouts may be utilized per tree. If the tree is greater than 24" in diameter, then no more than three health spouts will be utilized per tree. This enhancement is available once the applicant qualifies for CSP by meeting the program's entry requirements for soil and water quality.

The following information will help landowners and managers determine if they are eligible for the offered payment(s) for this water quality enhancement activity.

### UTILIZING HEALTH SPOUTS IN A SUGARBUSH IN OPERATIONS WITH SAP BUCKETS



After a hole is drilled into a tree to be tapped, the sap coming out of that hole will run dry within approximately six weeks. Therefore, new holes need to be drilled into producing trees every sugaring season. The size of the hole being drilled into the tree is dependent on the size of the spout being tapped or pushed into the tree. The larger the hole, the larger the wound to the tree. An operator cannot drill into the same wound area from year to year because the wounded area becomes nonfunctional due to the scar tissue that is formed. Therefore, it is healthier for the tree to drill smaller holes into it so that wounds are smaller and as a result, more area can be utilized for drilling from year to year.

By utilizing a health spout, the operator can drill a smaller hole into the tree than they would if they were using a more standard spout, which has a larger diameter than the health spout.

Equally important are the number of holes drilled into a tree per season. The more holes, the more wounds, leading to increased nonfunctional drilling areas to utilize from season to season. That's why, in addition to utilizing health spouts,

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it's important to also drill holes for these health spouts depending on the circumference of the tree. These specifications are as follows:

<b>Size of tree</b>	<b>Number of spouts</b>
10-17.9 –inches, diameter (36-54 – inches circumference)	1
18-23.9 –inches, diameter (55 –inches, circumference)	2 may be used
Greater than 24 –inches, diameter	No more than 3

**Documentation Required:** Attach a plan map showing the field locations where health spouts are being utilized.

**Utilizing Health Spouts Certification**

I certify that I have been utilizing health spouts within my enrolled sugarbush acres, which can be viewed on the attached plan map.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_