

# PES Funding Information - CCRC Spring 2024 Workshop

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## [Agoro Carbon Alliance](#)

### **General Requirements:**

- Minimum of 500 acres
- Three years of practice documentation
- Have not implemented the practice(s) you're looking to adopt
- Have rights to implement new practices on your acres

### **Enrollment:**

- 10-year contracts
- Programs for nitrogen management, rotational grazing, and increasing biodiversity
- Access to agronomists to create a road map of practice changes
- Agronomic support throughout the life of the contract

### **Pasture & Range Practices:**

- Improved Grazing Management - "Altering stocking rate and grazing days improves yield and forage intake, while improving soil carbon"
- Seeding - "Adding a species to your ranch can improve yield, carbon storage, and animal health"
- Fertilization - "Judicious use of N-containing fertilizer helps optimize carbon storage, boost yield potential, and improve forage"

### **Payment Plans:**

#### Carbon Performance Based Payments:

- Made upon credit issuance (excluding buffer withholding credits), on ton captured above baseline results, after verification is complete in years 5 and 11

#### Carbon Prepayments:

- Available when financing option is selected under applicable criteria, prepayments will be netted against credit issuance paid in years 5 and 11

#### Calculate Your Potential Carbon Revenue & Contact for a Custom Quote

- <https://agorocarbonalliance.com/>

## **Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention Grants Program**

### **Prescribed Grazing is eligible under grants for Hazardous Fuels Reduction:**

- Seasonal and temporary prescribed grazing using temporary infrastructure consistent with increasing the protection of people, structures, and communities
- Fuel reduction vegetation treatment prescriptions shall focus on increasing safety for the public and first responders, as well as reducing fire hazards to improve the protection of lives, structures, and communities. Treatments shall eliminate the vertical and horizontal continuity of vegetative fuels for the purpose of reducing the rate of fire spread, duration and intensity of fire, fuel ignitability, and the ignition of tree crowns or structures

### **Eligible Applicants:**

- State & Federal Agencies
- Native American Tribes
- Joint Powers Authorities (JPA)
- Local agencies, including:
  - City, county, fire protection districts, community services districts, water districts, resource conservation districts, special districts
- Fire Safe Councils & non-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation

### **Applicants may *not* be:**

- A privately held for-profit company or corporation
- Individual or private landowners requesting a grant specifically for a project to be completed on only their own land
- Homeowners' associations or other associations unless they have 501(c)(3) non-profit status

### **Grant Request Limits:**

- Recommended funding amount is \$3 million or less; project equipment not to exceed a cumulative total of \$750,000
- Indirect Costs: 12% limit, unless a higher indirect rate is granted by CAL FIRE

### **Application Process:**

- Submitted through Grants Portal
- ***Applicants should work with the local CAL FIRE Unit for guidance in developing project plans for your application***
- Projects should consider the use of a certified rangeland manager or other professional with knowledge of local ecosystem processes to develop an appropriate fuel hazard reduction removal project
- How to apply, tutorials, and Procedural Guide with complete list of required documents available on the [WP Grants Website](#)

## **USDA NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

Through CSP, NRCS works one-on-one with producers to develop a conservation plan that outlines and enhances existing efforts, using new conservation practices or activities, based on management objectives for your operation.

### **CSP Eligibility:**

- CSP is available to all producers, regardless of operation size
  - Eligible lands include private agricultural lands, nonindustrial private forest land, farmstead, associated agricultural lands and public land that is under the control of the applicant and part of their operation
- Land must be actively used for producing an agricultural or forest product
- Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations or Indian Tribes
- Must meet the stewardship threshold for at least two priority resource concerns when they apply
- Applicants must agree to meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for at least one additional resource concern by the end of the contract

### **California State Resource Priorities:**

- Air Quality
- Degraded Plant Condition
- Field Pesticide Loss
- Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss
- Fire Management
- Livestock Production Limitation
- Soil quality limitations
- Terrestrial Habitat

### **CSP Payments:**

1. Annual contract payments based on:
    - o Payments to maintain the existing level of conservation, based on the land uses included in the contract
    - o Payments to implement additional conservation practices and activities
  2. Supplemental payments:
    - o For producers willing to implement advanced grazing management
  3. Minimum contract payments for most contracts:
    - o most participants will be eligible for a \$4,000 minimum payment during any year
- [California CSP Payment Schedules \(Rates\)](#)

### **How to Apply:**

- Contact your [local NRCS office](#) and notify them of your interest in CSP
- Conservation planner will work with you to determine your stewardship threshold eligibility & develop a conservation plan
- Following an assessment of your operation, NRCS will rank your application against other similar eligible applications in the same ranking pool, with the highest scoring applications receiving 5-year contract offers first

## **USDA NCRS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and forest landowners to address natural resource concerns.

### **EQIP Eligibility:**

- EQIP assistance is available to all farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land
  - Eligible lands include cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and other farm or ranch lands
- EQIP has no minimum acreage requirement; however, EQIP is a competitive program that awards points based on resource concerns to be addressed and other factors
- Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations or Indian Tribes that have control of the land and currently manage it for agricultural, forest and livestock production

### **Eligible Practices:**

e.g. Prescribed Grazing, Brush Management, Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment, Herbaceous Weed Treatment, Nutrient Management, Annual Forages for Grazing Systems

### **EQIP Payments:**

- Under the general EQIP payment process, a producer is reimbursed after a conservation practice is certified as meeting NRCS standards and specifications
- [California EQIP Payment Schedules \(Rates\)](#)

### **How to Apply:**

- Contact your [local NCRS office](#) and notify them of your interest in EQIP
- A conservation planner will schedule a visit to your property and work with you to develop a conservation plan
- Applications for EQIP financial assistance are accepted year-round; specific state deadlines are set for ranking and funding.
- Following an assessment of your operation, NRCS will rank your application against other similar eligible applications in the same ranking pool, with the highest-scoring applications receiving contract offers first

## **EQIP vs. CSP**

EQIP is a shorter-term, more narrowly focused program that will provide funding for a specific conservation practice once it is completed. CSP is a five-year commitment that entails your entire operation and will provide annual payments to support ongoing improvements to conservation and stewardship, with an additional payment provided once an enhancement activity is completed.

Payment size for both is typically related to both the size of the area you're working with and the complexity of how much additional work you're doing.