



West Virginia CSP Other/Tier III Land Assessment

MIDDLE ISLAND WATERSHED

Needed For Tier III Only

Name: _____ Farm Unit(S): _____

OTHER LAND/ TIER III BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT
Worksheet Instructions

CSP requires that other land in the CSP operating unit be assessed for absence of obvious environmental problems. Other land includes Headquarters areas, Livestock facilities and Incidental Lands. These areas must be assessed for compliance with the agricultural quality criteria in the field office technical guide. The assessment does not cover such things as home sewage systems, which are under the jurisdiction of other local or regulatory agencies.

Tier III also requires that all riparian areas on the operating unit meet minimum levels of treatment. This assessment is included in this other land checklist.

The attached assessment questions **will help determine if these areas meet quality criteria and the operating unit is eligible for enrollment in Tier III** of the Conservation Security Program. *(Separate assessments are provided for cropland, pasture land, and livestock waste)*

This assessment is not required for Tier I contracts which are just enrolling a field or part of the fields in the operating unit.

Check yes or no for each of the questions.

CSP OTHER LAND/ TIER III ASSESSMENT – Erosion		Yes	No
1	Are other land areas free of significant wind or water erosion problems?		
2	Is all cropland erosion controlled to “T” (Tolerable Soil Loss)		
3	Are stream banks on the unit free of accelerated erosion that is caused by an activity of the operating unit, such as uncontrolled livestock access, stream bank tree clearing, or farming too close to unstable banks?		
<i>If answers to any of above questions are no, the operating unit cannot be enrolled as a Tier III contract.</i>			

WV CSP Other Land Assessment Continued

CSP OTHER LAND/ TIER III ASSESSMENT – Livestock Facilities		Yes	No
1	Are livestock wastes stored and managed in a manner to prevent runoff. Was the Livestock Waste Checklist successfully completed?		
2	Are feedlots and exercise lots managed in a manner that filters or captures runoff to sufficiently prevent discharge of pollutants?		
3	Are milk house waste discharges controlled?		
4	Is roof runoff managed to prevent erosion or drainage concerns?		
5	Is silage leachate controlled or managed to prevent runoff problems?		
<i>If answers to any of above questions are no the operating unit cannot be enrolled as a Tier III contract.</i>			

CSP OTHER LAND/ TIER III ASSESSMENT – Fertilizer, Fuel And Pesticide Storage/Use		Yes	No
1	Does fertilizer storage comply with state law for secondary containment based on tank size and quantities stored? If state law requires containment and facility is not already contained, will any needed containment be installed by the future deadline in state law?		
2	Are fertilizer storage, fuel storage, and pesticide mixing areas located in areas other than on very sandy or gravelly soils (unless containment provided) and/ or located in areas other than in floodplains (unless protected from 25 year storm event)?		
3	Is the farm well adequately protected from pesticide mixing or loading spills and/or back siphoning?		
4	Are pesticide containers properly disposed of?		
<i>If answers to any of above questions are no, the operating unit cannot be enrolled as a Tier III contract.</i>			

CSP OTHER LAND/TIER III ASSESSMENT – Incidental Forestland		Yes	No
1	Are there no observable erosion or point contamination sources on incidental forest land, including erosion caused by grazing livestock or logging activities?		
<i>If answers to any of above question is no the operating unit cannot be enrolled as a Tier III contract.</i>			

WV CSP Other Land Assessment Continued

CSP OTHER LAND/TIER III ASSESSMENT – Riparian Area Treatment		Yes	No
1	<p>Does the operating unit contain a drainage ditch /or a small headwater stream (or both), which are (defined) as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) An agricultural drainage ditch that is at least 4’deep and 4’ bottom width, and/or a small headwater stream has a 5’ or larger bottom with banks varying from low sloping banks to steep banks, <i>and</i> 2) are fed with tile flow, spring flow or groundwater flow (as opposed to a surface ditch or grass waterway which only flows after rainfall), <i>and</i> 3) have an average bottom width that is not larger than 10-12 feet. <p>If yes, answer the following riparian treatment questions. For all ditches and small headwater streams:</p>		
	Are the banks vegetated and stable?		
	Is there a grass filter/ other natural buffer strip a minimum of 20 feet wide		
	Are livestock excluded or access managed by rotational grazing or other means to the extent that the banks are not denuded or degraded?		
<p><i>If drainage ditches exist and answers to any of the riparian treatment questions are no for any ditch, the operating unit cannot be enrolled as a Tier III contract. (exclude banks on sides of not owned by participant)</i></p>			
2	<p>Does the operating unit contain a natural stream defined as follows:</p> <p>A natural stream is a watercourse downstream from drainage ditches/headwater streams and surface swales and is identified by the following characteristics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) is bordered by alluvial soils as opposed to upland soils 2) has an average bottom width that is wider than 10-12 feet and/or is a third order stream classification or higher 3) the bottom structure contains pools and/or riffles and it has a base flow most of time except for severe droughts <p>If yes, answer the following riparian treatment questions. For all streams:</p>		
	Are more than 1/3 of the banks stable with little or minor active erosion?		
	For bottom widths 10 - 15 feet , is there a buffer that is a minimum of 20 feet wide (avg. width, each side) and is mixed vegetation (other than pure grass stand)? (n/a if >15 feet)		
	For bottom widths wider than 15 feet , is there a natural vegetation buffer a minimum of 35 feet wide (avg. width, each side), and does at least 2/3 of the buffer consist of trees/shrubs? (n/a if < 15 feet)		
	Is buffer undisturbed except for occasional mowing outer edge to contain and except for occasional selective firewood or saw log harvest?		
	Are livestock permanently excluded except for managed stream crossings?		
	If diked, does dike have openings/breaches which allow flood waters to flow both ways?		
	<p><i>If natural streams exist and answers to any of the riparian treatment questions are no for any stream the operating unit cannot be enrolled as a Tier III contract. (exclude banks on sides not owned by participant)</i></p>		

WV CSP Other Land Assessment Continued

CSP OTHER LAND/TIER III ASSESSMENT – Riparian Area Treatment		Yes	No
3	<p><i>Does the operating unit contain a “maintained” natural stream defined as follows:</i></p> <p>A maintained natural stream applies to natural streams that are under a formal maintenance program, managed by an entity of state or local government, operating under state/local laws, and which includes a maintenance easement or agreement under such laws.</p> <p>If yes answer the following riparian treatment questions. For all streams:</p>		
	Are more than 1/3 of the banks stable with little or minor active erosion?		
	For bottom widths up to 15 feet , is there a buffer that is a minimum of 20 feet wide (avg. width) and is grass or other natural vegetation? (n/a if >15 feet)		
	For bottom widths wider than 15 feet is there a buffer that is a minimum of 35 feet wide (avg. width) and is grass or other natural vegetation? (n/a if < 15'), <i>and</i>		
	Does buffer include at least some areas of tree/shrub/natural vegetation (strips, patches, or one sided construction) somewhere on the buffer?		
	Is all maintenance work done in accordance with state/local environmental laws?		
	Are livestock permanently excluded except for managed stream crossings?		
<p><i>If maintained natural streams exist and answers to any of the riparian treatment questions are no for any stream the operating unit cannot be enrolled as a Tier III contract. (exclude banks on sides of not owned by participant)</i></p>			

General Comments:

Certification Statement

The above other land information is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if requested, I can provide a minimum of two years of documentation to support the information provided above.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Certification of Review

I have reviewed this other land assessment and the answers meet CSP enrollment criteria for Tier III and are consistent with the farm records provided for review during the verification interview.

NRCS Representative: _____ Date: _____