



CSP Job Sheet EPL45

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 utilizing a minimum 28-inch dropline to evenly distribute taps along each tree trunk. 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 A MINIMUM 28-INCH DROPLINE

Droplines are the permanent, vertical tubing that connects the spout (or tap) to the horizontal tubing, which carries the sap (either by gravity or vacuum) to the sugar house. The purpose of a dropline is to space the newly drilled hole so that it is far enough apart from past years' drilled holes or wounds so that the operator is utilizing the entire circumference of the tree when tapping from year to year. If an operator is 'cluster tapping' (see photo below) or over tapping, then a large area of the tree will not have enough time to heal and will no longer be a producing area of the tree. Not just for sap collection, but also for the transportation of sugars from the leaves to the roots and back to the leaves again because the over tapped area will no longer be available to transport. The length of dropline is of significant importance because if the dropline is not long enough, the operator is unable to utilize the entire circumference of the tree when spacing the hole or holes. The longer the dropline, the better spacing of taps, which leads to increased plant health.



Cluster or over tapping



Example of an acceptable dropline

Documentation Required: Attach a plan map showing the field locations where a minimum 28-inch dropline is being utilized on each tree being taped for maple syrup production.

Utilizing Droplines Certification

I certify that I have been utilizing a minimum 28-inch dropline within my enrolled sugarbush acres, which can be viewed on the attached plan map.

Name: _____ Date: _____