

BILL HORVATH | Conservation Stewardship Program

Forestland Contract Holder

Shawano, Wisconsin



“CSP is important for rewarding landowners who have already done a lot of work but could do a little bit more.” says Bill Horvath, a forestland owner in Shawano County.

Bill has 86 acres of land, including 27 acres he’s restored to wetlands and nine acres he’s restored to prairie. “CSP is all about rewarding landowners that are already doing conservation,” he says. “Everything you’ve done in the past helps you score.”

While Bill has already implemented a tremendous amount of conservation practices, private forestland owners with varying experience with conservation are encouraged to apply. And private forestland owners with as few as 15 acres are eligible for the program.

As a hunter, Bill is mainly interested in the wildlife benefits offered through CSP. He will be adding six species of shrubs for wildlife habitat as well as installing boxes for Wood Ducks and Bluebirds.

By partnering with NRCS, Bill says that a landowner can bring technical expertise in soils, water, and wildlife right to their woodlot. “NRCS is easy to work with,” he says. “It’s a federal agency, but it’s one of the easiest to work with. I haven’t had any hassle with them and I don’t know anyone who has.”

Regarding the signup process, Bill says, “The process is pretty simple. It’s just a lot of paperwork.” He even brought friend with him to the NRCS office when he signed up, and his friend enrolled in CSP too!

CONTRACT SNAPSHOT

Previous On-Farm Conservation Practices:

- Wetland restoration
- Prairie restoration
- Tree and shrub plantings

Conservation Improvements through CSP:

- Plantings for wildlife
- Wood boxes for Bluebirds and Wood Ducks

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