

TSP Certification Process

What is a TSP?

Technical Service Providers (TSPs) are individuals or entities certified to provide conservation planning, design, implementation, and technical assistance on behalf of USDA-NRCS. A TSP delivers technical assistance to producers for NRCS conservation programs such as EQIP, CSP, and Conservation Technical Assistance. Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) are well-positioned to become TSPs due to their agronomic expertise, familiarity with NRCS standards, and experience working directly with producers.

How to become a TSP?

For a CCA/CPSS to become a Technical Service Provider (TSP) they must be current in their certification, they must take or have taken the TSP Orientation and Conservation Planning Course and they must fill out the online TSP form.

What does the CCA need to do?

- Take the course
- Fill out the application
- Sign the agreement

What does the rep need to do?

- Rep receives the emailed online form.
- Verify that the person took and passed the course (TSP Orientation and Conservation Planning Course).
- Add List of Practices in contact's Roster Members.
- List the states they plan to service. Applications under the MOU are limited to a maximum of 10 states. Once the application is complete, they can request certification for additional states as needed.
- Email the CCA to let them know we received their info, attach USDA TSP agreement [TSP CCA Agreement Form.docx](#) for the CCA to sign and return.
 - Once signed form has been received add [CCA TSP Approval](#) to the contact's Education Activities and upload the agreement into Filebound.
 - The addition of the CCA TSP Approval will add TSP to the Professional Designation field.
 - Change the TSP award renewal line start and end dates to match the CEU line.

If an individual has a current TSP certification, the USDA's system lacks the ability to accommodate both TSP certifications under a single TSP number. This limitation is something they're actively looking to improve in the future. For now, individuals with existing TSP certifications will receive two separate TSP numbers.

[Additional information for Technical Service Providers](#)

Useful resources include the [NRCS Field Office Technical Guide](#), Minnesota NRCS technical specialists, AgLearn, University Extension resources and [MNC3](#).

What are examples of NRCS practices for Technical Service Providers in MN?

- Alley Cropping (311)
- Brush Management (314)
- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Design and Implementation (101)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)

- Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (138)*
- Contour Buffer Strips (332)
- Contour Farming (330)
- Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops (331)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Field Border (386)
- Field Operations Emissions Reduction (376)
- Filter Strips (393)
- Forage Harvest Management (511)
- Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548)
- Grazing Management Design (158)
- Grazing Management Plan (110)
- Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)
- Mulching (484)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Nutrient Management Design and Implementation Activity (157)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Pest Management Conservation System (595)
- Pest Management Conservation System Design (161)
- Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (329)
- Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345)
- Soil Health Management Plan (116)*
- Soil Health Management System Design (162)
- Strip Cropping (585)
- Transition to Organic Design (140)
- Vegetative Barrier (601)

*Requires additional certification requirements. Contact ASA for specifics.
Additional practices may apply.

Keep in mind that differences exist from state to state in conservation practice standards, documentation requirements, and program specific information. It is highly recommended to reach out to the state TSP coordinator along with setting up a meeting with the producer and their local field office to ensure communication is clear.

Minnesota TSP Coordinator
Courtney Cheever
1408 21st Ave NW, Austin MN 55912
p: (507) 509-3028 e: courtney.cheever@usda.gov