

**Kentucky**  
**FY2013**  
**EQIP-WHIP**  
**Planning Guidance**

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## Fiscal Year 2013 EQIP/WHIP General Guidelines

(See Initiative addendums for guidance specific to National and State Initiatives offered in EQIP and WHIP in 2013)

- No application will be considered for funding if it does not meet all eligibility requirements by the time applications are accepted for funding (512.22).
- The EQIP FY 2013 and WHIP FY 2013 Payment Schedules will be used when determining the estimated cost for ProTracts. Several payment scenarios have been developed that specifically address Organics.
- Practices that address resource problems caused by equine operations are eligible for EQIP as long as the participant meets the producer and land eligibility criteria as defined in the Conservation Programs Manual, as well as 515.51 and 515.52. **See the eligibility criteria in the EQIP Eligibility Documentation Checklist.** Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations (ASTC-FO) are to be consulted in all questionable cases before ranking an applicant involving equine.
- The RMS level is not required on EQIP or WHIP acreage, although sound conservation planning is to be provided. Only the practices eligible for an EQIP or WHIP payment shall be included on the EQIP or WHIP schedule of operations NRCS-CPA-1155.
- **Practices awarded points shall meet Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) standards and specifications.** Existing practices that meet FOTG standards are not eligible to receive points or payments.
- All practices awarded points shall be included in the contract when the participant's application is accepted. Non-payment practices and/or practices planned under other programs are not eligible to receive points for the EQIP/WHIP offer.
- All practices installed will be maintained as designed for the life of the practice. If livestock are allowed managed access to any practice it must be done judiciously to prevent degradation of the installed practice.
- Management practices that have previously been applied or adopted on a treatment unit are not eligible for payments on that treatment unit unless an increased level of management above and beyond the current management system will be achieved, and a resource concern is being addressed (such as prescribed grazing applied in the conservation plan under CTA).
- Land or structures under contract or with existing maintenance agreements (PL-566, etc.) are not eligible for EQIP.
- For livestock related practices, livestock must be present at the time of ranking **AND practice installation.** An exception may be granted based on whether livestock ownership can be determined **AND where the grazing unit is capable of being grazed** (existing fence, water sources, etc.).
- All practices in the contract must be the least cost alternative to address the resource concern.
- For practices planned on cropland where Sheet and Rill or Soil Quality are the resource concerns, RUSLE2 must be ran for both before and after scenarios to verify planned practices are needed to address current resource concerns. These scenarios must be included in the EQIP contract folder.

- **Remember that you are not to design or build conservation practices above your Practice/Engineering Design Authority level.** You should request specialist assistance as needed. Be especially careful when planning practices such as Streambank and Shoreline Protection.
- When a companion practice is required for a practice to properly function, payment shall not be made until the most environmentally sensitive practices have been installed and certified (**Examples:** Pipeline and Tank as alternative watering for stream exclusion, stream must be fenced before payment can be made for the pipeline and tank. Stream crossing and Fence; stream must be fenced prior to processing payment for the stream crossing. Waterway and GSS. Fence, Pipeline, and Tank when associated with a pond).
- In order for land to be eligible for irrigation-related practices in EQIP that land must have been irrigated **two out of the last five years**. This means that irrigation must have been part of managing the cropping system to meet the needs of the plant and to maintain the yields of an irrigated crop. In order to document irrigation history, applicants may provide any of the following:
  - Written self-certification of the irrigation history, by year, and crops produced on the land with yields indication irrigation;
  - Aerial Photography coverage showing evidence of irrigation history on the property;
  - Official copies of Farm Service Agency records such as aerial compliance photography, Farm Acreage Report, Production History Report, and Risk Management Insurance;
  - Water rights certificate, water rights maps and/or well or pumping plan permits issued by a federally recognized Tribe, State or Federal Agency;
  - Irrigation company share certificates and assessments that document water rights and water availability;
  - Fuel bills or maintenance records documenting the use of an irrigation system with the presence of an operable irrigation system or reliable water source indicating the ability to irrigate;
  - Irrigation water management plan implementation documentation;
  - Irrigation or water use reports provided by a local or State unit of government.
- **An approved, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is required BEFORE providing FA or TA assistance on any animal waste related practices.**

## APPLICATION EVALUATION AND RANKING TOOL

### Guidelines – General EQIP

- All EQIP applications will be evaluated using the pre-ranking worksheet (screening tool) and the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts. (Note: Some National and State Initiatives will not utilize a screening tool. See Initiative addendums for guidance.)
- For pre-ranking/screening purposes, contracts that have not completed a practice within the first 12 months, or have not completed a practice within a given calendar year that required a signed contract modification, will be considered behind schedule.
- **To allow for similar farming operations to compete against like operations the local pooling areas have been divided to include Cropland and Pastureland funding accounts. When determining which funding account to use for ranking select the land use with the greatest acreage that the participant's application will address. Example: An Ohio County participant's primary resource concern is sheet and rill erosion on cropland but also wants to address a water quality issue in a pasture field. The treatment units include 100 acres of crop fields with cover crop and no-till planned; and a 20 acre pasture field with fence, pipe and tank planned. Since cropland has the greater acreage the application would be ranked under the PA 1 Cropland funding account. Refer to the EQIP ProTracts Fund Accounts table for a complete listing of available fund accounts.**
- Selection of resource concerns will be limited to no more than two concerns. A primary and a secondary resource concern, **per practice planned**.
- Although the FOTG has been updated with a restructured list of resource concerns, states will continue to use the legacy list of resource concerns for program application ranking in AERT during the FY 2013 transition year to the new concerns.
- Practices selected for ranking will be the same as the practices planned in the contract when the participant's application is accepted.
- All eligible practices that are planned in the contract will be entered into the ranking tool.
- When answering the questions for national, state and local issues only answer Yes (award points) for the practices that will be installed using EQIP funds.
- Answer "Yes" for every question that applies to the application (Example: 1. Livestock will be excluded from sensitive areas. 2. Livestock will be excluded

from sensitive areas with a minimum 30 foot setback. If a setback is used you would answer yes to both questions.)

- All participants will be provided a copy of the ranking sheet and will be required to sign it prior to funding selection.
- Participants will also be required to sign the field worksheet certifying their concurrence with the practices and units included in the application.
- No “new” operations to increase or initiate production will be considered for EQIP; however, expanded operations will be eligible if a resource concern will be addressed. **EXCEPTION: New operations are eligible for CAPs if certain criteria are met:**
  - **Documentation that the applicant has committed to completing the project. This commitment can be a business plan, loan approval to start construction, pending loan to start construction based on CNMP development, or actual construction.**
  - **Forestry CAP (106) – ownership of the woodland constitutes an operation and would be eligible for CAP without additional documentation.**

## National Issues:

Use the following chart to determine “Yes” answers for the EQIP National Issue Questions. Only answer yes to these questions when the practice(s) to be installed with EQIP funds will address that specific concern. (Guidance for answering the WHIP National Issues questions is included in the Working Lands For Wildlife Initiative Addendum)

Question	Guidance For Answering Questions
1a	Answer Yes if the application is for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). If the answer is Yes, do not answer any other National Issues Questions.
2a	This question only applies to AFOs. Answer yes if planned practices are in support of an existing or new CNMP.
2b	Answer yes if a practice is planned in field adjacent to a designated impaired water body according to the DOW Impaired Water bodies layer.
2c	Answer yes if a practice is planned in a field that adjoins a stream. This criterion applies to any stream that has a defined channel that flows for more than just during or after rainfall.
3a-3c	These questions will be answered no.
4a	This question will be answered no.
4b	Answer Yes only for Organic Certified or Transitioning Organic applications.
4c	Answer yes when planning the following practice: Tree/Shrub Planting (612), Forest Stand Improvement (666), Hedgerow Planting (422), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380), Silvopasture Establishment (381) or the following practices when native grasses are planned: Conservation Cover (327), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Field Border (386), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643), Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
5a	Field must be above “T” and the planned EQIP practice(s) takes the field to “T” or below. Must be supported with a RUSLE2 run.
5b	Answer yes when the application includes Cover Crop (340) for Soil Health option.
6a	When answering question 6a refer to the NRCS <i>T&amp;E Species by County List</i> and the <i>Practice Effects Document</i> located in Section II of eFOTG under the Conservation Planning Guidance Tab in the Threatened and Endangered Species Folder. Example 1) "Access Control" being planned on a stream or direct tributary to a stream noted by the <i>Species by County List</i> to contain listed species could receive points for a benefit according to the <i>Practice Effects Document</i> . Example 2) Shallow Water Development in a county noted by the <i>Species by County List</i> to contain threatened or endangered bats would receive points for a benefit according to the <i>Practice Effects Document</i> . (Question same as State Question 5.)

	Also answer yes for this question if Forest Stand Improvement (666) or Brush Management (314) is being planned in the Forestland Bird Conservation Area or when the following practices are being planned in the Grassland Bird Conservation Area as outlined in Kentucky's Comprehensive Wildlife Action Plan: Conservation Cover, Field Border, Hedgerow Planting, Tree/Shrub Establishment -Shrub Planting Only, Restoration and Management of Declining Habitat, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management and points may be awarded when native grasses are being used for a Riparian Herbaceous Cover or Forage and Biomass Planting. Points may also be awarded when Prescribed Grazing is being contracted through EQIP.(Question same as State Question 6).
6b	Answer yes if planned practices will help maintain wildlife benefits on land exiting CRP. Examples of practices that could apply include Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Field Borders (386), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), and Conservation Cover (327) when wildlife beneficial vegetation is being planned.
7a	Answer yes if any planned practices target/treat invasive plant species according to the KY-Exotic Pest Plant Council (EPPC) severe threat list found at the following location <a href="http://www.se-eppc.org/ky/list.htm">http://www.se-eppc.org/ky/list.htm</a> . Examples of practices that address invasive species would be a Forest Stand Improvement (666) and Brush Management (314) that addresses Bush Honeysuckle or Tree-of-Heaven. Another example would be Forage and Biomass Planting (512) that converts endophyte infected Tall fescue to forage species not considered as a severe threat.
7b	Answer yes if native forbs or shrubs/trees are being established as part of a practice, or if Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Forest Stand Improvement (666) or Brush Management (314) is being planned as part of this contract.
7c	Answer yes if an Animal Mortality Facility (316) is being planned.
7d	Answer yes only if Integrated Pest Management (595) is being implemented through this application according to an NRCS Integrated Pest Management Plan (5 years old or less).
7e	Answer yes only if practices identified in an NRCS Nutrient Management Plan (5 years old or less) are being implemented through this application.
7f	Answer no to this question.
8a	Answer yes for this question when planning the following practices through EQIP: Access Control (472), Conservation Cover (327), Field Border (386), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Grassed Waterway (412), Hedgerow Planting (422), Residue Management/No-Till (329), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Silvopasture Establishment (381) or Tree/Shrub Establishment

	(612). In addition, answer yes when Fence (382) is planned that includes a solar charger or if Forage and Biomass Planting (512) is being planned to convert cropland to pastureland or hayland.
8b	Answer Yes when Farmstead Energy Improvement (374) is planned.
8c	Answer Yes when practices identified in an NRCS Ag Energy Management Plan (5 years old or less) as having the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants are planned.
9a	Answer Yes if contract does not exceed 4 years (3 yrs installation + 1 yr maintenance.)
9b	Answer Yes if the planned practices will improve an existing conservation practice. (ex: GSS for outlet of existing grassed waterway) Answer Yes if the planned practices will complete an existing conservation system. (ex: installing buffers to complete a CNMP)
9c	Answer Yes if planned practices will complete a conservation system or suite of practices that address a common resource concern(s).

### **State Issues – General EQIP**

(Guidance for answering the WHIP State Issues questions is included in the Working Lands For Wildlife Initiative Addendum. Guidance for answering State Issues questions included in the National and State Initiatives is included in the specific Initiative Addendum.)

Question 1a, answer yes if the application is for a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), and do not answer any other State Issues questions.

Questions 2a, 2b, 2c, and 2d are self explanatory, only answer yes to these questions when the practice(s) to be installed with EQIP funds will address that specific concern.

When answering question 2e refer to the NRCS *Species by County List* and the *Practice Effects Document* located in Section II of eFOTG under the Conservation Planning Guidance Tab in the Threatened and Endangered Species Folder.

- o Example 1) Access Control being planned on a stream or direct tributary to a stream noted by the *Species by County List* to contain listed species could receive points for a benefit according to the *Practice Effects Document*.

For question number 2g answer yes if the applicant has a current Ag Water Quality Act (AWQA) Plan, and can provide a copy to NRCS at the time of ranking. If points are awarded during ranking for having a current AWQA Plan at time of ranking, a copy of the plan must be included in the case file. **The signed certification sheet WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE** for meeting this requirement. The only exception to having an AWQA plan is in accordance with the Ag Water Quality Act, which specifies that if a forest land owner has a stewardship plan that has been developed to ensure that ground and surface water is protected from pollution and activities on the property, then an Ag Water Quality Plan is not required. In this case the applicant should be considered to have met the AWQA Plan requirement for screening purposes. If there is a question in

determining whether a stewardship plan meets this requirement, the Technical Area Resource Conservationist should be contacted for assistance.

For question number 2f answer yes if Brush Management (314) is being planned in the Forestland Bird Conservation Area or when the following practices are being planned in the Grassland Bird Conservation Area as outlined in Kentucky's Comprehensive Wildlife Action Plan: Field Border, Tree/Shrub Establishment (shrub planting only), and points may be added when native grasses are being used for Riparian Herbaceous Cover or Forage and Biomass Planting. Points may also be awarded when Prescribed Grazing is being contracted through EQIP.

Questions 2f, 2h and 2i will be yes when the majority (>50%) of the applicant's offered acreage falls within the boundaries of one of these special emphasis areas and when certain practices are being planned within these special emphasis areas (see questions). The geographic data has been placed on the field office servers for use in Arc Map when making this determination (directions below):

- The field office users can open an Arc Map session and "Add Data" by browsing to the Geodata server location (F:\geodata\project\_data\nrcs) and loading the layer file "EQIP-WHIP 2013 GIS Layers": (turn on individual layers as needed by the user)
  - DOW Identified Watersheds
  - DOW Impaired Waterbodies
  - DOW Wellhead Protection & KGS Karst Areas
  - Amphibian Conservation Areas
  - Aquatic Conservation Areas
  - Copperbelly Watersnake Conservation Areas
  - Grassland Bird Conservation Areas
  - Forestland Bird Conservation Areas
  - Quail Focus Areas
  - MRBI Watersheds

If points are awarded for questions 8 and/or 9 a copy of the map showing the location of the participant's land within the special emphasis area must be included in the contract folder.

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## Access Control (472)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

### Eligible Under:

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Forestland
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

### Appropriate Payment Scenarios:

- Monitor Maintenance

### Practice Program Guidance:

- Access Control (472) should be planned on the fencing of woodland and other sensitive areas (i.e. Wetlands, riparian areas, ephemeral pools, woodlands, etc.) when a setback will be utilized. Payment occurs once the facilitating practice is installed (i.e. fence).
- Field Border (386) or Riparian Forest Buffer (391) may be installed and funded on Access Control (472) acres when vegetation establishment or enhancement is needed.
- Payments are limited to 1-year.
- Livestock will be excluded from the setback or “Access Control” acres.
- Haying the setback acres once per year (but only after August 1) is acceptable only when establishment of woody vegetation is not desired.
- **Payment for Access Control is not authorized if flash grazing is planned by the producer.**
- For streams, when both sides of stream are owned by the same individual and livestock will be present, both sides must be fenced.
- For karst basins, the payment is authorized only for open-throated sinkholes.
- Access Control (472) requires the installation of a permanent, exclusion-quality fence.
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - Access Control should always be planned on the fencing of woodland and other sensitive areas (i.e. wetlands, riparian areas, ephemeral pools, woodlands, etc.) for these two Initiatives.
  - When establishment of woody vegetation is not intended in the area, mowing/haying the setback acres after August 1 is acceptable on no more than one-half of the total acreage every year.
  - Access Control should always be planned and implemented as a component of Field Border (386), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Riparian Herbaceous

Cover (390), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Conservation Cover (327) or other appropriate practice when vegetation establishment or enhancement is required and used by livestock, equipment or people are restricted.

- Where setbacks are utilized, the following criteria are to be used:
  - Treated Setbacks (for payment purposes) shall be 40-180 feet in width depending upon the practice standard.
  - Fencing streams and wetlands (hydric or inclusion soils with trees) requires a minimum setback or buffer area of 40 feet for 80 percent of the fence length. The setback will be measured starting at the top of the bank for streams without existing trees. If trees or woodland exists along a stream, the fence will be placed 40 feet from the trunk line. For wetlands, the fence will be placed 40 feet from the trunk line.
  - Access Control (i.e. fencing) for woodland requires a minimum setback or buffer area of 40 feet from the trunk- line for 80 percent of the fence length.
  - Payment is only authorized for the buffer acres, no woodland payment.
- **When planning in the Forestland Initiative:**
  - Access Control for woodland requires a minimum setback of 30 feet from the trunk line for 80 percent of the fence length.
  - Payment is only authorized for the buffer acres, no woodland payment.

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## **Access Road (560)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- 6" Gravel-Level-New Align
- 6" Gravel-Level-Exist Align

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Payment for Access Road can only be authorized when it is the **least cost** solution to solve a resource concern related to winter feeding for livestock. The road must be the most practicable route for feed transport vehicular travel that protects the soil, water, fish, wildlife, and other adjacent natural resources.
- Payment for Access Road is only authorized for roads constructed with a minimum 14 feet width (10ft tread width), with greater widths at curves and turnouts.
- Access Road payment is only authorized when the road is an integral part of a planned grazing system that meets the NRCS (528) standard for Prescribed Grazing. All pastures serviced, accessed, or adjoining the road must be managed in such a way that meets the aforementioned Prescribed Grazing standard. The Prescribed Grazing plan must be developed prior to installation of the Access Road, and must include Before and After scenario worksheets produced from the KY Graze Program.
- The Technical Area Resource Conservationist will review and concur prior to approval of this practice.
- All Access Roads planned and constructed will meet the NRCS Access Road (560) Conservation Practice Standard and Construction Practice Standard for Kentucky.

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## **Agricultural Energy Management Plan – Headquarters (122)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- On-Farm Energy Initiative

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Livestock – Small < 70 AU
- Livestock – Medium 70-300 AU
- Livestock – Large 301-2500 AU
- Livestock – X-Large > 2500 AU
- Non-Livestock – Single Enterprise
- Non-Livestock – Two Enterprises
- Non-Livestock – Three Enterprises
- Non-Livestock – Mixed Enterprises

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Rank all applications for CAP 122 in the On-Farm Energy ProTracts sub-account.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.
- Applications for 122 AgEMP must address all lands in the producer's agricultural operation and include the producer's entire operation in the program contract. NRCS staff should advise all applicants for the 122 AgEMP must include all farm operations identified by the Farm Service Agency in the application. Separate applications for the 122 AgEMP from the same participant on different land units should not be accepted as such contracts would not meet the technical requirements of the AgEMP planning criteria.

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## **Agricultural Energy Management Plan – Landscape (124)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- On-Farm Energy

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Non-Irrigated < 50 ac.
- Non-Irrigated 50-499 ac.
- Non-Irrigated 500-5000 ac.
- Non-Irrigated > 5000 ac.
- Irrigated < 50 ac.
- Irrigated 50-499 ac.
- Irrigated 500-5000 ac.
- Irrigated > 5000 ac.

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Rank all applications for CAP 124 in the On-Farm Energy ProTracts sub-account.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.

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## **Animal Mortality Facility (316)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Sow Finisher
- Nursery
- Poultry

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- If large animal, State Cost Share will need to be considered for funding.
- Animal Mortality Facilities for swine or poultry mortality will be required to meet all state and local regulations and permit requirements.
- Possible companion practices: Roofs and Covers (367).

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## Animal Trails and Walkways (575)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Constructed Trail/Walkway

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice is designed to address resource concerns caused by heavy, frequent animal traffic (not vehicular traffic).
- This practice may only be applied to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:
  - Provide or improve access to forage, water, stream crossings, and/or shelter for livestock.
  - Improve grazing efficiency and distribution for livestock.
  - Divert livestock travel ways away from ecologically sensitive and/or erosive sites.
- Rock and geo-textile is NOT included in this payment scenario. The payment is for the construction of the trails ONLY.
- Include all eligible companion practices that are needed to install this practice, including Heavy Use Area (561), Fence (382) and Filter Strip (393) or Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390) establishment if needed to protect the resource concern. This practice is not applicable to protecting gate areas. However, the trail and walkway may be designed to include gate openings.
- Exclusion fence shall be installed at the VERY edge of the walkway to prevent livestock from traveling on areas along the edge of the walkway.

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## Brush Management (314)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- Organic
- Forestland
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Mechanical and Chemical
- Mechanical and Chemical Chip Debris
- Mechanical Hand Tools

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- For treatment of woody shrub species that have been found to be impeding the natural regeneration of the forest stand.
- This practice can also be utilized in pasture settings for the treatment of invasive woody species with the exception of cedar trees.
- Also includes control of invasive woody species (ex: bush honeysuckle) when canopy is too large to facilitate treatment by foliar application safely. When canopy is 4.5 feet or less, use Tree/Shrub Site Prep (490) – “Chemical, Hand Application” scenario.
- Practice payment is on a per acre basis.
- A follow-up foliar treatment will be planned the year after the initial treatment to address smaller plants, re-sprouts and new seedlings utilizing Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) – “Chemical, Hand Application” scenario.
- **When planning in the Forestland Initiative:**
  - For treatment of woody shrub species that have been found to be impeding the natural regeneration of the forest stand.
  - Also includes control of invasive woody species (ex: bush honeysuckle) when canopy is too large to facilitate treatment by foliar application safely. When canopy is 4.5 feet or less, use Tree/Shrub Site Prep (490) – “Chemical, Hand Application” scenario.
  - KY Div of Forestry staff will provide technical assistance for Brush Mgt (314) under this initiative. Forward a TAR to the appropriate KDF District office as soon as possible.

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## **Composting Facility (317)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Composter, with concrete floor and wood walls
- Composter, with concrete floor and concrete walls
- Composter, windrow, all weather surface
- Composter, with compacted earth floor, windrow

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- For composting of by-products only, not authorized for animal mortality composting.
- Practice will be implemented according to the Composting Facility (317) Practice Standard.

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## **Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (102)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Small Non-Dairy with land application <300 AU
- Small Dairy with land application <300 AU
- Small AFO without land application <300 AU
- Medium Non-Dairy with land application 300-700 AU
- Medium Dairy with land application 300-700 AU
- Medium-Large AFO without land application >300 AU
- Large Non-Dairy with land application >700 AU
- Large Dairy with land application >700 AU

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Rank all applications for CAP 102 in the General EQIP or MRBI ProTracts sub-accounts.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.
- All CAP 102s must be developed using Manure Management Planner (MMP) Software.
- CAP 102s will not be processed for payment until signed by the TSP and the producer, who must sign agreeing to the plan.
- The Area Resource Conservationist will be contacted prior to processing payment to insure that the TSP has had their first CNMP successfully reviewed, as required by the TechReg certification process.
- All CAP 102s written must be in compliance with the most current NRCS Nutrient Management (590) Practice Standard.

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## Conservation Cover (327)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- MRBI
- Organic
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Native Species
- Native Shrubs, NWSGs & Forbs – WLFW only
- Pollinator Habitat
- Introduced Species
- Organic Introduced Species
- Organic Native
- Organic Native Shrubs, NWSGs & Forbs
- Organic Pollinator Scenario

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Payments are authorized for conversion of agricultural lands (cropland, hay or pastureland) to native or cool season species (non-fescue).
- If haying or grazing is planned, conservation practice standard 512 should be used, not 327.
- No soil amendments are required for native plantings. Application of nitrogen during the establishment period of native grasses is prohibited (including DAP).
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - This practice should be utilized for all permanent wildlife plantings.
  - NWSG planting or planting for non-erosion control or non-forage related activities should utilize this practice.
  - Seeding for native species shall be according to Table 8 and 9 in the “Establishing Vegetative Practices in Kentucky” document. The planting mix shall contain three lbs. PLS of at least three native grass species when the mixture contains Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, or Switchgrass. Five lbs. PLS is required in the seeding mix when it does not contain Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, or Switchgrass. All planting must include at least two pounds/acre total of at least 4 native forb species.
  - Mowing/haying the planted acres after August 1 is acceptable on no more than one-half of the total acreage every year.
  - Any pollinator habitat plantings should utilize appropriate pollinator scenario.
  - Pollinator plantings should established using Table 16 in the “Establishing Vegetative Practices in Kentucky”

- Food Plot Establishment:
  - Food plots will be established utilizing Table 12 in the “Establishing Vegetative Practices in Kentucky” using eligible clover or lespedeza species.
  - Conservation Cover will be contracted for this practice.
  - Introduced species payment scenario will only be utilized in instances where food plots are established in conjunction with other wildlife friendly practices as outlined below:
    - Food plots are eligible if the client has established through EQIP a minimum of 5 acres of native warm season grasses; and/or 2 acres of native shrubs; or at least 1 acre of patch clearcuts or edge feathering.
    - Food plots shall be a minimum of 0.3 acres and a maximum of 1 acre.
    - A maximum of 5.0 acres of food plots is allowed per contract with a corresponding ratio of beneficial practices (25 acres of native grasses = max 5 acres of food plots)
    - Establishment of food plots shall be performed and payment made as the last practice in an EQIP contract.
    - Food plots shall not be established in areas that have been clearcut or edge feathered.
    - Grass species are not eligible for food plot establishment.

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## Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- On-Farm Energy

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Sod-based rotation
- Specialty Crop Sod-based rotation
- Organic Specialty Crop Sod-based rotation
- Organic Sod-based rotation
- Row Crop Continuous Live Cover
- Specialty Crop Continuous Live Cover
- Herbicide Resistant Weeds

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Eligible acres are those where the current rotation is annual crops and is significantly changed to include at least two years or more of rotation legume, grass, and legume mixtures and other approved winter and summer cover crops.
- Acres receiving payment for cover crop are eligible to receive payment for this EQIP practice because the payment is for converting to a grass rotation and having living covers on the land.

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## Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (138)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- Organic Initiative (Transitioning to Organic sub-account)

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
- Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition - Non-Local

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Rank all applications for CAP 138 in the Organic - Transition ProTracts sub-account.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.
- A Local TSP is defined as headquartered within three hundred miles from the site and will utilize the payment scenario *Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition*.
- A non-local TSP is defined as headquartered greater than three hundred miles from the site and will utilize the payment scenario *Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition – No Local TSP*.

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## **Contour Buffer Strips (332)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Introduced with FI
- Organic with FI

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Practice will be implemented according to the Contour Buffer Strips (332) Practice Standard.

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## **Contour Farming (330)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Contour Farming

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Practice will be implemented according to the Contour Farming (330) Practice Standard.

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## Cover Crop (340)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- On-Farm Energy

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Small Grain-Brassica Cover
- Legume Nitrogen Fixation Cover
- Soil Health Building Cover
- Organic Weed Suppression Cover

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Based on information from the University of KY, wheat and barley are excluded from this practice. This is due to the fact that the Hessian Fly Free dates leave a very small seeding window for most of KY.
- Cover crops may not be harvested for any reason.
- All cover crops should be terminated no later than cereal rye boot stage and before head emergence. (Seeding rates and cover crop termination will be addressed in more detail in appropriate cover crop job sheets). If the participant wishes for cover crop to grow past the “boot stage” for cereal rye the participant should contact their crop insurance provider to ensure later cover crop termination will not conflict with crop insurance coverage.
- For options *Small Grain Brassica Cover* and *Legume Nitrogen Fixation Cover* a maximum of \$10,000 per contract per year for this practice. Cover crop may be applied for any year the field is fallow in the rotation. Maximum of 2 years, total for \$20,000 per contract.
- When planning the *Soil Health Building Cover* option, consider planning for the maximum 3 years to achieve maximum soil health benefits. A maximum of \$50,000 per contract per year for this payment scenario. Maximum of 3 years, for a total of \$150,000 per contract per year for this payment scenario.
- Consider planning Residue and Tillage Management, Seasonal (344) as a companion practice with the *Soil Health Building Cover* option.
- Practice will be implemented according to the Cover Crop (340) Standard and Job Sheets.
- **When planning in the Organic Initiative:**
  - Additional leguminous, high-biomass cover crop/green manure seeding mixes are available for Organic producers.
- **When planning in the MRBI:**

- A maximum of \$50,000 per contract per year for this practice. Cover crop may be applied for any year the field is fallow in the rotation. Maximum of 3 years, for a total of \$150,000 per contract.

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## Critical Area Treatment (342)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Seasonal High Tunnel
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Grass legume normal till
- Organic grass legume normal till
- Grass legume moderate grading
- Grass Legume heavy grading

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Eligible as a stand-alone practice (non-companion) **ONLY** in cases where there are soil erosion and/or water quality problems **AND** where normal vegetative measures or exclusion of livestock is insufficient to address the resource concern.
- When planning as a stand-alone practice consider planning Mulching (484) as a companion practice.
- This practice shall not be used as stand-alone where normal seedbed preparation and seeding can be accomplished and is sufficient to correct the resource concern.
- Critical Area Plantings considered large (.0.25 ac.) may be subject to spot check before the contract is approved.
- Critical Area Plantings must be excluded from livestock during establishment period. This may require temporary exclusion at the producer's expense.
- When planning as a companion practice with another ground disturbing practice (ex: grassed waterway, pond, wetland creation, etc.) **ALWAYS** use the *Grass/Legume Normal Till* payment scenario.
- **When planning in Wildlife Initiative, Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative or WLFW Initiative:**
  - No variety of fescue shall be utilized in conjunction with this practice. Any other variety of cool season ground cover is acceptable.

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## **Diversion (362)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Seasonal High Tunnel

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Diversion LF

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Plan and include all eligible companion practices that are needed to serve as a stable outlet for this practice. The outlet may be a grassed waterway, lined waterway, grade stabilization structure, underground outlet, stable watercourse, sediment basin, stable vegetated area, or a combination of these practices.
- If livestock are present, a permanent fence may also be planned. The applicant may however agree to use a portable fence for livestock exclusion during the establishment period.
- Any livestock damage to the Diversion or outlet during the practice lifespan must be repaired at the expense of the producer and so noted in the practice narrative.
- Must plan Critical Area for seeding of Diversion
  - Can only use Critical Area Scenario *Grass/Legume Normal Till*
  - If mulching is necessary, contract Mulch (484) practice, and use *Erosion Control Blanket* scenario.

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## **Drainage Water Management Plan (130)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Tile Map Available
- (P.E.) Tile Map Available
- Tile Map Creation
- (P.E.) Tile Map Creation

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Rank all applications for CAP 130 in the General EQIP or MRBI sub-accounts.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.

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## Early Successional Habitat Development and Management (647)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Habitat Disking

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice may be utilized to establish habitat through disking and/or to maintain or rejuvenate existing habitat.
- Establishment through planting or forestry management activities is not allowable under this standard.

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## **Farmstead Energy Improvement (374)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- On-Farm Energy

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Lighting-Linear Fluorescent
- Vent-Exhaust
- Vent-HAF
- Refrig-Plate Cooler
- Refrig-Scroll Compressor
- Controller-Variable Speed Drive
- Auto. Elect. Controller
- Motors-Large – Greater than 100HP
- Motors-Medium – 10 to 100HP
- Motors-Small – 2 to 10HP
- Motors-up to 2 HP
- Poultry House Heaters
- AirHeat-Heater – High efficiency heating system
- Bldg Env-Attic
- Bldg Env Wall Spray Foam
- Bldg Env Wall Batts
- Bldg Env-Sealent
- Bldg Env-GH Screen

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Practice will be implemented according to the Farmstead Energy Improvement (374) practice standard.
- For a producer to be eligible to implement Conservation Practice Standard 374, they must have an AgEMP – Headquarters or an on-farm energy audit (no more than five years old) that meets the ASABE S612 standard.

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## Fence (382)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Forestland
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Woven
- Safety
- Exclusion
- Exclusion, Mountain: use **ONLY** when the majority (> 50%) of fence contracted will be installed on D slopes or greater.
- Interior

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- EQIP eligibility for exclusion fence is limited to operations where livestock are creating a resource concern that needs to be addressed.
- A payment for exclusion fence is authorized when excluding livestock from a stream, pond, or other water body, woodland, open-throat sinkholes, or sensitive areas.
- Payment for exclusion fence is authorized when establishing a new, permanent pasture that is a different forage class, requiring different stubble heights or significantly different periods of deferment. Example would be establishing native, warm season grass acreage within a larger, cool season grass pasture; or where a crop field is converted to pasture for the purpose of prescribed grazing
- Permanent interior-fencing for livestock distribution is only authorized when producers are beginning implementation of a prescribed grazing system employing **a minimum of 4 paddocks for each herd.**
- When interior fence is contracted, Prescribed grazing (528) must be EQIP contracted and implemented in conjunction with this practice, based on Kentucky Graze (graze.xls) worksheet, The EQIP Job Sheet for Prescribed grazing and the NRCS Prescribed grazing Standard will be employed for implementing prescribed grazing. Only *Interior* payment rate is authorized. Maximum payment for cross fencing for livestock distribution is \$8,000. A RESOURCE CONCERN THAT "IMPROVED LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION" AND "PRESCRIBED GRAZING" WILL ADDRESS MUST BE PRESENT AND DOCUMENTED PRIOR TO CONTRACTING INTERIOR FENCE.
- Boundary fence (property line fence) or perimeter fence is eligible:

- On expired or expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land to establish a grazing operation; however, the practice may not be installed until the CRP contract has expired.
- On land to protect, restore, develop, or enhance habitat for wildlife or to exclude livestock from an environmentally sensitive area, such as a riparian area or wetland.
- On land where the fence is an integral part of a conservation management system, such as a planned prescribed grazing system that facilitates improved management of grazing land.
- **When planning for the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - NRCS personnel shall plan, design and certify fence.
  - Fence is an eligible practice when excluding livestock from streams, woods, wetlands, buffers, karst basins, and wildlife lands.
  - Livestock should be present at the time of ranking. An exception may be granted based on whether livestock ownership can be determined AND where the grazing unit is capable of being grazed (fence, water, etc.).
  - When livestock are present Access Control (472) shall be planned in all cases.
  - Grass plantings may only be fenced when livestock are excluded for the practice lifespan or when an NRCS prepared detailed grazing plan is followed that focuses on wildlife benefits.
  - Fencing streams and wetlands (hydric or inclusion soils with trees) requires a minimum setback or buffer area of 40 feet for 80% of the fence length. The setback will be measured starting at the top of the bank for streams without existing trees. If trees or woodland exists along a stream, the fence shall be placed 40' from the trunk line. For wetlands, the fence shall be placed 40' from the trunk-line.
  - Fencing woodland requires a minimum setback or buffer area of 40' feet from the trunk line for 80% of the fence length. Access Control should be planned on the buffer acres only.
  - Payment for boundary fences is only authorized when a stream or wetland serves as the property boundary. Payment is authorized for fencing ponds in conjunction with pipeline and tank installation but only when livestock are being excluded from a stream or wetland currently being used as a water source.
- **When planning for the Forestland Initiative:**
  - To be planned only when livestock have been found to have unrestricted access to the forested acres. No setback is required when Access Control payment is not being contracted for buffer acres. However, fence should be planned to be located near the average trunk-line of the forest edge.

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## Field Border (386)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

### Eligible Under:

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

### Appropriate Payment Scenarios:

- Wildlife Mix with FI – Wildlife, Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat, WLFW ONLY
- Native No FI
- Introduced No FI
- Mixed Species No FI
- Pollinator No FI
- Organic Seed No FI

### Practice Program Guidance:

- Field Border minimum width is 30 feet and the maximum is 120 feet.
- Natural regeneration is not eligible for payment.
- No mowing during the nesting season between May 15<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Companion practices to consider include Fence (382) and Access Control (472).
- **When planning under the Organic Initiative:**
  - Consider incorporating pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat.
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative, Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative, or WLFW:**
  - The ONLY two payment scenarios available under these Initiatives are *Wildlife Mix with FI* and *Pollinator Species – no FI*.
  - Field borders will only be planned when the primary land use is cropland, hayland, or pastureland.
  - Seeding for this practice shall be according to Table 8 and 9 in the “Establishing Vegetative Practices in Kentucky” document. The planting mix shall contain three lbs. PLS of at least three native grass species when the mixture contains Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, or Switchgrass. Five lbs. PLS is required in the seeding mix when it does not contain Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, or Switchgrass. All planting must include at least two pounds/acre total of at least 4 native forb species.
  - Mowing/haying the planted acres after August 1 is acceptable on no more than one-half of the total acreage every year.
  - Conservation Cover (327) should be utilized when areas with an average width >120’ is being planted.

- Pollinator borders should be established using Table 16 in the “Establishing Vegetative Practices in Kentucky”. *NOTE: To be effective in cropland settings ½ acre to 3 acres ratio of border to cropland is recommended.*
- Livestock, when present, shall be excluded from the field border for the life of the contract. Financial assistance may be used for fence to exclude livestock when needed. Refer to Access Control (472).

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## **Filter Strip (393)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Introduced
- Introduced with Shaping

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Practice will be implemented according to the Filter Strip (393) Practice Standard.
- Areas planned to Filter Strip do not have to be near a stream or water source.

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## Firebreak (394)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- Organic
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Firebreak Disked
- Vegetated Fire Break

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice shall not be utilized in forestland or forested settings.
- This practice shall only be utilized in conjunction with Prescribed Fire (338).
- Minimum width for all firebreaks shall be 20 feet.
- This practice is a onetime payment.
- Vegetated Firebreak
  - Vegetated firebreaks shall consist of at least one grass and legume excluding varieties of fescue and establishment shall follow the process outlined in the conservation practice Conservation Cover (327) and Table 7 of the Establishing Vegetative Practices in KY document.
  - After Aug15 vegetated firebreaks may be hayed, mowed, disked or any combination once annually to avoid a build-up of excess litter and to control weeds.
  - Vegetated firebreaks shall not be grazed.
  - Existing vegetated cover is not eligible for payment under a vegetated firebreak.
- Disked Firebreak
  - Disked firebreaks shall be performed to bare ground; but positioned as to not cause site erosion.
  - Timing of installation should occur as close to the scheduled burn as possible.

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## **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (142)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mgt CAP

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Applies to development of a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management plan that meets the minimum quality criteria to address appropriate resource concerns associated with those landuses.
- Plans will utilize the complete CAP 142 template and instructions.
- Rank all applications for CAP 142 in the Wildlife or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat ProTracts sub-account.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.

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## Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Native Perennial (1 Species)
- Native Perennial (4 Species)
- Introduced Cool Season with legume
- Sprigging
- Frost Seeding Legumes (limited to certain sites)

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- If Tall fescue is included, only novel endophyte, endophyte free, or “low-infection rate” fescue (5% or less) seed will be used on A, B, and C slopes.
- Payments are authorized for converting cropland to perennial, native or introduced forage species/forage mixes.
- Payments are authorized for converting existing pasture or hay fields that are greater than 20% toxic, endophyte infected Tall fescue to perennial, native or introduced forage species/forage mixes.
- Plantings on HEL, endophyte infected Tall fescue pastures or hay fields will require two chemical burndowns before a “no till” only seeding. Planting on NHEL fields may substitute adequate tillage for the chemical burndowns and utilize conventional seeding methods.
- Plantings on crop fields coming out of production may be performed by conventional methods. A cover crop may be needed depending on the crop residue cover, seeding dates, planting methods, and erosion potential.
- Planting must be accomplished in accordance with the Forage and Biomass Planting job sheet for “native grass planting” or “introduced grass planting.”
- Payments are not authorized for planting or conversion to a stand of pure legumes.
- Eligible species and seeding rates will be in accordance with NRCS conservation practice standard 512 (Forage and Biomass Planting).
- Nutrient applications shall be based on soil tests using UK soil test procedures. Soil amendments for native grass plantings are not required. Documentation will include “location-referenced” soil test reports that identify all acreage tested in accordance with UK Publication AGR – 16. This publication identifies a maximum of 20 acres per soil test. Case file documentation will reflect where each sample was taken according to the plan map.
- Payment for frost seeding legumes is limited to pastures where the dominant slope is equal to or greater than a D slope. Endophyte infected Tall fescue seed may be utilized in these instances if needed to add cover and erosion control, but will have to be seeded at the participant’s cost.

- **A minimum of 5 contiguous acres or 5% of the forage base is required.**
- This practice is not authorized for land currently in forest.
- **When planning in the Organic Initiative:**
- Organic producers will substitute adequate tillage, ORMI (Organic Materials Review Institute) listed products, or equally effective methods for controlling competition, and organically approved methods of providing soil amendments and fertilizer.

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## **Forage Harvest Management (511)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Organic Preemptive Harvest

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be implemented according to the Forage Harvest Management (511) Practice Standard.

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## **Forest Management Plan (106)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- Forestland Initiative

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Forest Mgt Plan 10-50 ac
- Forest Mgt Plan 51-100 ac
- Forest Mgt Plan 101-200 ac
- Forest Mgt Plan 201-400 ac
- Forest Mgt Plan 401-600 ac
- Forest Mgt Plan 601-1000 ac
- Forest Mgt Plan >1000 ac

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will result in a Forest Management Plan that meets the criteria as identified by NHQ for the CAP 106. The Forest Management Plan will be developed for the woodland owner by a certified technical service provider (TSP).
- This practice is eligible provided that the woodland has never had a forest stewardship plan OR the current forest stewardship plan, prepared by KDF, or a private consultant forester, is more than 5 years old.
- Rank all applications for CAP 106 in the Forestland ProTracts sub-account.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.

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## Forest Stand Improvement (666)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- Forestland
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- TSI – Single Treatment
- Patch Clearcuts
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Payment is on a per acre basis.
- Companion practices to consider include: Fence (382), Access Control (472), Brush Management (314), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Road Trail Landing Closure and Treatment (654), Tree/Shrub Planting (612, Tree/ Shrub Site Preparation (490).
- **When planning in the Forestland Initiative:**
  - Prescription plans that call for light treatment of less than 20 BA per acre removed by basal bark herbicide application, or injection/hack & squirt methods use the *TSI – Single Treatment* Scenario.
  - Prescription plans that call for treatment of 20-60 BA per acre removed by combination of girdling w/chain saw and chemical herbicide treatment use the *Wildlife Habitat Improvement* Scenario.
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or WLFW:**
  - Forest Stand Improvement is not eligible under the wildlife initiative except for patch clearcuts and edge feathering (cutback borders)
  - A Forest Management or Stewardship Plan is not required under the wildlife initiative, however only two scenarios are eligible for financial assistance:
    - Patch Clearcuts (clearcuts only)
    - Wildlife Habitat Improvement (edge feathering only)
  - **Edge-feathering (cutback borders):**
    - Planners should work closely with the KDFWR Private Lands Biologist to locate and/or mark trees to leave or remove based on the management goals.
    - This activity will be funded under the “Wildlife Habitat Improvement” payment scenario and shall only be utilized for edge feathering. Other uses of this scenario (e.g., general forest stand improvement recommendations) are not eligible under the wildlife initiative.
    - Areas within 30 to 100 feet of the woodland edge and along existing log roads, etc. will be thinned to a 25 – 35% stocking level. Thinning will begin at the mid-story canopy and move up. Remaining trees and shrubs may

be comprised of a good diversity of hard mast (nut bearing) and soft mast (berry producers).

- This practice should not be used when tree-of-heaven, bush honeysuckle, privet, multiflora rose, autumn olive, or royal paulownia (princess tree) are present or are likely to invade the treated area.
- Trees/shrubs should be removed by girdling, felling and stump treatment with an herbicide or cut and spray methods. If trees are felled, it is best to leave them where they fall or loosely stack them along the edge of the field. Dozers shall not be used in conjunction with this practice. Trees may also be removed from the site if desired.

○ **Patch Clearcuts**

- Patch clearcuts may be utilized to construct new openings or maintain existing openings in forested areas where wildlife is the primary objective.
  - Openings should not be utilized in areas where mast producing trees are dominant.
  - Isolated woodland tracts <40 acres generally do not benefit from openings. Forest stands with very low tree/shrub species diversity (e.g., non-merchantable redcedar or pine stands) may be an exception. Conversely, caution should be exercised when proposing multiple forest openings in woodland sites that are larger than 200 contiguous acres in size. A large opening or too many small openings may lead to habitat fragmentation for non-target interior nesting songbird species.
  - Areas should be irregular in shape and fit the contour.
  - Size of the openings will depend on the requirements of the targeted species and the site characteristics. However clearcuts should be a minimum of 1 acre in size.
  - Patch clearcuts will be limited to 25% of the woodland acres with a cap of \$35,196.00 per contract.
  - Openings may be established by various mechanical or chemical methods.
  - Slash may be left on the site or removed. Removal will provide more area for sprouting and regrowth, but the regrowth may be more susceptible to browse.
  - Quality hard-mast (e.g. oak, hickory, beech) and soft-mast trees (e.g. cherry, serviceberry and apple) may be retained to create a savannah effect. However, it is recommended that single standing trees not be left within openings, due to accessibility of predation on target species.
  - Islands or clumps of trees may be left standing within clearcuts to allow variability of habitat for certain target wildlife species (e.g. GWWA).
- **When planning for the Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
    - Forest Stand Improvement is eligible under the Southeastern KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative for implementing practices associated with a Practice Prescription Plan only. Do not forward a TAR to KDF for these applications. Contact your local Farm Bill Biologist for assistance.
    - Participants must thin stands by removing a minimum of 40 BA per acre.

- A practice prescription plan that describes planned improvement practices prepared by a Biologist must be on file in the NRCS office before the contract is approved.
- If trees will be felled, the practice must be planned to ensure that the Indiana Bat is not affected according to the KY Guidance Document for ESA Compliance.
- The *Wildlife Habitat Improvement* Scenario shall be used for FSI under this Initiative.
- The Wildlife Initiative guidance above pertaining to Edge Feathering and Patch Clear-cuts is the same for the Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative.

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## Grade Stabilization Structure (410)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Embankment, Pipe < = 6"
- Embankment, Pipe 8"-12"
- Embankment, Pipe >12"
- Pipe Drop, Plastic
- Pipe Drop, Steel
- Weir Drop Structures
- Rock Drop Structures
- Chute Structure

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- For a Grade Stabilization Structure to be eligible under EQIP, a Field Border (386) or Riparian Forest Buffer (391) must be planned and applied for the full stream reach of the field as a companion practice.
- When the GSS is serving as an outlet for a grassed waterway, field drainage ditch, or similar practices, the requirement for a Field Border or riparian buffer may be waived.
- Possible Companion Practices: Underground Outlet (620), Fence (382), Access Control (472).

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## Grassed Waterway (412)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Seasonal High Tunnel

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Base Waterway
- GWW with Fabric Checks
- GWW with Rock Checks

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Plan and include all companion practices that are needed to install this practice. These may include Grade Stabilization Structure (410), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), or Lined Outlet (468) Mulching (484), Critical Area Planting (342), Subsurface Drain (606), Underground Outlet (620), Fence (382), Heavy Use Area (561).
- Grassed Waterways may not be installed in areas where seasonal flow with a defined channel exists.
- Where waterways are installed, livestock access must be managed so as not to endanger the integrity of the waterway.
- When planning an equipment crossing in a waterway use the Heavy Use Area Protection standard and payment rate. **Use the Grassed Waterway Equipment Crossing design.**

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## **Grazing Management Plan (110)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Grazing Mgt Plan < 100 ac
- Grazing Mgt Plan 100-1500 ac
- Grazing Mgt Plan 1501-5000 ac
- Grazing Mgt Plan > 5000 ac

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Rank all applications for CAP 110 in the General EQIP or MRBI ProTracts sub-account.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.

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## Heavy Use Area Protection (561)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Rock-Gravel on Geotextile
- HUA Livestock Watering Ramp

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Heavy Use Areas must meet all the requirements of conservation practice standard 561, including setbacks and sizing criteria.
- Heavy Use Areas used for winter feeding are eligible for EQIP only when they serve as a component of a prescribed grazing system. The prescribed grazing system **MUST** account for using these feeding areas only during limited periods and must also include reseeding or renovating the areas degraded in the course of feeding.
- Heavy Use Areas designed for animal feeding operations (AFO) are not eligible for EQIP payments.
- Heavy Use Areas will not be covered.
- Provisions shall be made to collect, store, utilize, and/or treat manure accumulations and contaminated runoff according to accompanying NRCS standards.
- Planning will consider a system that will not result in the operation meeting the EPA AFO definition. This may result in the need for more than one feeding location.
- Heavy Use Areas may also be used to provide an access ramp into a pond for livestock watering AND may only be used where livestock are otherwise fully excluded from the pond AND where property lines or topography limit the practicality of a pipeline and tank.
- Heavy Use Area may also be used as a crossing in a Grassed Waterway (412).
- If a heavy use is being planned as a crossing in a grassed waterway in a pasture setting or as a livestock watering ramp into a pond, Fence shall be installed at the edge of the rock crossing to prevent livestock from traveling on unhardened areas along the edge of the walkway.

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## **Hedgerow Planting (422)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Contour

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Hedgerow will be established according to the NRCS Hedgerow Planting (422) Practice Standard.

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## Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Forestland
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Mechanical and Chemical
- Chemical Ground
- Chemical Spot – Forestland ONLY
- Hand Removal

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice applies to areas that contain >20% of a species not suitable for wildlife habitat (e.g., fescue, Japanese stiltgrass, bermudagrass, bromegrass, sercia lespedeza, or old-world bluestems).
- Herbaceous Weed Control is eligible if mowing and/or herbicide are needed to achieve the desired species and successional state where natural regeneration will occur instead of planting. More detail on practice implementation is included in the Herbaceous Weed Control (315) job sheet.
- Prescribed Grazing (528) must be EQIP contracted in conjunction with this practice when planned on pastureland.
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - Undesirable species control is eligible if mowing and/or herbicide are needed to achieve the desired species and successional state where natural regeneration will occur instead of planting.
  - This practice should only be used when it is expected that beneficial species will regenerate after treatment based on expected seed bank. In all other cases or where undesirables might regenerate a planting shall be planned using Conservation Cover (327).
  - Mowing/haying the non-wooded acres after August 1 is acceptable on no more than one-half of the total acreage every year.
- **When planning in the Forestland Initiative:**
  - For treatment of invasive herbaceous weeds impeding the natural regeneration of the forest stand as well as the natural flora (ex: Japanese stiltgrass, garlic mustard, Japanese honeysuckle, etc).
  - Always use the *Chemical Spot* Scenario (backpack or ATV sprayer).

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## **Integrated Pest Management (595)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Basic IPM Field 1RC
- Basic Field IPM > 1 RC
- Basic IPM Fruit/Veg. 1 RC
- Basic IPM Fruit/Veg. > 1 RC
- Basic IPM Orchard 1 RC
- Basic IPM Orchard > 1 RC
- IPM S-Farm 1 RC
- IPM S-Farm > 1 RC

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be implemented according to the Integrated Pest Management (595) practice standard.
- For a producer to be eligible to implement Conservation Practice Standard 595, they must have an Integrated Pest Management Plan (114) written at time of application.

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## **Integrated Pest Management Plan (114)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Integrated Pest Mgt – Small Specialty <50 ac
- Integrated Pest Mgt – Medium 51-250 ac
- Integrated Pest Mgt – Large > 250 ac

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Rank all applications for CAP 114 in the General EQIP or MRBI ProTracts sub-accounts.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.

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## **Irrigation Reservoir (436)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- Seasonal High Tunnel, On-Farm Energy

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Embankment Reservoir < = 30 acre feet
- Fiberglass Tank
- Plastic Tank

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice is to address a water conservation resource concern.
- This practice will be implemented according to the Irrigation Reservoir (436) practice standard.
- Applicants must provide documentation that they meet the Irrigation History requirements as outlined in the General Guidelines section of this manual.
- Possible Companion Practices: Critical Area Planting (342) , Mulching (484)

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## **Irrigation System, Microrrigation (441)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- MRBI
- Organic
- Seasonal High Tunnel

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- SDI (Subsurface drip irrigation)
- Surface polytubing with emitters
- Microjet
- Surface Drip Irrigation

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be implemented according to the Irrigation System, Micro irrigation (441) practice standard.
- Applicants must provide documentation that they meet the Irrigation History requirements as outlined in the General Guidelines section of this manual.

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## **Irrigation Water Management (449)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- MRBI
- Organic
- On-Farm Energy

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Basic IWM  $\leq$  30 ac
- Basic IWM  $>$  30 ac
- Intermediate IWM  $\leq$  30 ac
- Intermediate IWM  $>$  30 ac
- Advanced IWM  $\leq$  30 ac
- Advanced IWM  $>$  30 ac

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be implemented according to the Irrigation Water Management (449) practice standard.
- Applicants must provide documentation that they meet the Irrigation History requirements as outlined in the General Guidelines section of this manual.

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## **Irrigation Water Management Plan (118)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Irrigation Water Mgt Plan

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Rank all applications for CAP 118 in the General EQIP or MRBI ProTracts sub-accounts.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.

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## **Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Turf Reinforced Matting
- Rock Lined 18" thick

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice is intended to provide safe disposal of runoff from other conservation structures or from natural concentrations of flow.
- This practice is **ONLY** eligible where unlined or grassed waterways would be inadequate
- Possible Companion Practices include: Critical Area (342), Mulching (484), Subsurface Drain (606), Underground Outlet (620), Fence (382), Access Control (472).

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## Livestock Pipeline (516)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- PVC (iron pipe size)
- HDPE (iron pipe size & tubing)
- Pipeline in rock

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- EQIP eligibility for water system developments are limited to operations where poor livestock distribution is resulting in resource degradation or where livestock are being excluded from a stream, wetland or pond currently being used as a watering source.
- A resource concern, that can be addressed by improved livestock distribution, must be evident (resource concern cannot be due primarily to over-stocking).
- When grazing distribution is the resource being addressed, Prescribed Grazing (528) will be contracted. A prescribed grazing plan is required that includes both the KY Graze worksheet and Prescribed Grazing (528) Job Sheet.
- When water quality is the resource concern being addressed, Prescribed Grazing is not required to be contracted.
- When a watering facility is placed in a field adjacent to a stream with seasonal flow or higher flow the stream must be fenced, or placed into a small paddock to be managed for lighter utilization within a prescribed grazing plan.
- **The type of water system planned must be the most cost-effective means for the government.** In planning the source for a system, consideration should be given to selecting alternative sources to those that may be restricted in the event of droughts, such as prohibiting use of public water supplies for agricultural use. A pond, well, or spring development may be considered the most adequate and dependable supply even though they may be more costly in a situation where an applicant may be restricted from using municipal water for agricultural use during drought events. Documentation must be included in the contract folder to substantiate these circumstances. In other situations, a watering facility using a municipal water source may be the most dependable and cost effective source. These are planning considerations and are decisions which can only be made by the producer and conservation planner at the time of the field evaluation.
- A payment is authorized only for permanently installed tanks or waterers.
- Payments are not authorized for portable tanks/waterers or above-ground pipelines.

- Payments are not authorized for livestock water systems installation in confined livestock operations, loafing lots or barn lots
- When ranking and contracting springs and ponds, the pipe, tank, fence (ponds), seeding, and mulching (if needed) will be ranked, contracted, and paid separately.
- Possible Companion Practices: Watering Facility (614)
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - Only authorized when excluding livestock from an existing water source.

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## Mulching (484)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Seasonal High Tunnel
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Natural-Full Coverage
- Natural-Partial Coverage
- Natural-Partial Conv. Small Farms – Organic ONLY
- Erosion Control Blanket

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be implemented according to Mulching (484) Practice Standard.
- Mulching will be a companion practice for most ground disturbing practices and contracted separately (ex: grassed waterway, pond, lined waterway, etc.)

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## Nutrient Management (590)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Basic NM System
- Basic NM System using inorganic fertilizer, plus manure
- Precision NM System
- Basic Organic NM System
- Small Farm/Diversified Farm NM plan

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be implemented according to the 2013 Nutrient Management (590) practice standard.
- For a producer to be eligible to implement Conservation Practice Standard 590, they must have a NRCS certified Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (102) or Nutrient Management Plan (104) written at the time of application.
- Payment is for applying nutrients according to a CAP 102 or CAP 104.
- Payments are authorized for up to three years.

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## **Nutrient Management Plan (104)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Nutrient Mgt CAP < 100 ac
- Nutrient Mgt CAP 100-300 ac
- Nutrient Mgt CAP > 300 ac

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Only applies to commercial fertilizer application, or the application of animal manure that is brought onto the farm and immediately applied without storage. When any storage of manure is required prior to application, only a CNMP is applicable.
- Rank all applications for CAP 104 in the General EQIP, MRBI or Organic ProTracts sub-account.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.
- All Nutrient Management Plans written must be in compliance with the most current Nutrient Management (590) Conservation Practice Standard.

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## **Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan (146)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Pollinator CAP
- Pollinator CAP Non-Local

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Rank all applications for CAP 146 in the Wildlife or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative ProTracts sub-accounts.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.
- Meet NRCS quality criteria for soil erosion control, water quality, soil quality, plant condition, fish and wildlife, rangeland/pasture/grazed woodland health and productivity, and other identified resource concerns as outlined in the document entitled *Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan Practice Activity Code (146) (No.)*.
- Address the improvement, restoration, enhancement and/or expansion of flower-rich habitat that support native and/or managed pollinators.
- A Local TSP is defined as headquartered within three hundred miles from the site and will utilize the payment scenario “Pollinator CAP”
- A non-local TSP is defined as headquartered greater than three hundred miles from the site and will utilize the payment scenario *Pollinator CAP – No Local TSP*.

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## Pond (378)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Excavated Pit
- Embankment Pond without pipe
- Embankment Pond with pipe

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- EQIP eligibility for water system developments are limited to operations where poor livestock distribution is resulting in resource degradation or where livestock are being excluded from a stream, wetland or pond currently being used as a watering source.
- A resource concern, that addresses better livestock distribution, must be evident (resource concern cannot be due primarily to over-stocking).
- When grazing distribution is the resource being addressed, Prescribed Grazing (528) will be contracted. A prescribed grazing plan is required that includes both the KY Graze worksheet and Prescribed Grazing (528) Job Sheet.
- When water quality is the resource concern being addressed, Prescribed Grazing is not required to be contracted.
- When a watering facility is placed in a field adjacent to a stream with seasonal flow or higher flow the stream must be fenced, or placed into a small paddock to be managed for lighter utilization within a prescribed grazing plan.
- **The type of water system planned must be the most cost-effective means for the government.** In planning the source for a system, consideration should be given to selecting alternative sources to those that may be restricted in the event of droughts, such as prohibiting use of public water supplies for agricultural use. A pond, well, or spring development may be considered the most adequate and dependable supply even though they may be more costly in a situation where an applicant may be restricted from using municipal water for agricultural use during drought events. Documentation must be included in the contract folder to substantiate these circumstances. In other situations, a watering facility using a municipal water source may be the most dependable and cost effective source. These are planning considerations and are decisions which can only be made by the producer and conservation planner at the time of the field evaluation.
- A payment is authorized only for permanently installed tanks or waterers.
- Payments are not authorized for portable tanks/waterers or above-ground pipelines.
- Payments are not authorized for livestock water systems if they are to be installed in confined livestock operations, loafing lots or barn lots

- When ranking and contracting springs and ponds, the pipe, tank, fence (ponds), seeding, and mulching (if needed) will be ranked, contracted, and paid separately.
- **Work on existing ponds is not authorized.**
- Required companion practices: Critical Area Planting (342), Mulching (484), Fence (382).
- Possible companion practice: Watering Facility (614), Pipeline (516), Heavy Use Area (561)

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## Prescribed Burning (338)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- Organic
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Native Grass Burn

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Prescribed burning may be planned on existing native grass stands, planned native grass stands, or other areas that need prescribed burning to enhance native plant communities. Burning for site preparation for a planting is not authorized for payment.
- Prescribed burning should not be planned on contracts unless at least 10 acres is being planned. Prescribed burning is not eligible for field borders.
- Prescribed burning payment may only be received once every three years on the same acreage during the contract period.
- The NRCS Prescribed Burning Information Sheet shall be provided to the participant with contract information when 338 is planned.
- Detailed prescribed burning plans are not required for ranking purposes. However, a copy of the KDFWR, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), or qualified TSP detailed written prescribed burn plan must be in the six part folder before the burning takes place. Payment will not be made for burning without a KDFWR, TNC, or qualified TSP prescribed burning plan. Completed burn plans must also be sent to KDF prior to burn implementation.
- NRCS personnel are not authorized to prepare burn plans or conduct prescribed burns.

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## Prescribed Grazing (528)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Pasture Standard (minimum of 4 paddocks)

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Payment is authorized for one year to assist with planning, applying and maintaining an effective Prescribed Grazing System.
- Payment will not be made until the producer has completed the grazing management planning process with an NRCS conservationist (including the Prescribed Grazing (528) Job Sheet, a Kentucky Graze (graze.xls) spreadsheet, and is implementing the rest, graze, and harvest needs for all planned pastures, as needed to meet the 528 Standard Criteria. All of the facilitating practices (such as fence, water, etc) must be installed and functioning in order to get to this point. Stocking rates and rest periods on the contracted acreage must be managed so as to maintain the minimum stubble height across a minimum of 80% of the contracted acres.
- Prescribed Grazing for livestock distribution is only authorized when producers are implementing a prescribed grazing system employing a **minimum of 4 paddocks for each herd**.
- Prescribed Grazing **must** be contracted through EQIP when livestock water is being contracted based on a resource concern of poor grazing distribution.
- **Maximum payment for any prescribed grazing contract is \$7,500.**
- **Prescribed Grazing cannot be planned in the first year of the contract.** All planned, facilitating practices needed to implement prescribed grazing (528) must be in place and operational before payment can be authorized.
- Prescribed Grazing (528) is eligible and authorized **ONLY when there are resource concerns identified and documented on the CPA – 52.**
- Possible companion practices: Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Fence (382), Watering Facility (614), Pipeline (516), Heavy Use Area (561), Pond (378), Spring Development (574), Water Well (642).
- **When planning in the Organic Initiative:**
  - Consider fencing areas that contain treated fence posts and braces as required by organic certification and the potential for these areas to serve as pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat for producers applying under the Organic Initiative.

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## **Pumping Plant (533)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- On-Farm Energy

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Livestock Water Pump <2HP
- Water Ram
- Nose Pump
- Small Irr. or Waste (2-5HP)
- Irr. Or Waste Pump > 5-10 HP

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be implemented according to the Pumping Plant for Water Control (533) practice standard.

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## **Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (345)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- Organic
- On-Farm Energy

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Mulch-till Basic

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Practice will be implemented according to the Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (345) Practice Standard.

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## **Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till, Strip-Till, Direct Seed (329)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

### **Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- On-Farm Energy

### **Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- No-Till/Strip-Till or continuous No-Till/Strip-Till
- Specialty Crop No-Till/Strip-Till or continuous No-Till/Strip-Till

### **Practice Program Guidance:**

- A payment is authorized for converting to an ALL NO-TILL crop rotation.
- A payment for no-till will only be made for those crops not previously planted using no-till (e.g. producer is already using no-till for his corn, but not on wheat. A payment is only authorized in the year and on the acres that wheat is no-tilled).
- Payments can be made from 1 up to 3 years depending on the rotation and the planner's recommendation.
- Any use of full-width, soil disturbing implements is prohibited.
- To be eligible, an ALL NO-TILL crop rotation cannot have been adopted on this acreage previously.
- The appropriate "No-Till System Job Sheet" will be used to record previous crop rotation, planned crop rotation, and resulting STIR values.
- The before and after RUSLE2 Profile Erosion Calculation Record will be prepared by NRCS planner and signed by the participant.
- **Practice payment limited to \$2,500 per year or \$7,500 per contract.**

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## **Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge-Till (346)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- Organic
- On-Farm Energy

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Ridge-Till

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Practice will be implemented according to the Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge-Till (346) Practice Standard.

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## **Residue and Tillage Management, Seasonal (344)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Residue Mgt Seasonal

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Practice 344 is only to be used as a companion practice when Cover Crop practice (340) is planned and the purpose of the cover crop is to improve soil health and nutrient cycling. It is specifically to be used to encourage landowners to allow cover crop species to grow later in the spring until cereal rye reaches a minimum small grain growth stage of 10 or later. This practice can be cost shared on for 3 consecutive years but only in conjunction with cover crop practice 340.
- This practice will be implemented according to the Residue Management, Seasonal (344) practice standard.
- Landowner has identified soil health/soil quality as a resource concern in crop fields.
- Landowner agrees to eliminate all tillage operations and to perform all planting operations using a no-till system as is reflected in his/her most current farm plan on file at the local county conservation district field office.
- Landowner has signed up for Cover Crop Practice 340, soil health option (where cereal rye, 2 legumes, and diakon radish will be planted as a cover crop).
- Landowner agrees to fall cover crop mixture planting dates and to let cover crop grow in the spring of the year until cereal rye reaches stage 10 or later on the Purdue University Extension Small Grain Growth Stage Chart as specified in the 340b Job Sheet.
- Landowner may sign up for this practice for three consecutive years in conjunction with cover crop practice 340- soil health option.

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## Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Monitoring & Management, Low Intensity and Complexity – No FI
- Topographic Feature Creation – Medium
- Golden Winged Warbler Initiative Practice – WLFW ONLY

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice should be utilized for removal of woody vegetation from prairie, glade or barren remnants, the removal of introduced species from those areas, and in areas supporting the golden-winged warbler.
- This practice should be the last practice paid in the contract after all required facilitating practices are established.
- This is a one-time payment
- This practice does not apply to planted stands of native grass or forbs.
  - Practice will be implemented through consultation with the Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission. Contact an NRCS or Partner Farm Bill Biologist for assistance with this practice.
- Removal of Woody Vegetation from Prairie, Glade or Barren Remnants –
  - This activity should be contracted and established using Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643) and any required component practices such as Brush Management (314) and other required component practices such as Access Control (472), Fence (382), etc. Refer to the appropriate standards and payment scenarios for those practices.
  - Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643) may be used on land that contains remnant barrens, glades, or prairies that contain at least three native species of grass and forbs typical of remnant grasslands in the area.
  - This practice will be completed by deadening invading trees in the planned areas. This can be completed by felling, cut and spray methods, foliar spraying or girdling as determined by KDFWR biologist.
  - Cost and practice units shall be estimated by determining the amount of basal area that needs to be removed or the number of stems per acre if woody vegetation is too small to accurately measure basal area.
- Prairie Restoration Through Removal of Introduced Species –
  - Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643) may be utilized on lands that contains remnant barrens, glades, or prairies that contain at least six native species of grass and forbs typical of remnant grasslands in the area.

- This activity is contracted using Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643) and required component practices such as Access Control (472), Fence (382), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), etc. Refer to the appropriate standards and payment scenarios for those practices.
- Treatment includes mowing and selective herbicide application(s). Care should be exercised when selecting herbicides for this practice to ensure rare grassland plants are not damaged during installation of this practice.
- Shallow water areas and ephemeral pools:
  - KDFWR Biologists shall work with NRCS personnel to identify suitable sites and develop designs for shallow water areas and ephemeral pools. NRCS is responsible for planning, designing, layout, and certification of this practice.
  - Shallow water areas and ephemeral pools are not authorized in areas considered to be existing wetlands, or on hydric or hydric inclusion soils with trees.
  - Payment should be based on the footprint (i.e. area of disturbance) to create the EP or SWA.
  - This practice may also require the use of Mulching (484), Critical Area (342) and other components for construction. Utilize Shallow Water Development/Management (646) as the management portion of the wetland.
  - Ephemeral pools must be in an area protected from grazing and may not be used for livestock water. Utilize component practices as necessary such as Access Control (472) and Fence (382).
  - No use of any variety of tall fescue shall be utilized in conjunction with this activity. Any other variety of cool season grass is authorized to establish vegetation.
  - Planners should utilize the practice payment scenario entitled Topographic Feature Creation – Medium for SWA's and EP's.
  - Shallow Water Area Criteria:
    - Shallow water areas are not authorized on areas where the existing slope is greater than 2%. The majority of the area planned for shallow water should be composed of somewhat poorly drained to poorly drained soils that have moderate to slow permeability based on soil survey or on site investigation (less than or equal to 2.0 inches per hour)
    - Shallow water areas can be incrementally flooded after August 15<sup>th</sup>. Water draw down in the spring can begin after start of the growing season.
    - Shallow water areas may not be cropped however, 25% of the pool area may be used for annual food plots. The area used for a food plot must be rotated each year.
  - Ephemeral Pool Criteria:
    - Ephemeral pools must be placed on soils suitable for pond development
    - Ideal drainage area should be 0-3 acres and no larger than 5 acres

- Minimum pool size is 400 square feet and maximum pool size is .3 acres
  - Maximum water depth shall be between 1.5 and 2.5 feet.
  - Pool side slopes should be 6:1 or flatter. Flatter side slopes can improve amphibian habitats.
  - Synthetic or clay liners for ephemeral pools are not eligible for payment.
  - Required companion practices: Critical Area Planting (342), Mulching (484), Shallow Water Development/ Management (646)
- **When planning in the WLFW Initiative:**
  - This activity is contracted using Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643) and required component practices such as Forest Stand Improvement (666), etc. Payment is based on the *GWWA* scenario plus the harvest income.
  - Conservation Cover (327), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) and Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) may be required in adjacent open lands.
  - The practice Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) - Monitoring and Management-High may be utilized to accomplish activities such as tree marking (1 year lifespan) until a harvest is scheduled and/or completed.

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## Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Wildlife Initiative
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Riparian Forest Buffer FI (natural reforestation and succession of the site)
- Bare-root, hand planted – w/ FI
- Bare-root, machine planted – w/ FI

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Permanent, exclusion fencing is required when the adjacent land is being managed for grazing.
- Required companion practice for *Riparian Forest Buffer FI* scenario: Tree and Shrub Site Prep (490) – *Mow and Disk-Non-Forest* scenario
- Required companion practice for *Bare-root, hand planted* and *Bare-root, machine planted* scenario: Tree and Shrub Site Prep (490) – *Mow and Spray Non-Forest* scenario
- Possible Companion practices: Fence (*Exclusion* scenario) and Access Control (when livestock are present)
- NRCS staff will provide technical assistance for this practice. Do not send a TAR to KY Div of Forestry staff for assistance for Riparian Forest Buffer (391).
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - Where livestock are present Access Control (472) is required and Fence (382) must be installed.
  - KDFWR Biologists will provide technical assistance for this practice under these initiatives. Do not send a TAR to KY Div of Forestry staff for assistance for Riparian Forest Buffer (391).

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## Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Wildlife

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- NWSG with Legume Forb
- Cool Season Grass – General, MRBI and Organic ONLY
- Pollinator

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be implemented according to the Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390) practice standard.
- Required component practices when livestock are present include Access Control (472) and Fence (382).
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - Pollinator plantings will utilize species and/or mixes located in Table 16 In the document the “*Establishing Vegetative Practices in Kentucky*” document.
  - Mowing/haying the planted acres after August 1 is acceptable on no more than one-half of the total acreage every year.
  - Establishment of cool season grass is not eligible under wildlife initiative.

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## Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- Forestland
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Road/Trail Abandonment/Rehab (Light)
- Road/Trail removal and restoration (Vegetative)
  - Refer to Table 13 of Establishing Vegetative Practices in Kentucky.

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Practice may be used for rehabilitation of existing logging roads, trails, and or landings **that are creating a resource concern**. Alternate access should be available to ensure treated access is abandoned and allowed to revegetate.
- Construction and installation of new roads and trails is not eligible under this practice.
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast Early Successional Habitat Initiative or WLFW:**
  - **Also requires Tree/Shrub Site Prep (490) and Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)**
  - **Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**
    - Road/Trail Abandonment/Rehab (Light)
    - Road/Trail removal and restoration (Vegetative)
      - Refer to Table 13 of Establishing Vegetative Practices in Kentucky. No mix containing KY-31 Tall Fescue is permissible under these Initiatives.

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## Roof Runoff Structure (558)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- MRBI

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Gutters, Downspouts and Outlets
- Gutters and Downspouts only

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Practice will be implemented according to the Roof Runoff Structure (558) Practice Standard.
- Possible companion practices: Waste Storage (313), Animal Mortality Facility (316), Composting Facility (317).

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## Roofs and Covers (367)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Flexible Roof
- Post Frame Bldg., <30ft wide
- Post Frame Bldg., 30-60ft wide

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Must be used in conjunction with Animal Mortality Facility or Waste Storage Facility.
- Cannot be used in conjunction with Heavy Use Area.
- Possible companion practices: Composting Facility (317)

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## **Row Arrangement (557)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Establishing Row Direction, Grade & Length

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be established according to the Row Arrangement (557) Practice Standard.

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## **Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 4 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- Seasonal High Tunnel
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Seasonal High Tunnel

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- The maximum practice extent for a Seasonal High Tunnel (798) eligible for a practice payment is five percent of an acre per farming operation. This can be a single or multiple structures for a maximum of five percent of one acre coverage (2178 square feet).
- This practice shall be installed and maintained according to the Seasonal High Tunnel (798) practice standard.

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## Shallow Water Development and Management (646)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Shallow Water Mgt.

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice should be planned as a governing practice to plan management of shallow water management areas (ephemeral pools). Practice should be used for management only. The actual construction will be planned and implemented under Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643)
- KDFWR Biologists will work with NRCS personnel to plan Spring Developments (574), Pipeline (516), Watering Facility (614), Fence (382) and Stream Crossings (578) and any other component practices. NRCS is responsible for planning, designing, layout, and certification of these practices.
- These practices are only authorized as component practices when Access Control (472) and/or fence is planned to exclude livestock from a stream or wetland that is currently used as a water source.
- Pumps are not authorized. Only permanently installed watering facilities are authorized.
- Required components: Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Species (643)
- Optional components that may be required: Access Control (472), Spring Development (574), Pipeline (516), Watering Facility (614), Fence (382), Stream Crossing (578)

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## Silvopasture Establishment (381)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Est Trees & NTV Grass
- Est Trees & Intr Grass
- Est Trees
- Trees in existing stand forage

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- A payment to establish conifers, walnut, pecan, or black locust trees that are adapted to the respective site and establishing forages on the same site is authorized.
- Payment is authorized for converting cropland to perennial, native or introduced forage species/forage mix understory with a managed overstory as specified in NRCS practice standard 381 (Silvopasture Establishment).
- Payment is authorized for converting existing pasture or hay fields that are greater than 20% toxic, endophyte infected Tall fescue to perennial, native or introduced forage species/forage mix understory with a managed overstory as specified in NRCS practice standard 381 (Silvopasture Establishment).
- Plantings on HEL, toxic, endophyte infected Tall fescue pastures or hay fields are required to have 2 chemical burn-downs applied prior to **“no-till”** planting. Organic producers will substitute adequate tillage, OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) listed products, or equally effective methods in place of conventional chemical burn-down.
- Plantings on NHEL, toxic, endophyte infected Tall fescue pastures or hay fields are required to have 2 chemical burn-downs or sufficient tillage to ensure full eradication of existing vegetation.
- Understory plantings (forages) must be accomplished in accordance with the Forage and Biomass Planting Kentucky Practice job sheet 512 for “native grass planting” or “introduced grass planting”. Organic producers will substitute adequate tillage; ORMI listed products, or equally effective methods for controlling competition, and organically approved methods of providing soil amendments and fertilizer. Tree planting will be accomplished in accord with the Tree/Shrub Establishment Kentucky Practice job sheet 612.
- Producers are responsible for “post-planting” weed control.
- Eligible species and ongoing operation and management will be in accordance with NRCS conservation practice standard 381 (Silvopasture Establishment).

- Payments are not authorized for understory plantings (forages) of a pure stand of legumes. Nutrient applications shall be based on soil tests using UK soil test procedures. Soil amendments for native grass plantings are not required.

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## Spring Development (574)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Spring Development

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- EQIP eligibility for water system developments are limited to operations where poor livestock distribution is resulting in resource degradation or where livestock are being excluded from a stream, wetland or pond currently being used as a watering source.
- A resource concern, that addresses better livestock distribution, must be evident (resource concern cannot be due primarily to over-stocking).
- When grazing distribution is the resource being addressed, Prescribed Grazing (528) will be contracted. A prescribed grazing plan is required that includes both the KY Graze worksheet and Prescribed Grazing (528) Job Sheet.
- When water quality is the resource concern being addressed, Prescribed Grazing is not required to be contracted.
- When a watering facility is placed in a field adjacent to a stream with seasonal flow or higher flow the stream must be fenced, or placed into a small paddock to be managed for lighter utilization within a prescribed grazing plan.
- **The type of water system planned must be the most cost-effective means for the government.** In planning the source for a system, consideration should be given to selecting alternative sources to those that may be restricted in the event of droughts, such as prohibiting use of public water supplies for agricultural use. A pond, well, or spring development may be considered the most adequate and dependable supply even though they may be more costly in a situation where an applicant may be restricted from using municipal water for agricultural use during drought events. Documentation must be included in the contract folder to substantiate these circumstances. In other situations, a watering facility using a municipal water source may be the most dependable and cost effective source. These are planning considerations and are decisions which can only be made by the producer and conservation planner at the time of the field evaluation.
- A payment is authorized only for permanently installed tanks or waterers.
- Payments are not authorized for portable tanks/waterers or above-ground pipelines.
- Payments are not authorized for livestock water systems installed in confined livestock operations, loafing lots or barn lots.

- When ranking and contracting springs and ponds, the pipe, tank, fence (ponds), seeding, and mulching (if needed) will be ranked, contracted, and paid separately.
- Required additional practices: Critical Area Planting (342)
- Possible additional practices: Mulching (484), Watering Facility (614) [Concrete or steel reservoir (500 to greater than 1500 gal capacity) for storage and heavy equipment tire or concrete or steel reservoir (500-1000gal) for livestock watering], Prescribed Grazing (528).
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - Only authorized when excluding livestock from an existing water source.

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## Stream Crossing (578)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Hard armored low water crossing

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- **Pasture situations:** A payment is authorized when this practice is needed to allow livestock and/or equipment crossing points on a stream or waterway and/or to provide water for livestock (a water gap). In either case, the stream/waterway must be fenced or planned to be fenced under EQIP in accordance with the Fence (382) practice standard when the crossing is to be used by livestock. When planned for livestock, or a combination of livestock/equipment, the stream exclusion fence must be installed prior to approving payment for the stream crossing.
- **Cropland situations:** A payment is authorized where farm equipment crossings on streams, sloughs, or ditches is causing erosion and/or water quality problems.
- Culvert or bridge type crossings are not authorized under EQIP. Payments under EQIP are restricted to the ford type crossings using rock.
- Fence shall be installed at the edge of the rock crossing to prevent livestock from traveling on unhardened areas along the edge of the walkway. All post will be placed and set before geotextile and rock are laid in place. Anytime a crossing is installed on a livestock operation, the crossing will be fenced in addition to the stream. Crossing fence will be installed in accordance with the 578/382 practice standards which requires installation of a swing gate or other component to allow for passage of debris. Must attach fence to the downstream side of the posts to allow detachment during high flows.

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## Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Bioengineered
- Structural

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- **This practice is eligible ONLY on first (1<sup>st</sup>), second (2<sup>nd</sup>), and third (3<sup>rd</sup>) order streams according to the Strahler Stream Orders of the National Hydrography Data (NHD).** Additionally, this practice is eligible on fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) order streams where aquatic species listed on the “*T&E Species by County List*” (dated 2/2011) are present.
- All 580 practices shall be completed using bioengineering and natural stream channel concepts where possible.
- A Riparian Forest Buffer (391) is required in conjunction with streambank protection. The Riparian Forest Buffer must be applied to the entire reach of stream or shoreline contained in that field.
- Fencing is required when cattle are present and are impairing water quality or causing stream bank erosion. Fencing must be applied to the entire reach of stream or shoreline contained in that field.
- Possible Companion Practices: Access Control (472)
- **Seeding and Mulching is included in the Streambank Stabilization payment scenarios, and do not have to be contracted separately for this practice.**

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## **Stripcropping (585)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Strips-Water Erosion

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be implemented according to the Stripcropping (585) Practice Standard.

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## Subsurface Drain (606)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Seasonal High Tunnel

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Corrugated Plastic Pipe, Single-Wall, up to and including 6" diameter
- Enveloped Corrugated Plastic Pipe, Single-Wall, up to and including 6" in diameter
- Corrugated Plastic Pipe, Single-Wall, 8" in diameter or greater
- Corrugated Plastic Pipe, Twin-Wall, 8" in diameter or greater

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be implemented according to the Subsurface Drain (606) practice standard.
- Required companion practice: Underground Outlet

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## **Terrace (600)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Broadbased
- Flat Channel (level)
- 5 to 1 and 2 to 1 side slopes
- Narrow Base less than 8 percent

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Pipe outlet structures that only control water flow from natural drainage ways through fields and do not extend across the field on a gradient or contour shall be considered Water and Sediment Control Basins (638).
- Plan and include all eligible companion practices that are needed to serve as a stable outlet for this practice including Grassed Waterway, Lined Outlet, Grade Stabilization Structure, Critical Area Planting, and Mulching.

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## Tree and Shrub Site Prep (490)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Forestland
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Chemical, Hand Application – General EQIP, Forestland and Wildlife Initiatives
- Mow and Spray, Non-Forest – General EQIP, Wildlife and Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat ONLY
- Cross Ripping – WLFW and Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiatives ONLY
- Mow and Disk, Non-Forest

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be included for all for all tree and shrub establishment in non-forest settings (use *Mow and Spray-NonForest* payment scenario).
- Utilize the *Chemical, Hand Application* payment scenario as a follow-up treatment for foliar application of herbicide for bush honeysuckle and other woody invasives (Year 2).
- Plan as treatment of invasives (in forested setting) when average species height is less than 4.5 feet. (use *Chemical, Hand Application* payment scenario)
- **When Planning in the Wildlife Initiative or the Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - This practice should be utilized in conjunction with (612) Tree/Shrub Establishment for all tree and shrub plantings.
  - When utilized in conjunction with Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) practice, payment is authorized once trees have been planted..
  - One-time payment
  - The *Chemical, Hand Application* payment scenario may be utilized as a follow-up foliar herbicide application for bush honeysuckle and other woody invasives.

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## Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Forestland
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat
- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Bare root hardwoods, hand plant – w/o FI
- Bare root hardwoods, machine plant – w/o FI

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- If the applicant is not working with a private forester, complete and forward a TAR form to KDF as soon as application is pre-screened as high or medium priority.
- KY Division of Forestry will prepare a prescription plan before the practice is installed. Consult the KDF forester to determine the appropriate payment schedule scenario for obligation. (Refer to and complete “Tree & Shrub Establishment (612) Job Sheet”)
- Participants using the services of a private consultant forester should be provided a copy of the “Tree & Shrub Establishment (612) Job Sheet” for completion, or submit a detailed plan prepared by their forester.
- Possible Companion Practices: Access Control (472) and Fence (382)
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - For these initiatives, do not forward a TAR to KDF staff. KDFWR staff will provide TA for this practice under these Initiatives.
  - For whole field plantings, tree species, rates, and spacing shall be according to the Additional Criteria for Wetland Restoration and Wildlife Habitat in the NRCS Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) practice standard. Planting rates and spacing should be between 605 trees/acre for 6’x 12’ spacing and 681 trees/acre for 8’ x 8’ spacing.
  - All tree plantings should include at least three hard mast species with one from the white oak family and one from the red oak family. At least 80% of the species planted should be hard mast.
  - Site preparation must be planned according to the NRCS Tree/Shrub Preparation (490) AND Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) practice standards.
  - Refer to Table 6 of the “*Establishing Vegetative Practices in Kentucky*” document for information on using herbaceous nurse crops for tree plantings.

- Native Shrubs
  - All shrubs planted must be native species. Native shrub species include all species in Appendix 4 of the Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) standard less than 30 feet tall Other species may be considered as long as they are native and average a maximum height less than 30' tall.
  - At least two native shrub species are required. Species should be planted in approximately equal numbers.
  - Shrub planting shall be done according to the Additional Criteria for Wetland Restoration and Wildlife Habitat in the NRCS Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) practice standard. The planting rate should be 681 shrubs/acre for an approximate spacing of 8' x 8'.
  - Site preparation must be planned according to the NRCS Tree/Shrub Preparation (490) AND Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) practice standards and if necessary Mulching (484).
  - Kentucky Division of Forestry should be contacted for technical assistance as needed.
- Bottomland Hardwood Planting > 10 Acres
  - Check yes on the Wildlife Ranking Field Summary Sheet for bottomland hardwood planting if greater than 10 acres of trees are being planted on soil identified as a flood plain or lower terrace soil in the county soil survey.
- **When planning in the Forestland Initiative:**
  - Forward a TAR to KDF for TA as soon as possible
  - Plantings must be for 10 contiguous acres or more
  - Site preparation must be planned according to the NRCS Tree/Shrub Preparation (490) AND Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) practice standards.
  - Refer to Table 6 of the "*Establishing Vegetative Practices in Kentucky*" document for information on using herbaceous nurse crops for tree plantings.
  - Where natural regeneration has been inhibited or suppressed, enrichment plantings of oak and hickory may be planned when recommended by the forester or biologist. Plantings should include at least three hard mast species with one from the white oak family and one from the red oak family. At least 80% of the species planted should be hard mast. Planting rates for enrichment plantings should equal 200 seedlings or more per acre.

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## Underground Outlet (620)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Seasonal High Tunnel

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Up to and including 12” diameter pipe no inlet structure
- UO up to and including 6” diameter pipe with riser
- 6” diameter up to and including 12” in diameter UO pipe with riser
- UO up to and including 6” diameter pipe with drop inlet
- 6” in diameter up to and including 12” in diameter UO with drop inlet
- 12” diameter up to and including 18” in diameter UO with drop inlet
- 18” in diameter up to and including 24” in diameter UO with drop inlet

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Practice will be implemented according to the Underground Outlet (620) practice standard.
- Possible companion practices: Subsurface Drainage (606), Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)

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## **Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Monitoring and Mgt. High

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Used as a management practice on wetlands managed for Golden-winged warbler where (644) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management does not apply.
- Paid once any facilitating practices are installed
- Possible Companion Practices: Access Control (472), Fence (382), Conservation Cover (327), Forest Stand Improvement (666), etc.

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## Vegetated Treatment Area (635)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- VTA-surface application-gravity flow
- Wastewater is pumped to the VTA

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice should be **only** be considered as a companion practice to any waste storage structure.
- Required practices: Critical Area Planting (342)
- Possible Companion Practices: Mulching (484), Fence (382), Access Control (472)
- This practice is to be designed for “no discharge”.

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## Waste Storage Facility (313)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Earthen storage facility up to 50K ft<sup>3</sup> storage
- Earthen storage facility more than 50K ft<sup>3</sup> storage
- Earthen storage facility high water table
- Dry stack, earthen floor, wood wall
- Dry stack, earthen floor, concrete wall
- Dry stack, concrete floor, wood wall
- Dry stack, concrete floor, concrete wall
- Concrete tank less than 5K cu.ft. of waste stored
- Concrete tank 5K to 15K cu.ft. of waste stored
- Concrete tank 15K to 25K cu.ft. of waste stored
- Concrete tank 25K to 50K cu.ft. of waste stored
- Concrete tank 50K to 75K cu.ft. of waste stored
- Concrete tank 75K to 110K cu.ft. of waste stored

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Waste Storage Facility and Waste Treatment Lagoon for poultry litter are not eligible for EQIP payments.
- Livestock must be present during the evaluation period.
- An approved, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is required **BEFORE** providing FA or TA assistance on any animal waste management structure.
- Required companion practice for dry stack facilities: Roofs and Covers (367)
- Possible companion practices: Critical Area Planting (342), Mulching (484), Fence (382), Vegetated Treatment Area (635), Subsurface Drain (606), Underground Outlet (620).

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## Waste Treatment Lagoon (359)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Waste Treatment Lagoon

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Waste Storage Facility and Waste Treatment Lagoon for poultry litter are not eligible for EQIP payments.
- Livestock must be present during the evaluation period.
- An approved, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is required **BEFORE** providing FA or TA assistance on any animal waste management structure.
- Possible companion practices: Critical Area Planting (342), Mulching (484), Fence (382)

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## Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- WASCOB Base
- WASCOB Topsoil

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Anytime a WASCOB is planned and contracted, the fields draining into the WASCOB must be planned so that soil loss does not exceed the soil loss tolerance (T). RUSLE2 reports, before and after, must be in the case file for documentation of soil loss.
- Water and Sediment Control Basins shall not be used in place of terraces.
- Before planning a Water and Sediment Control Basin, consider the feasibility of using a Grass Waterway (412) or Lined Waterway or Outlet (468) instead.
- Where intermittent or seasonal water flow is present, a review of the wetland determination must be completed.
- All requirements of the 638 Practice Standard must be met, which requires additional conservation practices such as terraces, contouring, conservation crop rotation and/or conservation tillage. Before and after RUSLE2 reports are required in the case file to document that erosion has been reduced in the fields serviced by the WASCOB.
- Possible companion practices: Underground Outlet (620), Subsurface Drain (606), Residue and Tillage Management (329)
- **When planning in the Organic Initiative:**
  - When installed on organic operations consider adding pollinator habitat and/or beneficial insect habitat in any areas sown to grass or treated under practice code 342 – Critical Area Treatment, for producers applying under the Organic Initiative.

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## Water Well (642)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Well Consolidated
- Well Unconsolidated

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- EQIP eligibility for water system developments are limited to operations where poor livestock distribution is resulting in resource degradation or where livestock are being excluded from a stream, wetland or pond currently being used as a watering source.
- A resource concern, that addresses better livestock distribution, must be evident (resource concern cannot be due primarily to over-stocking).
- When grazing distribution is the resource being addressed, Prescribed Grazing (528) will be contracted. A prescribed grazing plan is required that includes both the KY Graze worksheet and the Prescribed Grazing (528) Job Sheet.
- When water quality is the resource concern being addressed, Prescribed Grazing is not required to be contracted.
- When a watering facility is placed in a field adjacent to a stream with seasonal flow or higher flow the stream must be fenced, or placed into a small paddock to be managed for lighter utilization within a prescribed grazing plan.
- **The type of water system planned must be the most cost-effective means for the government.** In planning the source for a system, consideration should be given to selecting alternative sources to those that may be restricted in the event of droughts, such as prohibiting use of public water supplies for agricultural use. A pond, well, or spring development may be considered the most adequate and dependable supply even though they may be more costly in a situation where an applicant may be restricted from using municipal water for agricultural use during drought events. Documentation must be included in the contract folder to substantiate these circumstances. In other situations, a watering facility using a municipal water source may be the most dependable and cost effective source. These are planning considerations and are decisions which can only be made by the producer and conservation planner at the time of the field evaluation.
- A payment is authorized only for permanently installed tanks or waterers.
- Payments are not authorized for portable tanks/waterers or above-ground pipelines.
- Payments are not authorized for livestock water systems installed in confined livestock operations, loafing lots or barn lots

- When ranking and contracting springs and ponds, the pipe, tank, fence (ponds), seeding, and mulching (if needed) will be ranked, contracted, and paid separately.
- Possible companion practices: Watering Facility (614), Pipeline (516)
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - Only authorized when excluding livestock from an existing water source.

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## Watering Facility (614)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- MRBI
- Organic
- Wildlife
- Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Converted heavy equipment tire
- 2-hole freeze-proof watering trough
- 4-hole freeze-proof watering trough
- Concrete or steel reservoir 500-1000 gal.
- Concrete or steel reservoir 1001-1500 gal.
- Concrete or steel reservoir over 1500 gal.

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- EQIP eligibility for water system developments are limited to operations where poor livestock distribution is resulting in resource degradation or where livestock are being excluded from a stream, wetland or pond currently being used as a watering source.
- A resource concern, that addresses better livestock distribution, must be evident (resource concern cannot be due primarily to over-stocking).
- When grazing distribution is the resource being addressed, Prescribed Grazing (528) will be contracted. A prescribed grazing plan is required that includes both the KY Graze worksheet and Prescribed Grazing (528) Job Sheet.
- When water quality is the resource concern being addressed, Prescribed Grazing is not required to be contracted.
- When a watering facility is placed in a field adjacent to a stream with seasonal flow or higher flow the stream must be fenced, or placed into a small paddock to be managed for lighter utilization within a prescribed grazing plan.
- **The type of water system planned must be the most cost-effective means for the government.** In planning the source for a system, consideration should be given to selecting alternative sources to those that may be restricted in the event of droughts, such as prohibiting use of public water supplies for agricultural use. A pond, well, or spring development may be considered the most adequate and dependable supply even though they may be more costly in a situation where an applicant may be restricted from using municipal water for agricultural use during drought events. Documentation must be included in the contract folder to substantiate these circumstances. In other situations, a watering facility using a municipal water source may be the most dependable and cost effective source. These are planning considerations and are decisions which can only be made by the producer and conservation planner at the time of the field evaluation.

- A payment is authorized only for permanently installed tanks or waterers.
- Payments are not authorized for portable tanks/waterers or above-ground pipelines.
- Payments are not authorized for livestock water systems installed in confined livestock operations, loafing lots or barn lots
- When ranking and contracting springs and ponds, the pipe, tank, fence (ponds), seeding, and mulching (if needed) will be ranked, contracted, and paid separately.
- Possible Companion Practices: Pipeline (516), Prescribed Grazing (528)
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - Only authorized when excluding livestock from an existing water source.

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## **Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- WLFW

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- Monitoring & Mgt. Low

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Used as a management practice on wetlands managed for golden-winged warbler where (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management does not apply.
- Payment made after all facilitating practices are installed
- May be a multi-year payment
- Possible Companion Practices: Access Control (472), Fence (382), Wetland Restoration (657), etc.

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## Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- General EQIP
- Organic
- On-Farm Energy

**Appropriate Payment Scenarios:**

- 3 or more tree rows machine planted windbreak

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice should be considered as a companion practice to any waste storage structure or heavy-use area where prevailing winds may carry objectionable odors toward neighboring homes and businesses.
- Possible Companion Practices: Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
- This practice will be implemented according to the Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment (380) practice standard.

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## **EQIP Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative (MRBI)**

### **Purpose**

Through the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and our partners work with producers and landowners to implement voluntary conservation practices that improve water quality, restore wetlands, enhance wildlife habitat and sustain agricultural profitability in the Mississippi River Basin. Kentucky MRBI Focus Watersheds are the Licking, Lower Green, Bayou de Chien/Mayfield Creek, and Red River. Core and supporting practices offered through MRBI have been established in a partnership effort with the Kentucky Division of Conservation based on the natural resources being targeted in each watershed across the State.

### **General**

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- To be eligible for MRBI-EQIP the majority of the treatment unit must be within an approved watershed (ArcGIS layer should be used to determine MRBI approved watershed boundaries).
- ALL MRBI contracts must include at least one of the applicable core practices, or must be completing a conservation system that supports core practices that are documented as already applied on the land under contract.
- No application will be considered for funding if it does not meet all eligibility requirements by the time applications are accepted for funding (512.22).
- All CAP applications submitted under the MRBI Initiative must have the Application Type “Planning” and **will** be ranked using the Application Evaluation Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts.

### **National Issues**

Refer to general guidelines when answering the national EQIP questions.

### **State Issues**

Question	Guidance For Answering Questions
1	Always “NO” for the 2013 ranking period.
2	Answer “YES” when a progressive plan has been or will be developed on no less than the treatment unit included in the contract.
3	Self explanatory
4	Only answer yes when a buffer will be established along all areas of concentrated flow including existing or planned grassed waterways.
5	Self explanatory

### **Local Issues**

Question	Guidance For Answering Questions
1	Self explanatory
2	Self explanatory
3	Self explanatory
4	Self explanatory
5	Answer “YES” if the producer is willing to allow access to their farm for partner agencies to conduct water sampling for the life of MRBI-EQIP Project (5 Years).

## **Application Evaluation**

All eligible applications will be screened using the MRBI screening tool to determine funding priority prior to full evaluation. All eligible high and medium applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative.

### **Eligible Practices** (EQIP MRBI)

Refer to the general practice guidelines for state program guidance. Any additional planning guidance specific to this Initiative will be provided under the general practice guidelines.

<b>Core Practices</b>	
<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
<b>Avoiding</b>	
472	Access Control
327	Conservation Cover
328 <sup>a</sup>	Conservation Crop Rotation
340	Cover Crop
590 <sup>b</sup>	Nutrient Management
528	Prescribed Grazing
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
<b>Controlling</b>	
330	Contour Farming
342	Critical Area Planting
512	Forage and Biomass Planting
412	Grassed Waterway
441 <sup>**</sup>	Irrigation System, Micro irrigation
449	Irrigation Water Management
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed
600	Terrace
<b>Trapping</b>	
332	Contour Buffer Strips
393	Filter Strip
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
635	Vegetated Treatment Area

<b>Supporting Practices</b>	
<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
<b>Avoiding</b>	
316 <sup>c</sup>	Animal Mortality Facility
575	Animal Trails and Walkways
382 <sup>d</sup>	Fence
561	Heavy Use Area Protection
315 <sup>e</sup>	Herbaceous Weed Control
595	Integrated Pest Management
516	Pipeline
378 <sup>f</sup>	Pond
344	Residue Management, Seasonal
558 <sup>g</sup>	Roof Runoff Structure
367	Roofs and Covers
381	Silvopasture Establishment
578	Stream Crossing
490 <sup>j</sup>	Tree and Shrub Site Prep
313	Waste Storage Facility
642 <sup>f</sup>	Water Well
614	Watering Facility
<b>Controlling</b>	
362	Diversion
386	Field Border
410	Grade Stabilization Structure
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet
484	Mulching
606 <sup>i</sup>	Subsurface Drain
620 <sup>h</sup>	Underground Outlet
<b>Trapping</b>	
638	Water & Sediment Control Basin

\*\* Practice will only be used in conjunction with 449 and 590

- a) A minimum of three different crops must be used and/or at least 2 years in perennial vegetation.
- b) Fall application will receive lowest ranking; high-level management such as Precision and/or Adaptive Nutrient Management will be promoted.
- c) For cases when there is an immediate threat to containment or when there is an immediate safety hazard. This practice should only be used as part of a system change within the recommendations of a CNMP. It cannot be a stand-alone practice.
- d) Only for use with 472, 511, 512, and 528.
- e) For cases when the application is needed based on University recommended thresholds and the intent of the payment is to reduce the impacts of harmful chemicals to the watershed, and/or if needed to restore wildlife habitat.

f) For livestock water as part of a grazing management system and only for use if determined to be the most cost-effective (to the government) water source.

g) Only for use with 313, 317, 561, 632, and 634.

h) Only to be used as part of a system to treat existing water quality-related resource concerns; the drainage area affecting the 620 must be treated to appropriate quality criteria to limit nutrients and sediments from entering the 620, or a blind inlet/French drain design used.

i) Only to be used as a companion practice with 620.

j) To be used as a companion practice with 612.

### **Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs)**

<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
104	Nutrient Management Plan
110	Grazing Management Plan
114	Integrated Pest Management Plan
118	Irrigation Water Management Plan
130	Drainage Water Management Plan

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## **EQIP Organic Initiative**

### **Purpose**

NRCS helps certified organic growers and producers working to achieve organic certification install conservation practices for organic production. Organic payment rates have been established for qualifying practices and are included in the FY2013 EQIP Payment Schedule.

### **General**

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22. Producer must be transitioning to become a USDA-Certified Organic producer or already be USDA-Certified Organic to participate in this initiative.
- Producers will be required to submit documentation to substantiate their current status and will also be required to self-certify their commitment toward pursuing full USDA-Certified Organic status.
- Prior to certifying any payments to Organic or Transitioning to Organic the producer is responsible for demonstrating their continued progress toward meeting current National Organic Producer (NOP) requirements.
- Practices that carry higher installation costs (organic seed, additional tillage, etc.) have specific cost scenarios to be used for contracting. **However**, prior to certifying payments based on these higher-priced scenarios, the producer is required to provide evidence that certified-Organic components were used exclusively for implementation of the practice. If, for example, non-organic certified seed is used, then the contract will require modification to the most closely aligned non-organic payment scenario for payment purposes.
- All CAP applications submitted under the Organic Initiative must have the Application Type "Planning" and **will** be ranked using the Application Evaluation Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts.

### **National Issues**

Refer to general guidelines when answering the national EQIP questions.

### **State Issues**

Questions are self-explanatory.

### **Application Evaluation**

All eligible applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative.

**Eligible Practices**  
(EQIP Organic Initiative)

Refer to the general practice guidelines for state program guidance. Any additional planning guidance specific to this Initiative will be provided under the general practice guidelines.

Practice Code	Practice Name
472	Access Control
316	Animal Mortality Facility
575	Animal Trails and Walkways
314	Brush Management
317	Composting Facility
327	Conservation Cover
328	Conservation Crop Rotation
332	Contour Buffer Strips
330	Contour Farming
340	Cover Crop
342	Critical Area Planting
362	Diversion
382	Fence
386	Field Border
393	Filter Strip
394	Firebreak
512	Forage and Biomass Planting
511	Forage Harvest Management
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
410	Grade Stabilization Structure
412	Grassed Waterway
561	Heavy Use Area Protection
422	Hedgerow Planting
315	Herbaceous Weed Control
595	Integrated Pest Management
441	Irrigation System, Micro irrigation
449	Irrigation Water Management
516	Livestock Pipeline
484	Mulching
590	Nutrient Management
378	Pond
338	Prescribed Burning
528	Prescribed Grazing
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till

<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed
344	Residue Management, Seasonal
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
557	Row Arrangement
367	Roofs and Covers
798	Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops
381	Silvopasture Establishment
606	Subsurface Drain
574	Spring Development
578	Stream Crossing
585	Stripcropping
620	Underground Outlet
600	Terrace
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin
642	Water Well
614	Watering Facility
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment

<b>Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs)</b>	
<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
104	Nutrient Management Plan

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## **EQIP Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative**

### **Purpose**

Through the EQIP Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative, NRCS will assist producers to extend the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. The initiative has the potential to assist producers in addressing a resource concern by improving plant quality, improving soil quality, reducing nutrient and pesticide transport, improving air quality through reduced transportation inputs, and reducing energy use by providing consumers with a local source of fresh produce.

### **General**

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- Supporting practices offered under this Initiative must be used in conjunction with a seasonal high tunnel.

### **National Issues**

Refer to general guidelines when answering the national EQIP questions.

### **State Issues**

Questions are self-explanatory.

### **Application Evaluation**

All eligible applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative.

### **Eligible Practices**

(EQIP Seasonal High Tunnels Initiative)

Refer to the general practice guidelines for state program guidance. Any additional planning guidance specific to this Initiative will be provided under the general practice guidelines.

<b>Core Practices</b>	
<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
798	Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops

<b>Supporting Practices</b>	
<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
342	Critical Area Planting
362	Diversion
412	Grassed Waterway
436	Irrigation Reservoir
441	Irrigation System, Micro irrigation
606	Subsurface Drain
620	Underground Outlet
484	Mulching

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## **EQIP On-Farm Energy Initiative**

### **Purpose**

Under the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Title II, Subtitle F – EQIP, Section 2501 provides authority for use of EQIP (as a national purpose) to specifically address energy conservation through practice implementation and for development of Energy Conservation Plans. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, the program is designed to assist producers in two ways:

- 1.) Identify ways to conserve energy on their farms through an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) conservation activity plan (CAP), also known as an on-farm energy audit.
- 2.) Provide assistance to implement various recommended measures through the use of conservation practice standards offered through this initiative, such as the Farmstead Energy Improvement (374).

### **General**

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- All CAP applications submitted under the On-Farm Energy Initiative must have the Application Type “Planning” and **will** be ranked using the Application Evaluation Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts.

### **National Issues**

Refer to general guidelines when answering the National EQIP questions.

### **State Issues**

Questions are self-explanatory.

Questions 3 and 5 require data from an Energy Audit. If the applicant does not have an AgEMP – Headquarters or an on-farm energy audit (no more than five years old), you will answer No to these questions.

### **Application Evaluation:**

All eligible applications will be screened using the On-Farm Energy screening tool to determine ranking priority. All eligible high and medium applications will be ranked in ProTracts.

### **Eligible Practices**

(EQIP On-Farm Energy Initiative)

<b>Core Practices</b>	
<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
122	Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Headquarters
124	Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Landscape
374	Farmstead Energy Improvement
449	Irrigation Water Management
533	Pumping Plant

<b>Supporting Practices</b>	
<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
328	Conservation Crop Rotation
340	Cover Crop
436	Irrigation Reservoir
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed
346	Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment

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## **EQIP Forestland Initiative**

### **Purpose**

Kentucky forests include over nine million acres of privately owned woodland. It is critically important that wise forest management be practiced to help preserve this significant, renewable, natural resource. A properly managed forest not only provides increased value in timber resources. It also serves to improve and protect water quality, create outdoor recreational opportunities, sequester more carbon from the atmosphere, enhance wildlife habitat, and increase overall aesthetics of the property. The 2008 Farm Bill placed increased emphasis on non-industrial private forestland with specific funding earmarked for forest related practices. This initiative will focus on practices that will improve forest health; promote proper forest management; landowner education of the resource base.

### **General**

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- Have 10 contiguous forest acres or 10 contiguous acres that will be planted to trees.
- Have a forest stewardship plan, forest management plan, or compatible document prepared by a forestry professional, for all acreage included in the EQIP contract.
- All CAP applications submitted under the Forestland Initiative must have the Application Type "Planning" and **will** be ranked using the Application Evaluation Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts.

### **National Issues**

Refer to general guidelines when answering the national EQIP questions.

### **State Issues**

Questions 1-4 are self explanatory, only answer yes to these questions when the practice(s) to be installed with EQIP funds will address that specific concern/question.

Question 5 – Only answer yes when the participant has a current Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act Plan or a Forest Stewardship/Forest Management Plan (CAP 106) that includes the Best Management Practices (BMP) or land use they are requesting financial assistance for.

### **Application Evaluation**

Applications will be screened using the Forestland Initiative screening tool to determine the ranking priority prior to full evaluation. All eligible High and Medium applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative.

**Eligible Practices**  
(EQIP Forestland Initiative)

Refer to the general practice guidelines for state program guidance. Any additional planning guidance specific to this Initiative will be provided under the general practice guidelines.

Practice Code	Practice Name
472	Access Control
314	Brush Management
382	Fence
666	Forest Stand Improvement
315	Herbaceous Weed Control
654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation

Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs)	
Practice Code	Practice Name
106	Forest Management Plan

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## **EQIP Wildlife Initiative**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Wildlife Initiative is to help participants develop fish and wildlife habitat on private agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land and Indian land. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop or enhance upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

### **General**

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- All planned practices shall meet Field Office Technical Guide standards and specifications. Planners should refer to the NRCS Kentucky State Standard to develop all specifications unless directed otherwise.
- Where wildlife is a primary objective, ponds may only be fenced in conjunction with pipeline and tank installation when livestock are being excluded from a stream or wetland currently being used as a water source
- Activities shall be planned and performed in accordance with all requirements under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and with regard for all species and habitats identified under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- If trees will be removed or harvested as a result of practice implementation, removal must be planned to ensure that the Indiana Bat is not affected according to the KY Guidance Document for ESA Compliance. Activities involving tree removal or harvesting shall be performed according to agreed programmatic consultation avoidance measures for the Indiana bat.
- Invasive species should be addressed using the practices Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490), Herbaceous Weed Control (315) and Brush Management (314) and Tree/Shrub Establishment (612).
- All CAP applications submitted under the Wildlife Initiative must have the Application Type "Planning" and **will** be ranked using the Application Evaluation Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts.

## **Management Guidelines For Land Under an EQIP Wildlife Initiative Contract**

### **Grazing Management**

- If grazing will occur on land under contract, the acreage should be managed according to a NRCS prepared prescribed grazing plan and detailed job sheet.
- Native grasses shall have an ending grazing height of not less than 8 inches.
- Grazing of native grasses under contract shall be deferred between September 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> unless a grazing plan detailing how the area shall be grazed to maintain habitat during this period is developed by an NRCS grazing lands specialist.

### **Mowing/Haying Requirements**

- During an establishment period for native grasses, top clipping can be done as needed for weed control from May through August as recommended by an NRCS conservationist, biologist or KDFWR biologist for two years after planting. Clip high as possible but no closer than 8 inches.
- After establishment and during the practice lifespan, native grasses can only be mowed once annually between August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 15 with a minimum mowing height of 8

inches. This mowing requirement ensures good nesting, brood rearing and winter cover is present on wildlife acres.

**Native Grass Seed Harvest**

- Native grass seed may be harvested once a year between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>. Seed harvest must be done using equipment that strips the seed head from the stem and does minimal disturbance to the vegetative structure.
- Forb seed harvest is not allowed on stands under contract.

**National Issues**

Refer to general guidelines when answering the national EQIP questions.

**State Issues**

Self Explanatory

**Local Issues**

Self Explanatory

**Application Evaluation**

Applications will be screened using the Wildlife Initiative screening tool to determine the ranking priority prior to full evaluation. All eligible “High” and “Medium” applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative.

**Eligible Practices**  
(EQIP Wildlife Initiative)

Refer to the general practice guidelines for state program guidance. Any additional planning guidance specific to this Initiative will be provided under the general practice guidelines.

<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
472	Access Control
314	Brush Management
327	Conservation Cover
342	Critical Area Planting
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
382	Fence
386	Field Border
394	Firebreak
666	Forest Stand Improvement
315	Herbaceous Weed Control
484	Mulching

<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
516	Pipeline
338	Prescribed Burning
643	Restoration and Management of Rare & Declining Habitats
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment
646	Shallow Water Development & Management
574	Spring Development
578	Stream Crossing
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
642	Water Well
614	Watering Facility

<b>Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs)</b>	
<b>Practice Code</b>	
142	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan
146	Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan

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## EQIP Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative

### Purpose

The purpose of the Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative is to establish fish and wildlife habitat on private agricultural land and nonindustrial private forestland in a highly forested area of the State with a large potential for early successional habitat improvement. Many wildlife species either depend on or greatly benefit from areas of young forest in proximity to older more mature forest stands. However, early successional habitats are generally lacking within the initiative area. Emphasis will be placed on forest stand improvement practices with the objective of creating or maintaining early successional forest habitat to benefit a suite of wildlife species.

### General

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Applications will only be taken in the following counties:

Bell	Lee
Breathitt	Leslie
Clay	Letcher
Elliott	Magoffin
Floyd	Martin
Harlan	Morgan
Jackson	Owsley
Johnson	Perry
Knott	Pike
Knox	Rockcastle
Laurel	Whitley
Lawrence	Wolfe

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- All planned practices shall meet Field Office Technical Guide standards and specifications. Planners should refer to the NRCS Kentucky State Standard to develop all specifications unless directed otherwise.
- Where wildlife is a primary objective, ponds may only be fenced in conjunction with pipeline and tank installation when livestock are being excluded from a stream or wetland currently being used as a water source
- Activities shall be planned and performed in accordance with all requirements under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and with regard for all species and habitats identified under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- If trees will be removed or harvested as a result of practice implementation, removal must be planned to ensure that the Indiana Bat is not affected according to the KY Guidance Document for ESA Compliance. Activities involving tree removal or harvesting shall be performed according to agreed programmatic consultation avoidance measures for the Indiana bat.
- Invasive species should be addressed using the practices Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490), Herbaceous Weed Control (315) and Brush Management (314) and any other facilitating practices.

- All CAP applications submitted under the Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative must have the Application Type “Planning” and **will** be ranked using the Application Evaluation Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts.

### **Management Guidelines For Land Under an EQIP Initiative Contract**

#### Grazing Management

- If grazing will occur on land under contract, the acreage should be managed according to a NRCS prepared prescribed grazing plan and detailed job sheet.
- Native grasses shall have an ending grazing height of not less than 8 inches.
- Grazing of native grasses under contract shall be deferred between September 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> unless a grazing plan detailing how the area shall be grazed to maintain habitat during this period is developed by an NRCS grazing lands specialist.

#### Mowing/Haying Requirements

- During an establishment period for native grasses, top clipping can be done as needed for weed control from May through August as recommended by an NRCS conservationist, biologist or KDFWR biologist for two years after planting. Clip high as possible but no closer than 8 inches.
- After establishment and during the practice lifespan, native grasses can only be mowed once annually between August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 15 with a minimum mowing height of 8 inches. This mowing requirement ensures good nesting, brood rearing and winter cover is present on wildlife acres.

#### Native Grass Seed Harvest

- Native grass seed may be harvested once a year between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>. Seed harvest must be done using equipment that strips the seed head from the stem and does minimal disturbance to the vegetative structure.
- Forb seed harvest is not allowed on stands under contract.

### **National Issues**

Refer to general guidelines when answering the national EQIP questions.

### **State Issues**

Self Explanatory

### **Local Issues**

Self Explanatory

### **Application Evaluation**

Applications will be screened using the Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative screening tool to determine the ranking priority prior to full evaluation. All eligible “High” and “Medium” applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative.

### **Eligible Practices**

(EQIP Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative)

Refer to the general practice guidelines for state program guidance. Any additional planning guidance specific to this Initiative will be provided under the general practice guidelines.

<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
472	Access Control
314	Brush Management
327	Conservation Cover
342	Critical Area Planting
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
382	Fence
386	Field Border
394	Firebreak
666	Forest Stand Improvement
315	Herbaceous Weed Control
484	Mulching
516	Pipeline
338	Prescribed Burning
643	Restoration and Management of Rare & Declining Habitats
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment
646	Shallow Water Development & Management
578	Stream Crossing
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
642	Water Well
614	Watering Facility

<b>Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs)</b>	
<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
142	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan
146	Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan

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## **WHIP Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Initiative**

### **Purpose**

Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) is an effort between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that leverages capabilities and resources, targets assistance where it is most needed, cooperatively engages state and local partners, and works collaboratively with agricultural producers, forest land managers, and Tribes. NRCS and FWS have selected eight at-risk species whose decline can be reversed given sufficient resources and landowner participation. Working Lands for Wildlife will promote voluntary, incentive-based conservation on private and Tribal lands. The at-risk species being targeted in Southeast KY is the Golden Winged Warbler.

### **General**

- The 2002 FSRIA changed the WHIP from a non-Title 12 program to a Title 12 program. All WHIP participants must be in compliance with the Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions of the National Food Security Act. If an applicant is not currently a USDA program participant, they will have to complete an AD-1026 with the Farm Services Agency to certify that they are in compliance with the HEL and WC provisions prior to signing a WHIP contract. WHIP participants must also meet the Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirement according to 512.22 to be an eligible participant. If a WHIP participant has not completed the AD-1026 or necessary AGI forms, instruct them to work with FSA to complete the necessary forms. Kentucky's WHIP objectives are in support of Kentucky's Comprehensive Wildlife Action Plan.
- The majority of the treatment area must fall within the Golden Winged Warbler Focus Area which includes areas in Bell, Harlan and Letcher Counties.

## **Management Guidelines For Land Under A WHIP Contract**

### **Grazing Management**

- If grazing will occur on land under a WHIP contract, the acreage should be managed according to a NRCS prepared prescribed grazing plan and detailed job sheet.
- Native grasses shall have an ending grazing height of not less than 8 inches.
- Grazing of native grasses under a WHIP contract shall be deferred between September 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> unless a grazing plan detailing how the area shall be grazed to maintain habitat during this period is developed by an NRCS grazing lands specialist.

### **Mowing/Haying Requirements**

- During an establishment period for native grasses, top clipping can be done as needed for weed control from May through August as recommended by an NRCS conservationist, biologist or KDFWR biologist for two years after planting. Clip high as possible but no closer than 8 inches.
- After establishment and during the 5 year practice lifespan, native grasses can only be mowed once annually between August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 15 with a minimum mowing height of 8 inches. This mowing requirement ensures good nesting, brood rearing and winter cover is present on WHIP acres.

### **Native Grass Seed Harvest**

- Native grasses and forbs should be utilized as in pollinator plantings for establishment of WHIP-WLFW. NWSG species should not comprise greater than 10 percent PLS of the total mix of the planting.

## **National Issues**

- Question 1a: Answer no to this question.
- Question 1b: Answer yes to this question.
- Question 1c: Answer yes to this question.
- Question 1d: Only answer yes to this question working on native habitat (ie. Unmined hardwood forest). No for mineland work.
- Question 1e: While there may be some incidental benefits to typical GWW work only answer yes if native forbs are being planted as part of the plan.
- Question 1f: While some invasive species may be targeted the intent is not to eradicate or control them so answer no for this question.
- Question 1g: Answer no for this question.
- Question 1h: Answer yes for this question.
- Question 1i: Answer no for this question.
- Question 1j: Answer yes for this question only when trees or native warm season grasses/forbs are being planted.
- Question 1k: Answer yes for this question.
- Question 2a: Answer as applicable based on client desire.

## **State Issues**

- Question 1: Answer yes if the project boundary overlaps with a 0.25 mile buffer of known locations or if occurrence is verified on-site.
- Question 2: Answer yes for this question.
- Question 3: Answer yes if the project boundary overlaps with a 0.25 mile buffer of known locations or if occurrence is verified on-site.
- Question 4a: Answer yes if the 1 mile project buffer overlaps with the 0.25 buffer of known locations or if occurrence is verified on-site.
- Question 4b: Answer yes if the 2 mile project buffer overlaps with the 0.25 buffer of known locations.
- Question 4c: Answer yes if the 5 mile project buffer overlaps with the 0.25 buffer of known locations.

## **Local Issues**

- Question 1: Answer as appropriate
- Question 2: Use GIS aerial photography to estimate percent forest cover.

## **Application Evaluation**

Applications will be screened using the WLFW screening tool to determine the ranking priority prior to full evaluation. All High applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative.

### **Eligible Practices**

(WHIP Working Lands for Wildlife)

Refer to the general practice guidelines for state program guidance. Any additional planning guidance specific to this Initiative will be provided under the general practice guidelines.

<b>Core Practices</b>	
<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
647	Early Successional Habitat Development & Management
643	Restoration and Management of Rare & Declining Species
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

<b>Supporting Practices</b>	
<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Practice Name</b>
472	Access Control
314	Brush Management
327	Conservation Cover
342	Critical Area Planting
382	Fence
386	Field Borders
394	Firebreak
666	Forest Stand Improvement
315	Herbaceous Weed Control
484	Mulching
338	Prescribed Burning
528	Prescribed Grazing
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation

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<b>Account</b>	<b>Account Type</b>	<b>Fund Code</b>
Beginning Farmer	Beginning Farmer/Rancher	1376F 21 BE
CCPI-MRBI-Kentucky Division of Conservation-Licking River	CCPI - MRBI	1376F 21 LV
CCPI-MRBI-Kentucky Division of Conservation-Lower Green	CCPI - MRBI	1376F 21 LG
CCPI-MRBI-Kentucky Division of Conservation-Mayfield Creek	CCPI - MRBI	1376F 21 MC
CCPI-MRBI-Kentucky Division of Conservation-Red River	CCPI - MRBI	1376F 21 RR
Forestland	State	1376F 21 FL
FY12 NWQI Clarks Run	National Water Quality	1376F 21 14
FY12 NWQI Hinkston Creek	National Water Quality	1376F 21 15
FY12 NWQI Little River	National Water Quality	1376F 21 13
FY13 Certified Organic	Certified Organic	1376F 21 2
FY13 On-Farm Energy	On-Farm Energy	1376F 21 4
FY13 Organic Transition	Organic Transition	1376F 21 3
FY13 Seasonal High Tunnels	Seasonal High Tunnels	1376F 21 5
Limited Resource	Limited Resource	1376F 21 LR
PA 1 West KY - Pastureland	Locally Led	1376F 21 7
PA 1 West KY-Cropland	Locally Led	1376F 21 6
PA 2 Central KY - Cropland	Locally Led	1376F 21 8
PA 2 Central KY - Pastureland	Locally Led	1376F 21 9
PA 3 Northeast KY - Cropland	Locally Led	1376F 21 10
PA 3 Northeast KY - Pastureland	Locally Led	1376F 21 11
PA 4 Southeast KY - Pastureland	Locally Led	1376F 21 12
Socially Disadvantaged	Socially Disadvantaged	1376F 21 SD
Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative	State	1376F 21 ES
Wildlife	State	1376F 21 WI
WLFW	G Winged Warbler WLFW	75F21WW

Account	Counties																			
Beginning Farmer	All Counties																			
CCPI-MRBI-Licking River Watershed	Bath	Fleming	Lewis	Mason	Nicholas															
CCPI-MRBI-Lower Green Watershed	Daviess	Hancock	Henderson	Hopkins	McClellan	Ohio	Webster													
CCPI-MRBI-Mayfield Creek Watershed	Ballard	Carslisle	Fulton	Graves	Hickman															
CCPI-MRBI-Red River Watershed	Logan	Simpson	Todd																	
Forestland	All Counties																			
FY12 NWQI Clarks Run	Boyle	Lincoln																		
FY12 NWQI Hinkston Creek	Bath	Montgomery																		
FY12 NWQI Little River	Christian	Trigg																		
FY13 Certified Organic	All Counties																			
FY13 On-Farm Energy	All Counties																			
FY13 Organic Transition	All Counties																			
FY13 Seasonal High Tunnels	All Counties																			
Limited Resource	All Counties																			
PA 1 West KY - Pastureland	Allen	Ballard	Butler	Caldwell	Calloway	Carslisle	Christian	Crittenden	Daviess	Edmonson	Fulton	Graves	Hancock	Henderson	Hickman	Hopkins	Livingston	Logan	Lyon	Marshall
PA 1 West KY-Cropland	Allen	Ballard	Butler	Caldwell	Calloway	Carslisle	Christian	Crittenden	Daviess	Edmonson	Fulton	Graves	Hancock	Henderson	Hickman	Hopkins	Livingston	Logan	Lyon	Marshall
PA 2 Central KY - Cropland	Adair	Anderson	Barren	Boyle	Breckinridge	Bullitt	Casey	Clinton	Cumberland	Franklin	Garrard	Grayson	Green	Hardin	Hart	Henry	Jefferson	Larue	Lincoln	Marion
PA 2 Central KY - Pastureland	Adair	Anderson	Barren	Boyle	Breckinridge	Bullitt	Casey	Clinton	Cumberland	Franklin	Garrard	Grayson	Green	Hardin	Hart	Henry	Jefferson	Larue	Lincoln	Marion
PA 3 Northeast KY - Cropland	Bath	Boone	Bourbon	Boyd	Bracken	Campbell	Carroll	Carter	Clark	Estill	Fayette	Fleming	Gallatin	Grant	Greenup	Harrison	Jessamine	Kenton	Lewis	Madison
PA 3 Northeast KY - Pastureland	Bath	Boone	Bourbon	Boyd	Bracken	Campbell	Carroll	Carter	Clark	Estill	Fayette	Fleming	Gallatin	Grant	Greenup	Harrison	Jessamine	Kenton	Lewis	Madison
PA 4 Southeast KY - Pastureland	Bell	Breathitt	Clay	Elliott	Floyd	Harlan	Jackson	Johnson	Knott	Knox	Laurel	Lawrence	Lee	Leslie	Letcher	Magoffin	Martin	Morgan	Owsley	Perry
Socially Disadvantaged	All Counties																			
Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative	Bell	Breathitt	Clay	Elliott	Floyd	Harlan	Jackson	Johnson	Knott	Knox	Laurel	Lawrence	Lee	Leslie	Letcher	Magoffin	Martin	Morgan	Owsley	Perry
Wildlife	All Counties																			
WLFW	Bell	Harlan	Letcher																	

Account	Counties															
Beginning Farmer																
CCPI-MRBI-Licking River Watershed																
CCPI-MRBI-Lower Green Watershed																
CCPI-MRBI-Mayfield Creek Watershed																
CCPI-MRBI-Red River Watershed																
Forestland																
FY12 NWQI Clarks Run																
FY12 NWQI Hinkston Creek																
FY12 NWQI Little River																
FY13 Certified Organic																
FY13 On-Farm Energy																
FY13 Organic Transition																
FY13 Seasonal High Tunnels																
Limited Resource																
PA 1 West KY - Pastureland	McCracken	McClellan	Muhlenburg	Ohio	Simpson	Todd	Trigg	Union	Warren	Webster						
PA 1 West KY-Cropland	McCracken	McClellan	Muhlenburg	Ohio	Simpson	Todd	Trigg	Union	Warren	Webster						
PA 2 Central KY - Cropland	McCreary	Meade	Mercer	Metcalf	Monroe	Nelson	Oldham	Pulaski	Russell	Shelby	Spencer	Taylor	Trimble	Washington	Wayne	Woodford
PA 2 Central KY - Pastureland	McCreary	Meade	Mercer	Metcalf	Monroe	Nelson	Oldham	Pulaski	Russell	Shelby	Spencer	Taylor	Trimble	Washington	Wayne	Woodford
PA 3 Northeast KY - Cropland	Mason	Menifee	Montgomery	Nicholas	Owen	Pendleton	Powell	Robertson	Rowan	Scott						
PA 3 Northeast KY - Pastureland	Mason	Menifee	Montgomery	Nicholas	Owen	Pendleton	Powell	Robertson	Rowan	Scott						
PA 4 Southeast KY - Pastureland	Pike	Rockcastle	Whitley	Wolfe												
Socially Disadvantaged																
Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative	Pike	Rockcastle	Whitley	Wolfe												
Wildlife																
WLFW																

Practice Code		Practice Name		EQIP and WHIP Initiatives									
				General EQIP	Mississippi River Basin Watershed Initiative	Organic Initiative (Certified and Transitioning)	Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative	On-Farm Energy Initiative	State Forestland Initiative	State Wildlife Initiative	Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative	Working Lands for Wildlife	
An "X" indicates that the corresponding practice is eligible within the Initiative at the top of the column.													
472		Access Control	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		
560		Access Road	X										
316		Animal Mortality Facility	X	X	X								
575		Animal Trails and Walkways	X	X	X								
314		Brush Management	X		X			X	X	X	X		
317		Composting Facility			X								
327		Conservation Cover		X	X				X	X	X		
328		Conservation Crop Rotation	X	X	X		X						
332		Contour Buffer Strips	X	X	X								
330		Contour Farming	X	X	X								
340		Cover Crop	X	X	X		X						
342		Critical Area Planting	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		
362		Diversion	X	X	X	X							
647		Early Successional Habitat Development & Management							X	X	X		
374		Farmstead Energy Improvement					X						
382		Fence	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		
386		Field Border	X	X	X				X	X	X		
393		Filter Strip		X	X								
394		Firebreak	X		X				X	X	X		
512		Forage and Biomass Planting	X	X	X								
511		Forage Harvest Management			X								
666		Forest Stand Improvement						X	X	X	X		
410		Grade Stabilization Structure	X	X	X								
412		Grassed Waterway	X	X	X	X							
561		Heavy Use Area Protection	X	X	X								
422		Hedgerow Planting			X								
315		Herbaceous Weed Control	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		
595		Integrated Pest Management		X	X								
436		Irrigation Reservoir				X	X						
441		Irrigation System, Micro irrigation		X	X	X							
449		Irrigation Water Management		X	X		X						

An "X" indicates that the corresponding practice is eligible within the Initiative at the top of the column.		General EQIP	Mississippi River Basin Watershed Initiative	Organic Initiative (Certified and Transitioning)	Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative	On-Farm Energy Initiative	State Forestland Initiative	State Wildlife Initiative	Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative	Working Lands for Wildlife
Practice Code	Practice Name	EQIP and WHIP Initiatives								
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	X	X							
516	Livestock Pipeline	X	X	X				X	X	
484	Mulching	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
590	Nutrient Management	X	X	X						
378	Pond	X	X	X						
338	Prescribed Burning	X		X				X	X	X
528	Prescribed Grazing	X	X	X						X
533	Pumping Plant					X				
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till			X		X				
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	X	X	X		X				
346	Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till			X		X				
344	Residue Management, Seasonal	X	X	X						
643	Restoration and Management of Rare & Declining Habitats							X	X	X
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	X	X					X	X	
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	X	X	X				X	X	
654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment						X	X	X	
558	Roof Runoff Structure		X							
367	Roofs and Covers	X	X	X						
557	Row Arrangement			X						
798	Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops			X	X					
646	Shallow Water Development & Management							X	X	
381	Silvopasture Establishment	X	X	X						
574	Spring Development	X		X				X	X	
578	Stream Crossing	X	X	X				X	X	
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	X								
585	Stripcropping			X						
606	Subsurface Drain	X	X	X	X					
600	Terrace	X	X	X						
490	Tree and Shrub Site Prep	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
620	Underground Outlet	X	X	X	X					

An "X" indicates that the corresponding practice is eligible within the Initiative at the top of the column.		General EQIP	Mississippi River Basin Watershed Initiative	Organic Initiative (Certified and Transitioning)	Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative	On-Farm Energy Initiative	State Forestland Initiative	State Wildlife Initiative	Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative	Working Lands for Wildlife	
		EQIP and WHIP Initiatives									
Practice Code	Practice Name										
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management									X	
635	Vegetated Treatment Area	X	X								
313	Waste Storage Facility	X	X								
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon	X									
638	Water & Sediment Control Basin	X	X	X							
642	Water Well	X	X	X				X	X		
614	Watering Facility	X	X	X				X	X		
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management									X	
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	X		X		X					
<b>Conservation Activity Plans (CAP)s</b>											
122	Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Headquarters					X					
124	Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Landscape					X					
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	X	X								
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition			X							
130	Drainage Water Management Plan	X	X								
142	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan							X	X		
106	Forest Management Plan						X				
110	Grazing Management Plan	X	X								
114	Integrated Pest Management Plan	X	X								
118	Irrigation Water Management Plan	X	X								
104	Nutrient Management Plan	X	X	X							
146	Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan							X	X		