

**Missouri State Technical Committee  
Minutes  
May 25, 2022**

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Scott Edwards, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist. Scott thanked everyone for attending and highlighted the agenda (see attached), then he introduced Joe Aull, Farm Service Agency (FSA), State Executive Director.

Joe Aull, FSA Executive Director, introduced himself and expressed his excitement for the opportunity to work with USDA agencies, farmers, and landowners. He provided a brief update on FSA activities from last year and talked about new FSA programs that have recently been implemented. Then he introduced Kyle Wilkens, Rural Development (RD) State Director.

Kyle Wilkens, RD State Director, introduced himself then provided a brief update on Rural Development highlights the past year, and talked about their programs and the strong working relationship with NRCS and FSA here in Missouri.

Nate Goodrich, NRCS State Resource Conservationist, provided a presentation on the State Technical Committee Format, Structure, and Purpose. He explained the State Technical Committee Role as well as described the functions, structure, and responsibilities of the STC committee. The NRCS State Conservationist is the Chair and described the responsibilities the State Conservationist has as the chair. He discussed that there are 7 new sub-committees and who the NRCS representatives are for each sub-committee. He explained the structure and responsibilities of the sub committees. It was explained that individuals will only be allowed to serve on one sub-committee. This will allow space for others to participate and will lessen the time of those employees serving on the committees. An 8<sup>th</sup> sub-committee titled "Agribusiness" will be added next year. He informed the committee that record of all state technical committee meetings will be placed on the NRCS webpage. He shared that the State Conservationist responses to committee recommendations will be posted on the NRCS Website. (See attached PowerPoint)

Frank Oberle expressed concern that local working groups do not have transparency like NRCS has regarding local groups applying and that they take a vote on what they do. There are no postings on when they all hold elections. Scott mentioned that NRCS is currently looking to refresh and relaunch the locally led process and work groups.

Marilyn Gann, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, provided a Year in Review for CSP, EQIP, and ACEP. She informed the group about three FY-2022 EQIP-CIC priorities being addressed. They are Native Grassland Restoration, Soil Health Management System, and Source Water Protection for Water Quality and Quantity. (See attached PowerPoint)

A question was asked regarding funding and the process. Marilyn and Rick Howard responded. Another question was asked about inflation. She explained that would not affect us this year but will next fiscal year. The committee asked for transparency. Chris Hamilton, Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resource and Easements, provided an update on ACEP, ALE, and EWP. He also provided an update regarding the progress on Little Otter Creek and the East Locust Creek Reservoir Project.

Scott explained that there are currently seven State Technical Subcommittees and that each NRCS subcommittee representative will provide reports. (See attached subcommittee minutes)

**Urban Conservation:** Scott Edwards provided an update and meeting minutes from the meeting held.

**Soil Health** - Scott Edwards shared that this sub-committee has not met yet.

**Water Quality & Source Water Protection** – Marilyn Gann provided an update and meeting minutes from the meetings that have been held. This has been an active committee group.

**Programs** – Marilyn Gann provided an update and meeting minutes. She said the group is currently looking for priority resource concern recommendations. They will assess and discuss the recommended concerns at the next meeting.

**Forestry & Wildlife** – Nate Goodrich provided an update and meeting minutes for the meeting.

**Grasslands & Row Crops** – Nate Goodrich provided an update and meeting minutes

**Easements** – Chris Hamilton provided an update on the committee that he represents and provided a copy of the minutes.

Scott opened the floor for open discussion and partner announcements. Allen Powell, FSA Conservation Chief, discussed CRP expirations for FY 2022 and results of the recent General CRP sign up. He informed committee that FSA and NRCS are now required to review CRP practices in the State to determine if new management practices should be implemented. It was stated that current available management practices are still available for most practices and FSA and NRCS do not see a current need to add or remove any options. The committee was encouraged to submit comments. Then he talked about two proposed MO SAFE changes per CRP Notice 966.

The floor was opened for questions or comments. Two concerns were raised regarding the CRP program. First concern is invasive species are becoming an issue on large percentage of CRP contracts during the last 3 to 4 years of the contract period. National policy should address the situation and allow producers to actively treat issues through activities already allowed by policy or research additional options. Also, if allowed, cost

share through FSA or other federal/state agencies should be accessible to producers to manage issues. The second concern is FSA National Office needs to explore more policy options for producers to convert monoculture stands to more diverse stands when reenrolling. Even though the EBI scoring has been adjusted to encourage producers to offer more diverse cover, more options should be explored as these areas do provide good ground cover for erosion, but don't do much for wildlife or pollinators.

The floor was opened for committee and staff introductions. Microphone was taken around the room. (See attached list of present committee members)

Scott closed the meeting with a wrap up discussion and answering questions that came up during the meeting. He provided a brief explanation of the annual budget timeline, amounts requested by program and actual allocation. He informed the committee that NRCS offices are open and operating at 100 percent staffing. He explained that Missouri NRCS has three major goals this year, and they are Racial Equity, Urban Ag, and Climate Smart Conservation. He hopes to strengthen and maintain our existing partnership and is looking to expand our conservation reach with new partners and agreements. He will work to fully realize the new subcommittee structure and reduce the short turnaround time for input and deadline requests and that he hopes we can move to 2 face to face meetings and 2 virtual meetings. Finally, he discussed the annual request for proposals for RCPP, State CIG and Technical Assistance and Outreach Agreements.

Scott answered questions that were asked. A few committee members expressed thanks and appreciation for the staff, their time, and detailed reports that were provided.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:45 pm.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

## Missouri NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting

### Meeting Details

**Location:** MU Bradford Farms - Poehlmann Educational Center

4968 Rangeline Road, Columbia, Missouri 65201

**Date:** May 25, 2022

**Time:** 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

### AGENDA

- 9:00 am Registration and Refreshments
- 9:30 am Welcome and Opening Comments  
Scott Edwards, NRCS State Conservationist  
Joe Aull, FSA Executive Director  
Kyle Wilkens, RD State Director
- 10:00 am State Technical Committee Format, Structure, and Purpose  
Nate Goodrich, State Resource Conservationist
- 10:30 am NRCS 2021 Year in Review  
EQIP, CSP, EQIP CIC, RCPP  
Marilyn Gann, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs
- ACEP, ALE, EWP  
Chris Hamilton, Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources/Easements
- 11:00 am State Technical Subcommittee Reports  
Urban Conservation – Scott Edwards  
Soil Health - Brad McCord/Scott Edwards  
Water Quality & Source Water Protection – Marilyn Gann  
Programs – Marilyn Gann  
Forestry & Wildlife – Nate Goodrich  
Grasslands & Row Crops – Nate Goodrich  
Easements – Chris Hamilton
- 11:45 am Open Discussion / Partner Announcements
- 12:30 p.m. General Topics and Closing Comments  
Scott Edwards, NRCS State Conservationist
- 1:00 p.m. Adjourn



*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender*





United States Department of Agriculture



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service



May 25, 2022  
Columbia, MO  
Nate Goodrich  
Missouri State Resource Conservationist

## State Technical Committee Meeting

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

# State Technical Committee

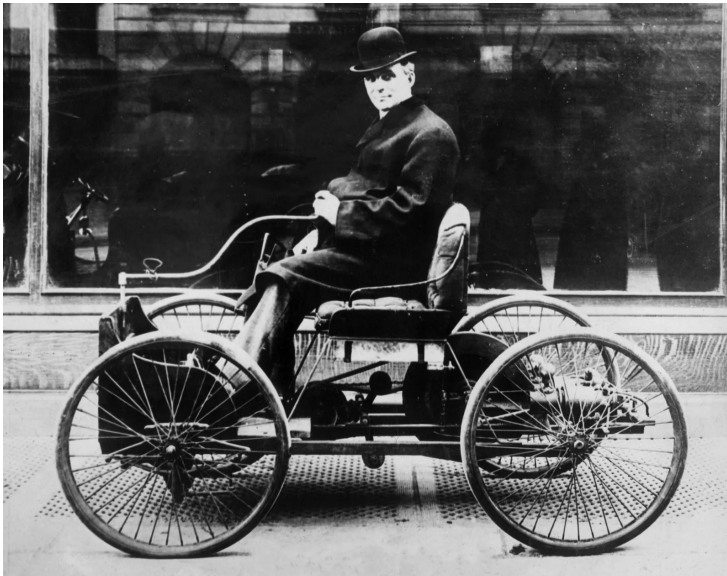


The Missouri State Technical Committee plays a key role in supporting sustainable agriculture across the state:

- Assist in making recommendations relating to the implementation and technical aspects of natural resource conservation activities and programs
- Advise the NRCS State Conservationist on developing guidelines for implementing conservation provisions of the Farm Bill
- Help ensure we meet civil rights requirements of program delivery



*Henry Ford — 'Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.'*







# State Technical Committee Functions and Structure

*General Manual Title 440 – Programs, Part 501 – USDA Conservation Program Delivery*

The locally led process provides USDA with conservation needs, resource concerns, priorities, and recommendations regarding program administration and implementation. USDA seeks input from State Technical Committees and local work groups on State and local conservation program delivery.



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

# Committee Functions and Structure

## Purpose:

- Serves in an advisory capacity to NRCS State Conservationist.
- Meets regularly to provide advice and technical recommendations to implement the conservation provisions of the Farm Bill.
- Committee is chaired by the State Conservationist and membership includes diverse groups served by USDA including representatives from federal, state and local conservation agencies, tribal governments, agricultural producers, nonprofit organizations, agribusiness partners, and other professionals who represent disciplines in agriculture and conservation.



# Committee Responsibilities

- **It is the responsibility of the State Technical Committee to:**
  - Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding criteria, recommended practices, and program payment percentages
  - Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs
  - Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications
  - Recommend State and national program policy based on resource data
  - Review activities of the local working groups to ensure State priorities are being addressed locally
  - Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests and recommendations from local working groups
  - Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producers' needs



# State Conservationist Responsibilities

- **The State Conservationist will:**

- Chair the committee
- Ensure representation of all interests, to the extent possible
- Give strong consideration to the committee's advice on NRCS programs, initiatives, and activities
- Call and provide notice of public meetings
- Follow the standard operating procedures
- Provide other USDA agencies with recommendations from the committee for programs under their purview
- Ensure recommendations, when adopted, address natural resource concerns
- Respond to requests for membership

*\*NRCS will be reviewing membership list to update entities represented and contact information*



# Subcommittees



- **Specialized subcommittees composed of Committee members may be needed to analyze and refine specific issues, including technical and or programmatic topics**
- **Recently expanded the number of subcommittees to have small working groups to engage on targeted interest**
- **Missouri subcommittees are:**
  - Urban Conservation – Scott Edwards
  - Soil Health – Brad McCord/Scott Edwards
  - Water Quality and Source Water Protection – Marilyn Gann
  - Programs – Marilyn Gann
  - Forestry and Wildlife – Nate Goodrich
  - Grasslands and Row Crops – Nate Goodrich
  - Easements – Chris Hamilton





# Subcommittees



- **Structure and Responsibilities**

- Intent is to keep membership at a level that allows interaction resulting in open and honest discussion
- Each subcommittee will elect a member chair responsible for setting meetings (minimum of one per year) and agenda, maintaining official minutes, ensuring inclusion, provide subcommittee brief to full Committee
- No final actions will be completed in subcommittee, as all work will be presented, discussed, and understood by full committee
- NRCS will serve as technical and/or programmatic representative(s) on subject matter
- To facilitate small working groups and allow maximum involvement:
  - each individual is limited to serving on one subcommittee
  - goal of 10 total members but everyone is welcome to attend and observe the subcommittee work



# Subcommittees

- **Addition of new Agribusiness Subcommittee**
  - Allowed via 2018 Farm Bill
  - All Agribusinesses on full committee will be offered membership on this subcommittee



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)



# Record of Meetings



<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mo/technical/stc/>

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Missouri**  
 United States Department of Agriculture

[About Us](#) | [National Centers](#) | [State Websites](#)

[Topics](#) | [Programs](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[Browse By Audience](#) | [A-Z Index](#) | [Help](#)

You are Here: [Home](#) / [Technical Resources](#) / [State Technical Committee](#)

[Stay Connected](#)

**Technical Resources**

- Conservation Planning
- Data, Maps, & Analysis
- Ecological Science
- Engineering
- State Technical Committee**
  - STC Minutes
  - STC Agenda

## State Technical Committee (STC)

Per section 1446 of the 1990 Farm Bill, the Missouri USDA established a State Technical Committee to provide advice for technical considerations and technical guidelines necessary to implement conservation provisions of USDA legislation. The NRCS State Conservationist chairs the committee.

Additionally, the State Technical Committee provides recommendations on a number of issues within a variety of USDA conservation programs. Although the State Technical Committee has no implementation or enforcement authority, USDA gives consideration to the Committee's recommendations.

Missouri's State Technical Committee is composed of individuals and groups who represent a diverse group with interests in a variety of natural resource sciences and occupations, including:

- > Soil
- > Water
- > Air
- > Plants
- > Wetlands
- > Wildlife
- > Agricultural Community
- > Environmental Community





# Response to Committee Recommendations

- **The State Conservationist will inform the Committee as to decisions made in response to all recommendations following each meeting**
  - Notification will be made in writing to all Committee members and posted to the MO NRCS website



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)



# Questions/Discussion



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)







***In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.***

***Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office; the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY); or the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877- 8339.***

***To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:***

***(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or***

***(2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or***

***(3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)***

***USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.***



# Missouri State Technical Committee

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Marilyn Gann

Assistant State Conservationist for Programs

May 2022

1

## CSP Overview

- All contracts are 5 years in length
- Application will include all land in applicant's agriculture operation
- Two types of applications:
  - Cropland, Pasture, Hayland
  - Nonindustrial Private Forestland

2

## CSP Overview

- Applications are evaluated to establish the level of existing conservation.
- Contracts include practices and enhancements to increase the existing level of conservation
- Payments are a combination of:
  - Maintaining the existing level of conservation
  - installing and adopting additional conservation

3

## ***FY-2021 CSP Review***

4



## FY-2021 CSP Classic by the Numbers

- 232 Contracts
- \$9.7 M Obligated
- 84,475 Acres Contracted
  - Ag Land (cropland, pasture, hayland)
    - 167 contracts, 70,560 acres
  - NIPF (nonindustrial private forest land)
    - 65 contracts, 13,916 acres

5

## FY-2021 CSP Renewals

- 151 Contracts
- \$7M Obligated
- 84,475 Acres Contracted
  - Ag Land (cropland, pasture, hayland)
    - 103 contracts, 70,269 acres
  - NIPF (nonindustrial private forest land)
    - 48 contracts, 14,206 acres

6

## CSP – GCI (Grassland Conservation Initiative)

- National Rate Per Acre \$18.00 per year
- 5-Year Contracts
- Eligible Acres Identified by Farm Services Agency (FSA). Only cropland maintained as grass, idle or fallow for at least the period of Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 21, 2017, is potentially eligible for enrollment.

7

## CSP – GCI (Grassland Conservation Initiative)

- FY21 Totals
  - 95 Contracts
  - \$345,388 Obligated
  - 4,068 Acres

8

## CSP FY-2022 Update Contracts Completed

### CSP Renewal (Renewal of 2017 Classic Contracts)

- 206 Contracts
- \$6.3 M Obligated
- 85,885 Acres

### CSP-GCI

- 52 Contracts
- \$192,920 Obligated
- 82,142 Acres

9

## Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

10

## EQIP Purpose

- The purpose of EQIP is to incentivize farmers, ranchers and land stewards to address resource concerns by installing conservation practices on eligible land.
- NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers.

11

## FY-2021 EQIP by the Numbers

- 1045 Contracts
- \$31.9M Obligated
- 140,884 Acres

12

## FY-2021 EQIP Top Practices Planned (all fund pools)

Practice	Obligation	Extent Planned
Cover Crop	\$5,710,852.49	112,484.90
Fence	\$3,394,809.35	2,109,904.30
Terrace	\$1,860,972.67	641,768.00
Pasture and Hay Planting	\$1,738,248.10	15,131.90
Roofs and Covers	\$1,722,907.00	23.00
Wildlife Habitat Planting	\$1,603,118.00	1,914.90
Livestock Pipeline	\$1,596,258.58	860,040.00
Underground Outlet	\$1,271,901.37	328,624.90
Watering Facility	\$1,051,898.88	10,408.00
Water Well	\$946,589.10	924.00

13

## *EQIP Conservation Incentive Program (EQIP-CIC)*

14

## EQIP CIC

**Program Purpose:** To incentivize additional conservation around locally-established resource priorities.

- New program authorized under the 2018 Farm Bill
- First sign-up opportunity in Missouri was to be in FY 2021. Last year became a pilot year for the program for specific states. The FY 2022 signup has ended, and we are currently developing the first Missouri EQIP CIC contracts.
- Acts as a steppingstone for producers from EQIP to CSP
- Allows producers to implement elements of CSP on a smaller scale
- \$1.5M of EQIP funds are dedicated to EQIP CIC in FY 2022

15

## EQIP CIC

### High Priority Areas

- Represent areas of significant concern
- Must encompass every region within the state
- May encompass an entire state or overlap with other high priority areas

16

## EQIP CIC

### FY 2022 Missouri High Priority Areas (HPA)

- Native Grassland Restoration
  - Offered Statewide
- Soil Health Management System
  - Offered Statewide
- Source Water Protection for Water Quality and Quantity
  - Offered in Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds

17

## EQIP CIC – HPA Information Sheets

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Source Water Protection for Water Quality and Quantity

FY 2022 EQIP-CIC High Priority Area 1/18/2022



#### Description

This High Priority Area (HPA) is for focusing on improving drinking water quality and quantity by applying conservation on agricultural lands within targeted watersheds. Participants who install conservation practices to address sediment and nutrient loading, soil health, and water quality issues improve their operation both environmentally and economically, but more importantly provide a tremendous benefit to their local communities. As stated by the American Water Works Association, protecting sources of drinking water is an effective way to reduce risks to public health, instill customer confidence, and control water treatment costs.

The conservation practices available within this HPA will address resources concerns such as nonpoint nutrient loss to both surface runoff and leaching, sedimentation from erosion, surface and ground water depletion, inefficient irrigation water use, soil aggregate instability and compaction, and soil organism habitat loss or degradation. By addressing these resource concerns, cleaner water will reach both surface and ground water sources.

#### Geography

Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds Map

#### Land Uses

1. Cropland
2. Pasture

#### Priority Resource Concerns

1. Field sediment, nutrient & pathogen loss
2. Soil quality limitations
3. Source water depletion



#### What is EQIP-CIC?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Incentive Contract (EQIP-CIC) allows producers to target priority resource concerns on their property by offering annual incentive payments for key practices. These identified practices, along with supporting practices, address the implementation, adoption, management, and maintenance needed for producers to build on their current level of conservation and see the benefits of longer-term conservation.

EQIP-CIC can be a stepping-stone between the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). EQIP-CIC offers a unique opportunity for a 5

18

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

19

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

RCPP promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address resource concerns.

20



## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- Partners submit project proposals to NRCS.
- Selected proposals receive funding
- Producers, landowners, and partners then enter into producer contracts and supplemental agreements with NRCS to carry out agreed-to conservation activities.

21

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

In Missouri, FY 2022 is the first year with selected RCPP projects that have advanced to the program application and contracting phase.

22

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

RCPP Project	Counties Included	Lead Partner	FA Available
Mid-South Graduated Water Stewardship Program	Bollinger, Butler, Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Scott, and Stoddard	USA Rice Federation	\$5,600,000
Missouri Targeted Conservation	<i>Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Cooper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lafayette, Macon, Monroe, Pettis, Randolph, Saline, Shelby, St. Francois, St. Louis, and Ste. Genevieve</i>	Missouri Department of Natural Resources	\$2,660,000.00

23

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

RCPP Project	Counties Included	Lead Partner	FA Available
Restoring Glade and Woodland Communities for Threatened Species in the Ozarks of Southeast Missouri	<i>Bollinger, Butler, Carter, Iron, Madison, Oregon, Perry, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon, St. Francois, St. Genevieve, and Wayne</i>	Missouri Department of Conservation	\$950,000.00
Grassland Bird and Grazing Lands Enhancement Initiative	<i>Adair, Andrew, Atchison, Barton, Bates, Benton, Caldwell, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Dade, Daviess, Dekalb, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Holt, Jasper, Johnson, Lawrence, Livingston, Mercer, Nodaway, Pettis, St. Clair, Sullivan, Vernon and Worth</i>	Missouri Department of Conservation	\$840,000.00

24

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

RCPP Project	Counties Included	Lead Partner	FA Available
East Locust Creek Source Water Protection Project	<i>Portions of Sullivan and Putnam counties:</i> This project aims to prevent nonpoint source runoff from entering the East Locust Creek Reservoir (ELCR)	North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission	\$390,000.00
Program Restoring and Improving Monarch Ecosystems	Andrew, Atchison, Benton, Buchanan, Caldwell, Carroll, Cass, Clay, Clinton, Daviess, DeKalb, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Holt, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Livingston, Mercer, Nodaway, Pettis, Platte, Ray, Saline, and Worth	Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Qual Forever	\$639,466.00

25

# *Thank You*

## Open Discussion

26

# Native Grassland Restoration

FY 2022 EQIP-CIC High Priority Area

1/19/2022



## Description

The Native Grassland Restoration High Priority Area (HPA) will concentrate on native grassland management for both grazing resource concerns and wildlife habitat. The focus area covers the entire state of Missouri.

All projects must include a primary management practice that manages native grassland for livestock production and/or wildlife habitat. This includes systems where native grasses are an existing part of the operation or those wanting to add them to their operation

Primary practices include prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, and early successional habitat management, along with management of hay land and use of annual forages for grazing during the establishment period when converting to native grasses. Additional supporting practices can then be applied to improve forage diversity or management, including transitioning part of the grazing operation from introduced grasses to native grasses, infrastructure for improved grazing distribution such as fencing and water sources, and bringing expiring CRP or cropland into grazing production. Wildlife habitat can also be improved or established through grass/forb plantings specifically for wildlife (such as for monarchs/ pollinators), restoration of prairie or savanna on applicable ecological site descriptions, and establishment of shrubby cover. Prescribed grazing may be applicable on some of these habitats once established, either as short-term management or as part of the overall operation, depending on client objectives.

## Geography

Statewide

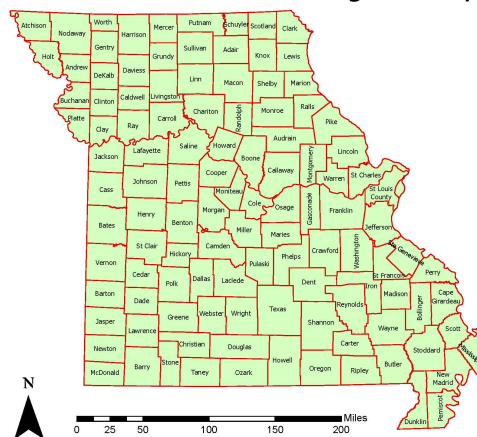
## Land Uses

1. Pasture
2. Associated Agricultural Land (AAL)
3. Cropland

## Priority Resource Concerns

1. Terrestrial Habitat
2. Livestock Production Limitation

### Native Grassland Restoration High Priority Areas



## What is EQIP-CIC?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program Conservation Incentive Contract (EQIP-CIC) allows producers to target priority resource concerns on their property by offering annual incentive payments for key practices. These identified practices, along with supporting practices, address the implementation, adoption, management, and maintenance needed for producers to build on their current level of conservation and see the benefits of longer-term conservation.

EQIP-CIC can be a stepping-stone between the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). EQIP-CIC offers a unique opportunity for a 5 year contract with an annual payment, without enrolling the entire operation into the program. The flexibility can be a gateway to future participation in CSP enrollment and achievement of a higher level of conservation stewardship on their entire operation.

# Native Grassland Restoration

## Available Practices

The following conservation practices are available to support addressing the priority resource concern(s) for this EQIP-CIC High Priority Area.

## Conservation Practices

### Primary

- 338 - Prescribed Burning
- 511 - Forage Harvest Management
- 528 - Prescribed Grazing
- 647 - Early Successional Habitat Development-Management
- 810 - Annual Forages for Grazing Systems

### Supporting

- 314 - Brush Management
- 315 - Herbaceous Weed Treatment
- 342 - Critical Area Planting (in conjunction with 378 or 578)
- 378 - Pond
- 382 - Fence
- 390 - Riparian Buffer
- 394 - Firebreak
- 420 - Wildlife Habitat Planting
- 472 - Access Control
- 484 - Mulching
- 490 - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
- 512 - Pasture and Hay Planting (native species)
- 516 - Livestock Pipeline
- 533 - Pumping Plant
- 561 - Heavy Use Area Protection
- 574 - Spring Development
- 578 - Stream Crossing
- 612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment
- 614 - Watering Facility
- 642 - Water Well
- 643 - Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
- 649 - Structures for Wildlife

## Who is Eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP-CIC assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations, including:

- Conventional
- Organic
- Specialty crops
- Commodity crops
- Forestry
- Wildlife
- Livestock operations
- Historically underserved farmers\*

\*Increased and advance payments available for historically underserved producers (beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and military veterans).

## How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

## More Information

For more information, visit [nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/).



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. [MO - 2022] • [January]

**Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service**

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

# Soil Health Management System

FY 2022 EQIP CIC High Priority Area

1/18/2022



## Description

The High Priority Area (HPA) for a Soil Health Management System (SHMS) focuses on improving soil health by encouraging a suite of conservation practices on agricultural lands. A SHMS applies the four key soil health principles of:

- Minimize disturbance
- Maximize soil cover
- Maximize biodiversity
- Maximize presence of living roots

Improvements to soil health such as increasing organic matter, building aggregate stability, and improving soil organism habitat can be achieved over time by implementing a SHMS.

One example of a cropland SHMS might include practices such as Soil Health Testing, No Till, Conservation Crop Rotation, and Cover Crop. Utilizing Soil Health Testing establishes a benchmark condition that can assist with designing a cover crop mix based on current site conditions. The No Till practice reduces soil disturbance while Conservation Crop Rotation and Cover Crop provides soil cover and improves biodiversity. Another benefit when including Cover Crops into the SHMS is the presences of living roots is maximized.

A pasture SHMS example may include Soil Health Testing, Prescribed Grazing, Fence, Annual Forages for Grazing Systems in conjunction with Pasture and Hay Planting. Improving plant diversity, managing grazing heights and increasing rest/recovery time of pastures improves soil health. Healthier soil and plants increase water holding capacity, improve water infiltration and nutrient cycling, which all help build resiliency into a grazing system.

The focus area for this HPA covers the entire state of Missouri targeting the land uses of crop and pasture.

The conservation practices available within this HPA address resource concerns such as aggregate instability, compaction, organic matter depletion, and degradation of soil organism habitat. Addressing these resource concerns can also provide a positive impact on water quality, soil erosion, and wildlife.

## Geography

Statewide

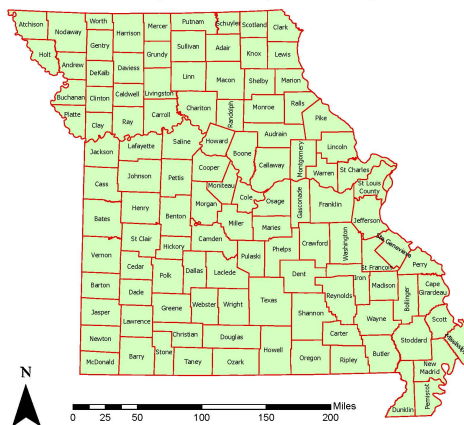
## Land Uses

1. Cropland
2. Pasture

## Priority Resource Concerns

1. Soil quality limitations

Soil Health Management System High Priority Areas



## What is EQIP CIC?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program Conservation Incentive Contract (EQIP-CIC) allows producers to target priority resource concerns on their property by offering annual incentive payments for key practices. These identified practices, along with supporting practices, address the implementation, adoption, management, and maintenance needed for producers to build on their current level of conservation and see the benefits of longer-term conservation.

EQIP-CIC can be a stepping-stone between the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). EQIP-CIC offers a unique opportunity for a 5 year contract with an annual payment, without enrolling the entire operation into the program. The flexibility can be a gateway to future participation in CSP enrollment and achievement of a higher level of conservation stewardship on their entire operation.



# Soil Health Management System

## Available Practices

The following conservation practices are available to support addressing the priority resource concern(s) for this EQIP-CIC High Priority Area.

## Conservation Practices

### Conservation Evaluation Monitoring Activity (CEMA)

216 - Soil Health Testing

217 - Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management

#### Primary

328 - Conservation Crop Rotation

329 - Residue and Tillage Management, No Till

340 - Cover Crop

345 - Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till

484 - Mulching

511 - Forage Harvest Management

528 - Prescribed Grazing

554 - Drainage Water Management

590 - Nutrient Management

810 - Annual Forages for Grazing Systems

#### Supporting

314 - Brush Management

327 - Conservation Cover

330 - Contour Farming

332 - Contour Buffer Strips

342 - Critical Area Planting (in conjunction with 378 or 578)

378 - Pond

381 - Silvopasture

382 - Fence

420 - Wildlife Habitat Planting

472 - Access Control

490 - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation

512 - Pasture and Hay Planting

516 - Livestock Pipeline

533 - Pumping Plant

561 - Heavy Use Area Protection

574 - Spring Development

578 - Stream Crossing

587 - Structure for Water Control

612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment

614 - Watering Facility

642 - Water Well

## Who is eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP-CIC assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations, including:

- Conventional
- Organic
- Specialty crops
- Commodity crops
- Forestry
- Wildlife
- Livestock operations
- Historically underserved farmers\*

Increased and advance payments available for historically underserved producers (beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and military veterans).

## How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

## More Information

For more information, visit [nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/).



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. [MO-2022] • [January]

**Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service**

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

# Source Water Protection for Water Quality and Quantity

FY 2022 EQIP-CIC High Priority Area

1/18/2022



## Description

This High Priority Area (HPA) is for focusing on improving drinking water quality and quantity by applying conservation on agricultural lands within targeted watersheds. Participants who install conservation practices to address sediment and nutrient loading, soil health, and water quality issues improve their operation both environmentally and economically, but more importantly provide a tremendous benefit to their local communities. As stated by the American Water Works Association, protecting sources of drinking water is an effective way to reduce risks to public health, instill customer confidence, and control water treatment costs.

The conservation practices available within this HPA will address resource concerns such as nonpoint nutrient loss to both surface runoff and leaching, sedimentation from erosion, surface and ground water depletion, inefficient irrigation water use, soil aggregate instability and compaction, and soil organism habitat loss or degradation. By addressing these resource concerns, cleaner water will reach both surface and ground water sources.

## Geography

Source Water Protection Priority Watersheds Map

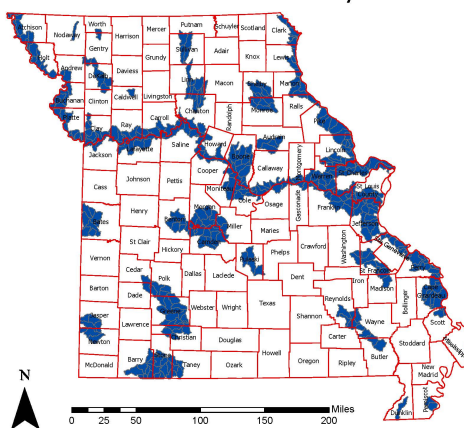
## Land Uses

1. Cropland
2. Pasture

## Priority Resource Concerns

1. Field sediment, nutrient & pathogen loss
2. Soil quality limitations
3. Source water depletion

Source Water Protection Priority Areas



## What is EQIP-CIC?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program Conservation Incentive Contract (EQIP-CIC) allows producers to target priority resource concerns on their property by offering annual incentive payments for key practices. These identified practices, along with supporting practices, address the implementation, adoption, management, and maintenance needed for producers to build on their current level of conservation and see the benefits of longer-term conservation.

EQIP-CIC can be a stepping-stone between the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). EQIP-CIC offers a unique opportunity for a 5 year contract with an annual payment, without enrolling the entire operation into the program. The flexibility can be a gateway to future participation in CSP enrollment and achievement of a higher level of conservation stewardship on their entire operation.



# Source Water Protection for Water Quality and Quantity

## Available Practices

The following conservation practices are available to support addressing the priority resource concern(s) for this EQIP-CIC High Priority Area.

## Conservation Practices

### Conservation Evaluation Monitoring Activity (CEMA)

216 - Soil Health Testing

217 - Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management

### Primary

328 - Conservation Crop Rotation

329 - Residue and Tillage Management, No Till

340 - Cover Crop

345 - Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till

449 - Irrigation Water Management

511 - Forage Harvest Management

528 - Prescribed Grazing

554 - Drainage Water Management

590 - Nutrient Management

### Supporting

327 - Conservation Cover

330 - Contour Farming

332 - Contour Buffer Strips

342 - Critical Area Planting (in conjunction with 378 or 578)

351 - Well Decommissioning

378 - Pond

380 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation

381 - Silvopasture

382 - Fence

390 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover

391 - Riparian Forest Buffer

393 - Filter Strip

430 - Irrigation Pipeline

441 - Irrigation System, Microirrigation

442 - Sprinkler System

443 - Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface

464 - Irrigation Land Leveling

472 - Access Control

484 - Mulching

490 - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation

512 - Pasture and Hay Planting

516 - Livestock Pipeline

533 - Pumping Plant

561 - Heavy Use Area Protection

574 - Spring Development

578 - Stream Crossing

587 - Structure for Water Control

604 - Saturated Buffer

612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment

614 - Watering Facility

620 - Underground Outlet

638 - Water and Sediment Control Basin

642 - Water Well

657 - Wetland Restoration

658 - Wetland Creation

## Who is eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP-CIC assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations, including:

- Conventional
- Organic
- Specialty crops
- Commodity crops
- Forestry
- Wildlife
- Livestock operations
- Historically underserved farmers\*

Increased and advance payments available for historically underserved producers (beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and military veterans).

## How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

## More Information

For more information, visit [nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/).



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. [MO-2022] • [January]

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

# **NRCS Easement Programs**

Chris Hamilton

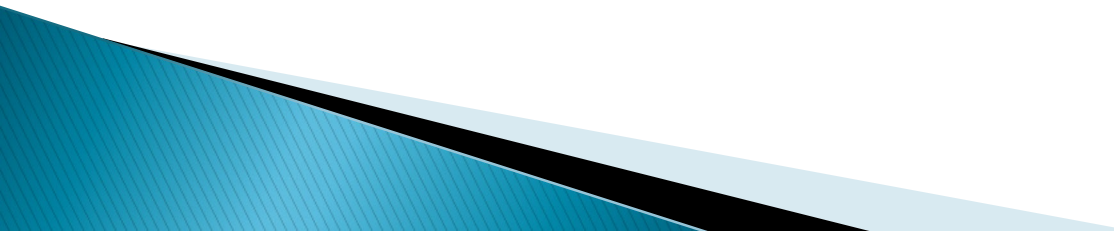
Assistant State Conservationist –  
Water Resources and Easements

May 25, 2022

# Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- ▶ ACEP is 1 program with 2 components
  - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
  - Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)

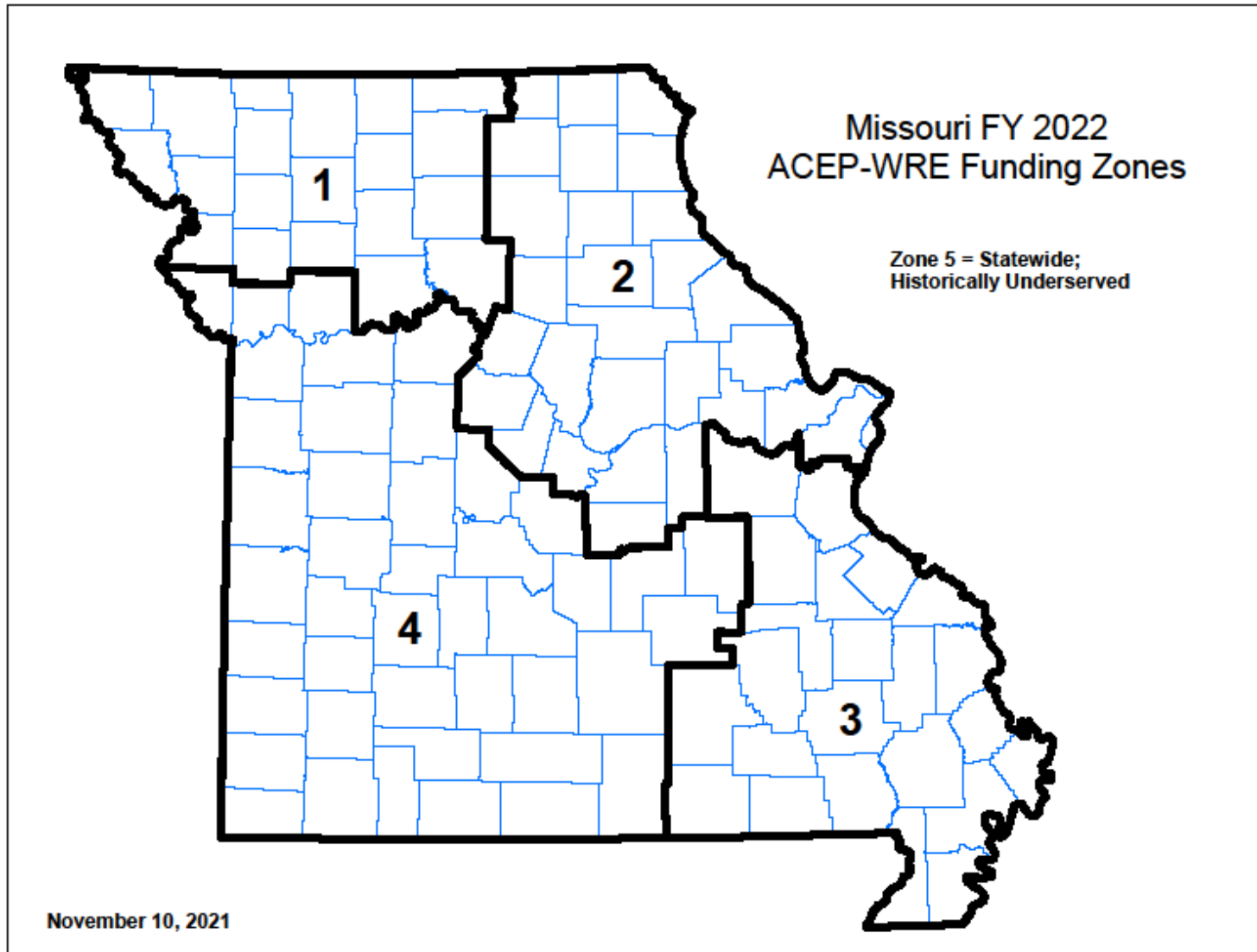
# Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) FY-21

- New Enrollments
    - 5 Agreements for Purchase executed
    - Over \$10.1 million obligated
    - 2,115 acres
  - Closings
    - 3 Warranty Easement Deeds executed
    - Over \$2.25 million expended
    - 481 acres
  - Stewardship
    - Over \$500,000 obligated for repairs/management
    - 7 restorations completed; 1,615 acres
    - Over \$2 million paid to participants for completed restoration, repairs, management activities
- 

# Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) FY-22

- Applications
  - 100 received
    - \$49.4 million requested
    - 10,500 acres
- WRE Focus
  - New Enrollments
    - \$6.6 million for new enrollments
    - \$1.7 million Batture Partnership Agreement new enrollments
  - Stewardship
    - \$1.4 million for stewardship
- Tentative Selections:
  - 14 new enrollments
  - Due diligence pending to make final selections

# Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) FY-22

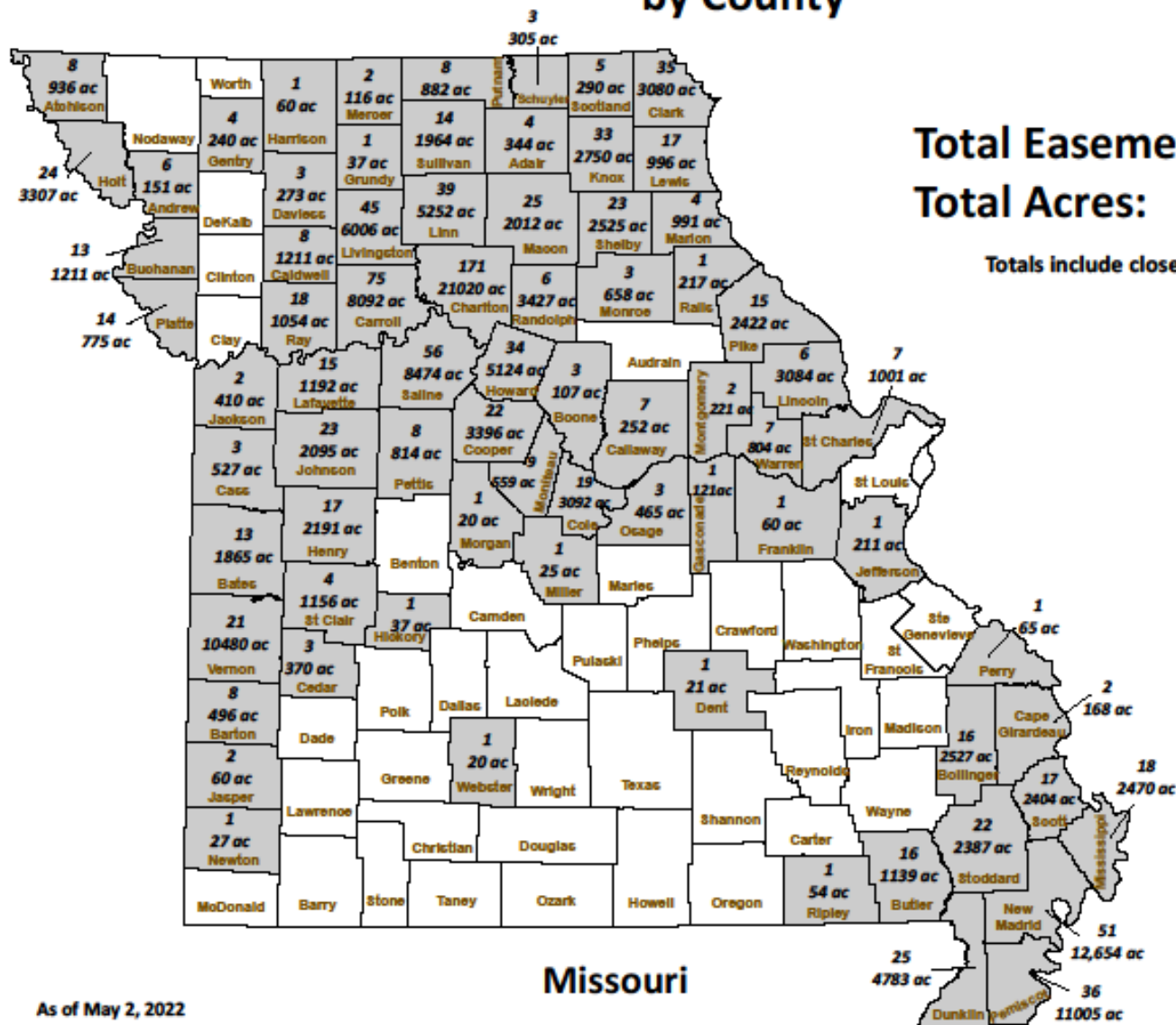


# FY 2022 ACEP-WRE Ranking

- ▶ Ranking criteria is available on the Missouri NRCS website at:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mo/programs/easements/acep/stelprdb1253274/>

## ACEP-WRE and EWPP-FPE Easements by County



**Total Easements: 1,136**

**Total Acres: 161,039**

**Totals include closed easements only.**

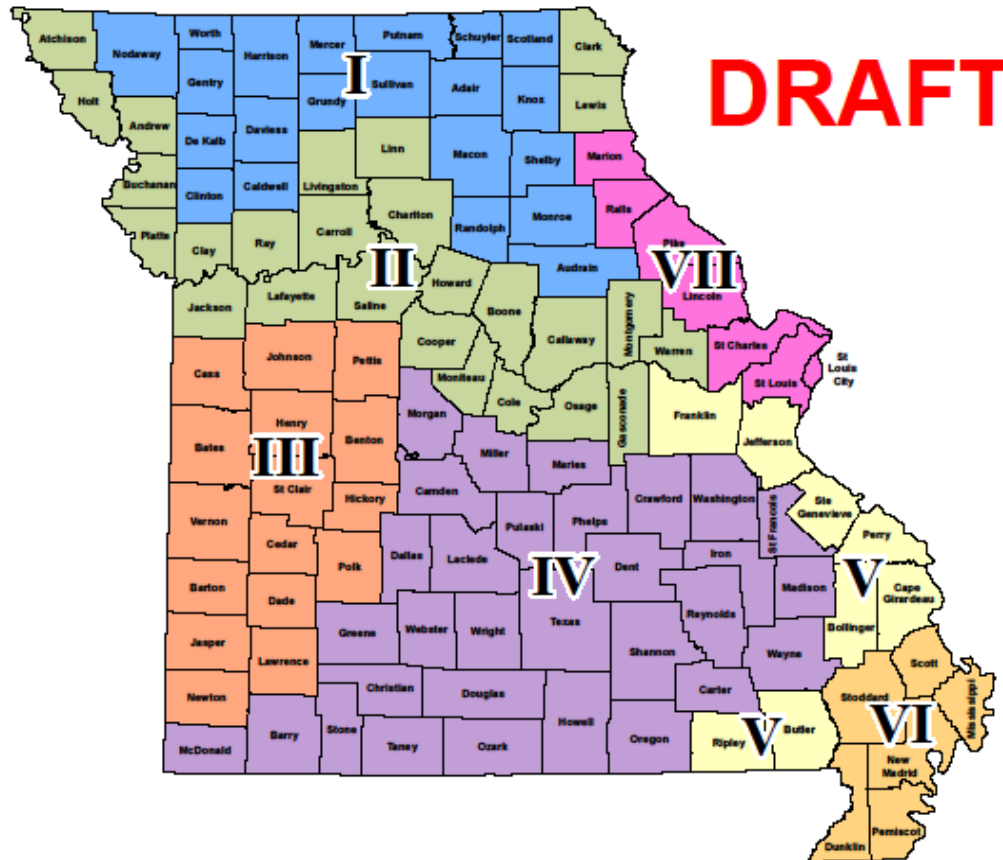
**As of May 2, 2022**

## Missouri



# ACEP-WRE Compensation

## 2022 ACEP-WRE Missouri Geographic Area Rate Cap



**DRAFT**

2022 Maximum Payment Rate  
for each Region \*\*\*

	Protected Cropland*	Unprotected Cropland*	CRP*	Other* **
I	\$3955	\$3925	\$2795	\$2710
I	35-600 ac	35-600 ac	50-240 ac	35-400 ac
II	\$5000	\$3925	Appraisal*	\$2730
II	35-665 ac	20-230 ac	> 20 ac	20-715 ac
III	\$3225	\$3225	Appraisal*	\$2535
III	25-340 ac	25-340 ac	> 20 ac	20-743 ac
IV	Appraisal	Appraisal*	Appraisal*	\$1515
IV	> 20 ac	> 20 ac	> 20 ac	40-430 ac
V	\$5000	\$2215	Appraisal*	\$2295
V	20-130 ac	35-275 ac	> 20 ac	20-315 ac
VI	\$5000	\$4035	Appraisal*	Appraisal*
VI	20-588 ac	25-280 ac	> 20 ac	> 20 ac
VII	\$5000	\$4120	Appraisal*	\$3270
VII	25-175 ac	25-240 ac	> 20 ac	35-600 ac

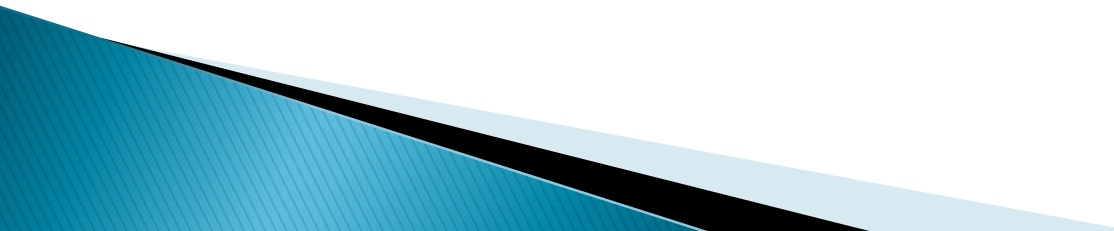
\*Appraisals are required for proposed easements, larger or smaller, than the stated acres. Compensation will be 95% of the appraised Fair Market Value, not to exceed \$5,000 per acre.

\*\*Other - includes woodland, pasture, and open water.

\*\*\*The conservation easement value will be the lower of:

- fair market value
- geographic rate cap
- landowner offer

# Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) FY-22

- Sign-up period concluded December 10, 2021
  - \$100,000 for New Enrollments
  - Next Steps:
    - 1 application received
    - Due Diligence and site-visit pending to determine eligibility
- 

# ACEP-ALE Ranking

- ▶ Ranking criteria is available on the Missouri NRCS website at:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mo/programs/easements/acep/stelprdb1253274/>

# Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements

- Enrollments
    - 31 Agreements for Purchase executed
    - Over \$16.7 million obligated
    - 4,198 acres
  - Closings
    - 1 Warranty Easement Deed executed
    - Over \$795,000 expended
    - 189 acres
  - Stewardship
    - Over \$140,000 obligated for repairs
- 

# Little Otter Creek Progress

**A 345-acre multi-purpose reservoir providing 1.24 million gallons of raw water for drinking, public recreation, and downstream flood protection.**

Date	Tasks
February 2020	Record of Decision signed by USDA-NRCS selecting the reservoir alternative.
June 2020	Permit application made by sponsor to USACE for construction
March 2021	Groundbreaking Ceremony
January 2022	Bid award for construction of the reservoir made to Phillips Hardy Incorporated of Booneville, MO.
March 2022	Construction Begins



# Little Otter Creek Progress





# East Locust Creek Progress

Date	Tasks
January 2020	Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Published on Federal Register
November 2021	Results of Cultural Resources Investigation sent to Consulting Parties
May 2022	Memorandum of Agreement signed between Consulting Parties stipulating professional standard requirements, mitigation plans for affected sites, inadvertent discovery procedures, confidentiality of information, monitoring and reporting, and dispute resolution guidelines.
May 2022	Record of Decision signed by USDA-NRCS and USDA Rural Utilities Service selecting the reservoir alternative.

# East Locust Creek Progress



Please submit  
questions or concerns  
regarding ACEP ranking  
criteria or GARCs  
within 30 days to  
[Chris.Hamilton@usda.gov](mailto:Chris.Hamilton@usda.gov)





USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

# MISSOURI NRCS STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

## URBAN AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE

Location: Microsoft Teams or Call-In

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Time: 10 am – 12 pm

### Agenda Items

- **10:00 am – Welcome and Extended Introductions**
  - **Attendees:**
    - Scott Edwards, NRCS State Conservationist
    - Brad McCord, NRCS Natural Resource Specialist
    - Jenny Long, NRCS Soil Conservationist
    - Kelsey Power
      - [abibiman@gmail.com](mailto:abibiman@gmail.com)
      - Urban Farmer / Producer in St. Louis
    - Nashad Carrington
      - [nashad@mygro.co](mailto:nashad@mygro.co)
      - Urban Farmer / Producer in St. Louis
    - Bill Polansky
      - [billyp@columbiaurbanag.org](mailto:billyp@columbiaurbanag.org)
      - Located in Columbia
      - Director or Columbia center for urban agriculture
    - David Baker
      - [bakerd@missouri.edu](mailto:bakerd@missouri.edu)
      - Retired from MU and department of agriculture extension
      - Worked with St. Louis urban renewal projects along with KC and Springfield
    - Aisha Muhamad
      - [Aisha.Muhammad@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Aisha.Muhammad@mdc.mo.gov)
      - MDC out of STL, community conservation liaison
  - **10:20 am – Overview of Subcommittee Purpose and Interaction with State Technical Committee (10:10 am) –**
  - **See attached draft charter for subcommittee**
    - 2018 farm bill provided more clarification of what services we can provide in urban areas across the country
    - Need for expertise and connect programs with the community
    - Overview of responsibilities

- Recommendations on cost rate and conservation practice standard adjustments to deliver urban conservation
- Recommendations for additional committee members? Please help identify additional members for the committee.
- NRCS designated conservationist will not be the one leading these committee meeting. They will just participate to help guide and answer questions.
- **Questions/Discussion (10:20 am)**
  - Dave Baker – question of if we are trying to duplicate practices already offered in the state or creating new practices to expand to urban
    - Scott – yes to both
    - David – How do we define urban?
      - Agency has been hesitant to define what urban agriculture is so we have maximum flexibility.
      - Urban and small acreage helps us not pinpoint what urban is in regards to farm size
      - Aisha – population definition of more than 50,000 in St. Louis makes it difficult to define urban
      - David – question about outcome of small farms urban meeting in St. Louis recently
- **10:30 am – St. Louis – Urban Hub Designation**
  - People's Garden Initiative
    - Designate a county committee to develop urban ag county committee
  - New staffing and urban office
  - Questions or Discussion
    - Office space hurdles and process of finding locations
      - 1. Look at existing Federal space
      - 2. Second option is to do a urgent lease
    - Nashad – question about what the timeline is for the office lease
      - Scott – St. Peters should be back in the next 6 months
        - Urban office – if we go into existing space could potentially happen with 90 days; urgent leases take 8-9 months
    - Bill – question if the people in the St. Louis office will be serving just St. Louis or anyone in the region
      - Scott – primary focus will be St. Louis
    - Aisha – question about if the office will be in the city or in the county
    - David – brought up Lincoln University
      - Scott – they are looking for new space because they are having safety issues and Scott has inquired about moving with them to their potential new space
  - Urban producers can already get assistance from our traditional field offices but getting the word out on what's actually available is still needed.
    - Avenues are available but have not been being utilized
  - Nashad – What can we do to bring on more TSP or make connections with those that are existing?
    - Scott – Meeting with TSP at state office to facilitate that information
      - Explained the process of hiring of a TSP and reimbursement



- Until we can get an urban office work with the farmer to get through the application process
  - Nashad – missing the education piece to walk farmers through the process of applying for funds
- David – Is there a discussion about putting a committee together for just the St. Louis area?
  - Scott – FSA urban advisory will help serve with that capacity.
    - STL SWCD – has lost staffing and need to help with getting them back up and running successfully
    - Urban conservationist will serve as the one point of contact to help expand the efforts and connect existing groups
- Aisha – Asked when the hiring timeline will be for the urban conservationist to have contact information?
  - Scott – position advertised in next 30-60 days
- Brad (10:53) – CIG announcement
  - May 6<sup>th</sup> is the application deadline
  - Urban ag is listed as one of the focus points for this announcement
- **10:45 am – Expanding Efforts Across Missouri**
  - New funding opportunities for staffing and special projects to other urban areas across the state including Kansas City, Columbia, and Springfield. Will also need to considerate other farmers operating in smaller towns.
- **11:00 am – Open Discussion and Topics from Members**
  - Reminder about new potential members
  - Bill – Issues with urban soils, heavy metal contamination, Bermuda grass problems with landowners
  - Scott – Idea of field trip to St. Louis and go out and visit sites
  - David – example of KC group for urban gardening and master gardening at the St. Louis Botanical Gardens
    - Discussion about availability of options for soil remediation and testing
  - Kelsey – Expressed that she did not know what NRCS does, barriers between urban farmers not being connected. How will NRCS interact with local city officials?
    - Scott – fully explain what the regulations and rules are for customers of NRCS and that the interaction would be one on one
  - David – How is NRCS handling what is defined as urban
    - Trying to get legal opinions on what is urban farming; don't want to get anyone's expectations up because of a rule in our policy
  - Moving forward: example of what we would do if we wanted to put together a program for soil remediation
    - Committee will work together to pull package together for NRCS to present to the state technical committee
- **11:15 pm – Adjourn**

# **Missouri State Technical Committee**

## **Subcommittee Meeting: Water Quality and Source Water**

**8:30 am – 10:00 am, March 8, 2022**

**Microsoft TEAMS with Call-in/Teleconference Option**

**Moderator: Marilyn Gann, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs**

### **Agenda:**

1. Source Water Map – Review current map, discussion about any proposed future changes. Currently, a maximum of 20% of the state can be included (the areas on the current map are about 19% of the state).
2. Overview of MRBI and NWQI watersheds included in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
  - Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)
  - National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)
3. Watersheds for MRBI and NWQI consideration in 2023 and beyond – Subcommittee discussion
4. Conservation practices to consider as a high priority for EQIP statewide in 2023 – Subcommittee discussion. See information on next page.
5. Any announcements/updates from subcommittee members
6. Adjourn

### **References included with agenda:**

#### **Missouri's 2022 High Priority Practices**

328 Conservation Crop Rotation  
329 Residue and Tillage Management, No Till  
380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment  
381 Silvopasture Establishment  
386 Field Border  
590 Nutrient Management  
338- Prescribed Burning  
472-Access Control  
391-Riparian Forest Buffer  
528-Prescribed Grazing

Link to a list of conservation practices and to the Missouri's Field Office Technical Guide and conservation practices:

[State Index of Conservation Practices in Missouri](#)

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/MO>

**Subcommittee Members attending:**

Robert Stout  
Bob Parks  
Charlie Stevens  
Ken Tomlin

**NRCS Staff attending:**

Steve Hefner  
Morgan Riley  
Alyssa Travlos  
Amanda Zapien  
Monica Siler  
Brian Kirn  
Lauren Cartwright  
Marilyn Gann

Meeting called to order at 8:30 am by Marilyn Gann. Gann thanked everyone for attending and provided an overview of the agenda.

**Source Water Map:**

The current map was reviewed with member discussion of the areas of focus and how/what is being implemented or what impact are we having.

Subcommittee members were encouraged to provide recommendations for future updates to the map. It is anticipated MO NRCS will have an opportunity to issue an updated map later in fiscal year 2022.

**Overview of MRBI and NWQI watersheds included in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):**

NRCS staff detailed the watersheds in Readiness phase and in the Implementation phase for MRBI and NWQI. We are seeking input for areas that should be considered for the next round of readiness assessments.

Comments:

Meramec Watershed may be ready for consideration. NRCS asked for a summary of the specific 12-digit HUCs being recommended.

Lower Grand Watershed – where are we on that watershed? NRCS: This was one of the initial MRBI watersheds, and there is roughly 85% coverage with conservation initiatives. Overall, it has been well received.

Locus Creek – stream restoration is needed in the right places in that watershed.

### **Conservation practices to consider as a high priority for EQIP statewide in 2023**

The current list of practices was reviewed.

[State Index of Conservation Practices in Missouri](#)

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/MO>

Comments:

Stream restoration – not seeing stream restoration specifically, but only supporting conservation practices. ACEP may be a consideration. How can systemic issues in watersheds be addressed? NRCS: These high priority practices are specific to EQIP by policy. This list is specific to EQIP, not ACEP. Streambank stabilization can be a recommendation to consider in this list.

Cover crops – is there a reason it is not on the list?

NRCS: High priority practices cannot be conservation practices that we have difficulty promoting or implementing. Cover crop has been one of the most popular practices in Missouri for the past 5 years or so.

What are new changes to this list? How was it developed? NRCS: The list was developed with State Technical Committee input but has remained unchanged for about 3 years.

Are these practices independent of priority watersheds? Are they a high priority statewide?

NRCS: Yes, they are priority practices for EQIP statewide, regardless of what watershed the land is in.

This will be on the agenda again in June to allow additional opportunity for members to comment.

Marilyn Gann closed meeting and announced the next meeting will be held utilizing Teams and teleconference/call-in on June 14, 2022, starting at 8:30 am.

# Urban and Small Farm Subcommittee Charter

This document defines the Missouri State Technical Committee Urban and Small Farm Subcommittee overall purpose and focus, membership, governance model, structure, operations, and expectations. It is a living document that will be revised as needed and reviewed and re-affirmed annually.

**Background:** Nationally, a growing urban agricultural economy is emerging to address the needs of local communities. Urban agriculture can play a vital role in creating more resilient local and regional food systems and applying climate smart agriculture practices to mitigate various resource concerns. An urban and small farm subcommittee will improve NRCS' ability to provide conservation assistance and impact on a growing sector of land stewardship. Through this assistance a subsequent impact will positively benefit rural economic development, nutrition security and assistance, climate, and regenerative agriculture, while addressing food access challenges through urban agriculture and education. Due to this growing need Missouri has created an Urban and Small Farm Subcommittee to assist NRCS with implementation of its conservation programs.

**Purpose:** The Subcommittee will assist NRCS State Conservationist with the implementation of conservation programs in urban and small acreage production systems across Missouri by providing expert insight. It will foster and promote urban agriculture within the State by supporting urban farmers and partners who are working to develop, implement, and promote new and innovative practices and address natural resource concerns on urban and small-scale farms. This subcommittee will also support the local, regional, and national objectives established under Section 12302 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill).

## **Authority:**

Subtitle G of Title XII of the Food Security Act

Title 440 Programs Part 501 Conservation Program Delivery Subpart C 501.24

NB 440-21-32 PGM – Establishing a State Technical Committee Subcommittee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Issues

## **Committee Membership:**

For-profit urban and small farm producers	Technical experts from Land Grant University
Non-profit urban and small farm producers	Technical experts from higher education
Representative(s) from Tribal Leader groups	RMA representative(s)
FSA representative(s)	AMS representative(s)
Technical experts from the private sector and other entities	NRCS employees working with and advocating for urban and small acreage producers as government representatives

The subcommittee shall be composed of a chairperson, NRCS designated conservationist and interested members of the State Technical Committee. NRCS designated conservationist shall not lead or direct subcommittee meetings or discussions. NRCS designated conservationist shall participate as an informational source who communicates and coordinates regularly with the chairperson. The subcommittee chair shall be the individual whom the committee feels is most qualified to lead the subcommittee. The subcommittee chairperson will be elected by majority vote. The subcommittee may be nominated by the committee or a member may nominate themselves. The chairperson will serve a

minimum of two-years. After two years members will be given the opportunity to change leadership. NRCS may nominate a chairperson when a subcommittee majority vote cannot be attained.

**Responsibilities:** The NRCS State Technical Committee is an advisory group to the State Conservationist. Members serve to provide feedback on the implementation of the conservation provision of Farm Bill legislation. Subcommittees are organized to discuss, examine, and focus on a specific technical or programmatic topic or combination thereof. All recommendations of the subcommittees are presented in the general session of the State Technical Committee, which is a public meeting. Example responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Provide recommendations to the State Technical Committee for the development technical documents (e.g., implementation requirement sheets, practice standard supplements, practice scenarios, etc..) to support implementing NRCS conservation practices in urban and small farm production systems.
- Provide cost data for conservation implementation on urban and small farm production systems to inform payment rates in urban and small acreage production systems.
- Identifying resource concerns and associated practices unique to urban and small acreage production systems.
- Increase awareness of barriers urban, small acreage, and historically underserved clients experience to receiving NRCS service.
- Identify potential partners and facilitate introductions.
- Serve as ambassadors to local government to increase awareness of NRCS efforts in urban and small acreage production systems and identify opportunities for collaboration.
- Develop recommendations for outreach strategies to strengthen the relationship between NRCS MO urban and small-scale producers to understand technical needs.
- Establish working groups within the subcommittee as needed to complete tasks in a timely, efficient manner.

**Meeting Scheduling:** The subcommittee shall meet at least biannually at the time and place designated by the chairperson and the availability of the subcommittee members. Additional meetings may be called by the subcommittee chairperson in coordination with the NRCS designated conservationist as needed.

**Record of Meetings:** A NRCS staff member serving as designated conservationist will take attendance and meeting minutes; the meeting minutes will be available to the group within 15-calendar days of the meeting. This will be followed by a 15-calendar day committee member comment period.

The committee will collaboratively create a report to present at the State Technical Committee meetings. A copy of the written report shall be provided before or on the day it is presented to the State Technical Committee.

**Review Schedule:** The subcommittee will review the charter annually and update it as necessitated by changes to the needs of urban and small acreage producers, NRCS policy, and the goals of the State Conservationist of NRCS Missouri.



# **Missouri State Technical Committee**

## **Subcommittee Meeting: Programs**

**8:30 am – 10:00 am, April 12, 2022**

**Microsoft TEAMS with Call-in/Teleconference Option**

**Moderator: Marilyn Gann, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs**

### **Agenda:**

1. Overview of current status of fiscal year 2022 programs
2. Begin discussion of fiscal year 2023 programs

### **Subcommittee Members Attending:**

Clayton Light  
Casey Bergthold  
Lisa Potter  
Reagan Bluel

### **NRCS Staff Attending:**

Susan Mammen  
Kimberly Overton  
Morgan Riley  
Alyssa Travlos  
Amanda Zapien  
Monica Siler  
Rick Howard  
Lauren Cartwright  
Marilyn Gann

Meeting called to order at 8:30 am by Marilyn Gann. Gann thanked everyone for attending and reviewed the material provided to attendees:

- Resource Concerns List
- NRCS Resource Concern Sheets detailing Resource Concerns
- Missouri FY 2022 Conservation Practice List
- Programs Subcommittee PowerPoint April 12, 2022

The overview of current status of fiscal year 2022 programs was provided in a PowerPoint presentation (attached).

*Presenters:*

*Susan Mammen, Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Coordinator*

*Lauren Cartwright, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Coordinator*

Mammen and Cartwright presented a PowerPoint that provided overview of the current status of the following programs in Missouri:

1. The current status of program activity in FY 2022:
  - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Classic
  - EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP CIC)
  - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Classic
  - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Renewal
2. The NRCS Chief's Priorities and Missouri's approach
3. Identifying resource concerns
4. EQIP Classic and EQIP CIC high priority conservation practices
5. Subcommittee Tasks:
  - a. Recommend priority resource concerns for Missouri
  - b. Recommend high priority conservation practices for EQIP in Missouri

**Discussion and comments from sub-committee members:**

NRCS staff provided background information about policies and the process used for determining financial assistance for conservation practices and funds provided to specific funding pools. After addressing required factors, NRCS considers the suggestions received to develop program policies and funding decisions.

Policies regarding conservation practice maintenance requirements and invasive species consideration were discussed

High priority conservation practices were discussed with NRCS providing clarification regarding the policy and availability statewide for EQIP.

Subcommittee member recommended addressing what we can regarding nutrients loss, as this could help dairy farmers as well as other farms across Missouri.

Marilyn Gann closed meeting and announced the next meeting will be held utilizing Teams and teleconference/call-in on July 12, 2022, starting at 8:30 am.

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Forestry and Wildlife Subcommittee**  
**March 10, 2022**

Attendees: Hank Stelzer, Jim Ball, Reagan Bluel, Ryan Toot, Spencer Tuma, George Kipp, Amanda Reed, Amy Hamilton, Nate Goodrich, Joe Alley, Jason Sykes

Nate Goodrich reviewed the Missouri NRCS State Technical Committee Restructure – June 2021 document that summarizes expectation and roles of subcommittee members and leaders.

Joe Alley and Jason Sykes provided a Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Program Review covering forestry overview and wildlife overview, respectively.

A FY2022 Update was given. Jason Sykes discussed opportunities via EQIP Conservation Incentives Contracts, focusing on the CIC Grassland High Priority Area. Joe Alley discussed the transition from Conservation Activity Plans to Conservation Planning Activities, Design and Implementation Activities, and Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities specific to forestry and wildlife planning.

Subcommittee was advised of the designation of high priority practices conservation practices utilized in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

George Kipp (MDC) provided an update to the subcommittee regarding revisions to the Common Forest Management Plan.

Open discussion followed.

Nate Goodrich advised the subcommittee that the purpose of this meeting was introductory in nature and future meetings will be more interactive and discussion oriented.

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Grassland and Row Crop Subcommittee**  
**March 10, 2022**

Attendees: Ken Henderson, Bill White, Adam Jones, Amy Hamilton, Nate Goodrich, Selma Mascaro, Pat Turman, Jason Sykes

Nate Goodrich reviewed the Missouri NRCS State Technical Committee Restructure – June 2021 document that summarizes expectation and roles of subcommittee members and leaders.

Selma Mascaro, Jason Sykes, and Pat Turman provided a Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Program Review covering grassland overview and row crop overview, respectively.

A FY2022 Update was given. Selma Mascaro, Pat Turman, and Nate Goodrich discussed opportunities via EQIP Conservation Incentives Contracts, focusing on the CIC Grassland, Soil Health, and Source Water Protection High Priority Area. Pat Turman discussed the transition from Conservation Activity Plans to Conservation Planning Activities, Design and Implementation Activities, and Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities specific to agronomic and grassland planning.

Subcommittee was advised of the designation of high priority practices conservation practices utilized in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

Bill White asked about the status of the NRCS Strategy to Advance Native Plant Communities in Missouri (FY 2018-2019) and if was still a priority or if the subcommittee should revisit it. This will be an agenda item at the next subcommittee meeting.

Open discussion followed.

Nate Goodrich advised the subcommittee that the purpose of this meeting was introductory in nature and future meetings will be more interactive and discussion oriented.

NRCS Easement Programs Subcommittee Meeting  
May 9, 2022  
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Teams Meeting

**Attendees**

Chris Hamilton, NRCS - Assistant State Conservationist – Water Resources and Easements  
Tracey Wiggins, NRCS - State Easements Coordinator  
Mark Flaspohler, Ducks Unlimited – Director of Conservation Programs  
Barbara Charry, The Nature Conservancy – Strategy Manager: Flood Planes and Nature-Based Solutions  
Lisa Potter, Missouri Department of Conservation - Private Land Program Supervisor  
Scott Radford, Missouri Department of Conservation - Area Biologist  
Erin Holmes, United States Fish and Wildlife Service – Missouri State Private Lands Coordinator  
Michelle Jesse, IGH Contract Administrative Clerk

**Subcommittee**

This Subcommittee has been created so that we can receive feedback from our partners about our easement programs and priority resource concerns.

We requested to nominate a Chair for the Subcommittee. Everyone will check their obligations and we will discuss at the next meeting.

**Funding Zones**

Funding Zones for Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easements were started last year. They were created to make sure we were addressing resource concerns around the state.

There are 5 funding zones. The state has been divided into 4 areas and the 5<sup>th</sup> is for Historically Underserved participants.

We were allocated \$6.6 million for this year for new enrollments. Three funding zones were given a 20% split with a little extra going to Zone 3 because it is an area with significant wetland resource concern. Each area received \$1.3-\$2.6 million, once all the applications were ranked it allowed us to fund 14 new enrollments. Each Zone will have two new enrollments with Zone 3, with additional as they receive additional funds from a partner agreement for Batture enrollments.

We have had some very large acreage applications in the past that ranked very well causing us to only be able to enroll a handful of easements in recent years. We were able to receive some extra funding that allowed us to fund these larger easements.

**FY 2022 Sign-up**

We have received about 100 applications for a total of approximately \$50 million dollars.

**2022 GARC's**

Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC) allow us to provide landowners an estimate of the payment per acre before they apply. It also alleviates the contracting workload that is necessary to order individual appraisals for each application. Ordering an appraisal for every application tentatively selected for funding can take 3-6 months. Appraisals are required to make an offer and that has caused us to not be able to make offers before our fiscal year ends.

The GARC's are created by ordering a market analysis that is completed on 7 regions of the state and based off sales data of properties comparable to ones for which we receive applications. Rates for 2022 have increased because of the

current market. The appraiser is required to give us a Fair Market Value (FMV) for each region. We include a 5% reduction from the FMV because it is an easement and the landowner is still retaining some rights.

### **Staffing Plan**

A revised for ACEP delivery staffing plan is being developed for consideration of our State Conservationist.

We are looking at opportunities where partners can help with some of the contracting workload such as due diligence, appraisals, and boundary surveys. The subcommittee would be interested in seeing where they can help with staffing not only with biologists, but with staff trained in real estate transactions to assist with our contracting needs.

### **ACEP-Agricultural Land Easements Grasslands**

We have received the first application for ACEP-Agricultural Land Easements program. There have been issues receiving applications because of 2014 Farm Bill rules that there must be a cooperating entity, a cash match and show proof of the cash match at the time of application. There are land trusts and non-government entities that have programs for easements, but they do not have the cash match, while others had the cash match but not the easement programs established. We have had much of landowner interest but have not been able to get past these issues.

Under 2018 Farm Bill there were changes to the cash match requirements. Costs can now be considered part of the cash match, such as appraisals, title work, closing costs, surveys, etc. It does not require a true cash match. The landowner could choose to donate up to 100% of the cash match required.

### **General enrollment**

Any type of land that is in agricultural production, pasture, hay land, orchards, organic, etc. This type of enrollment must be maintained in an agricultural use. It allows for conversion under the general enrollment. NRCS can pay up to 50% of the easement value.

### **Grassland of Special Significance (GSS) enrollment**

NRCS can pay up to 75% for GSS. The partner organization or landowner would contribute the 25%.

Each state is required to come up with a process for how they evaluate and determine if that application meets the requirements of a GSS to receive the 75% cash match instead of the 50% under general enrollment.

We contracted with other states to see how they determine eligibility for the GSS. Based on this information, and resource concerns in Missouri, a GSS definition was developed for Missouri (see attached).

Part of the definition shows that the tract must contain less than 10% invasive and/or noxious species. Some states have a lower threshold, but we don't believe that is possible in Missouri. If the application does not meet all requirements for GSS an application for the General enrollment can be made but it would not qualify for the 75%. The point of this enrollment is for this to stay a grassland permanently.

### **Follow-up**

Michelle - Send doodle poll for another meeting the week of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



## Missouri determination process for GSS parcels:

“Grassland of special environmental significance (GSS)” means grasslands that contain little or no noxious or invasive species, as designated or defined by State or Federal law; are subject to the threat of conversion to nongrassland uses or fragmentation; and the land is— (i)(a) Rangeland, pastureland, shrubland, or wet meadows on which the vegetation is dominated by native grasses, grass-like plants, shrubs, or forbs, or (b) Improved, naturalized pastureland, rangeland, and wet meadows; and (ii)(a) Provides, or could provide, habitat for threatened or endangered species or at-risk species, (b) Protects sensitive or declining native prairie or grassland types or grasslands buffering wetlands, or (c) Provides protection of highly sensitive natural resources as identified by the State Conservationist, in consultation with the State Technical Committee.

### As defined in Missouri:

- **“Grassland of special environmental significance (GSS)” means grasslands that contain little or no noxious or invasive species, as designated or defined by State or Federal law;**  
The offered tract contains ≤ 10% invasive and/or noxious species including but not limited to sericea lespedeza, multiflora rose, autumn olive, tall fescue, yellow and white sweet clover, Johnson grass, reed canary grass, and any other nonnative species combined.
- **are subject to the threat of conversion to nongrassland uses or fragmentation; and the land is— (i)(a) Rangeland, pastureland, shrubland, or wet meadows on which the vegetation is dominated by native grasses, grass-like plants, shrubs, or forbs, or (b) Improved, naturalized pastureland, rangeland, and wet meadows; and**

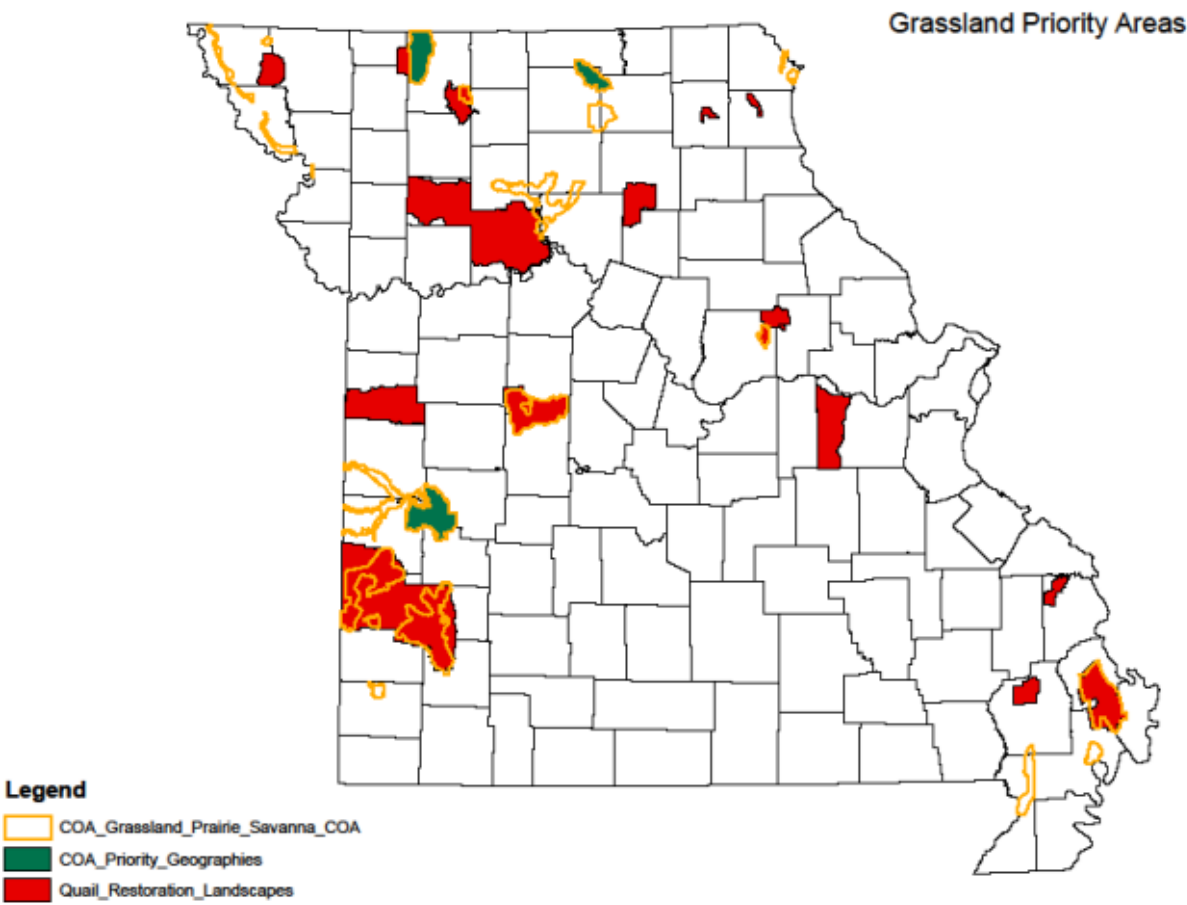
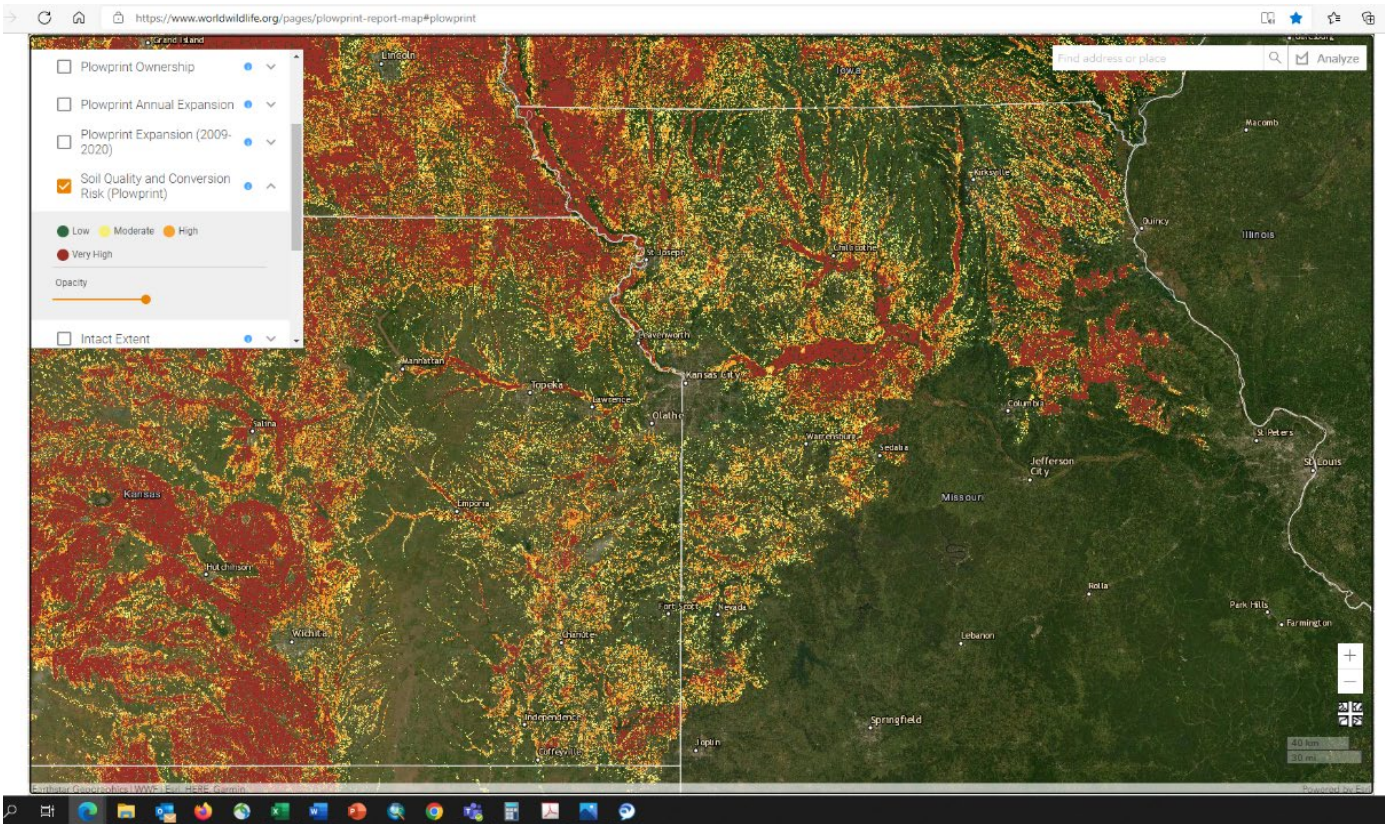
All or part of the offered acres fall within a MDC grassland priority area as defined on the MDC Grassland Priority Area map and/or within a geography identified by the World Wildlife Foundation Plowprint Map as moderate, high, or very high threat of conversion.

Link to Plowprint map: [Plowprint Report: Map | Pages | WWF \(worldwildlife.org\)](#)

- **(ii)(a) Provides, or could provide, habitat for threatened or endangered species or at-risk species, (b) Protects sensitive or declining native prairie or grassland types or grasslands buffering wetlands, or (c) Provides protection of highly sensitive natural resources as identified by the State Conservationist, in consultation with the State Technical Committee.**

For the offered acres, the Missouri Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG) Prairie and Grassland Community Model index score is ≥.6.

Screenshot of Plowprint Map



Proposed SAFE Changes  
Conservation Reserve Program-State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)  
5/25/2022

**All SAFEs**

Per CRP Notice 966:

\*Cost share and PIP are authorized at the time of re-enrollment when transitioning cover to a more diverse mix to meet SAFE cover requirements"

\*CP practices, 4D, 25, and 42 are now eligible under Continuous enrollment.

\*It is no longer required to classify eligible counties/areas by Hydrologic Units

All proposed items listed below are contingent on approval from FSA national headquarters.

**MO Bobwhite Quail and Monarch SAFE**

\*CP practices 12, 4D, 25, and 42 are now eligible under Continuous enrollment.

\*Conservation Practice Standard 420 – Wildlife Habitat Planting is added as an eligible CPS for CPs 4D, and 25

\*CP12: Green Browse food plots are not allowed.

\*2 milkweed species at a minimum of 3% of the total mix by PLS/ft<sup>2</sup> will be required for all practices. This change in number of milkweed species and percent of mix will match the NRCS monarch mix requirements for milkweed quantities.

- Currently, only practices CP33 and CP42 require 2 milkweed species at 3% of the mix. The remaining practices require 1 milkweed species at a minimum of 1.5% of the total mix by PLS/ft<sup>2</sup>

\*CP33: Boundary markers are eligible for cost-share and required to prevent encroachment onto the buffers and/or pivot corners.

\*CP43: Adding shrubs as an eligible cost-share item.

- If CP43 is installed **only** as a buffer around the cropfield, a minimum of 0.1 acre per 40 acres of pollinator friendly shrubs and or edge feathering and Downed tree structures is required. At least 1, 1500 ft<sup>2</sup> area will be planted to native shrubs. Boundary markers are required.

**At Risk Species Missouri Sand Ecosystem Restoration SAFE**

\*CP practices 2, 12, 4D, 25, and 42 are now eligible under Continuous enrollment.

\*Conservation Practice Standard 420 – Wildlife Habitat Planting is added as an eligible CPS for CPs 2, 4D, and 25

\*Boundary markers are added as eligible cost-share components for CP2, 4D, CP23, CP23A, CP25

\*Removed Section J – Program development section under CP2 and CP4D as program development and cost-share determination are not determined at the county level for SAFE projects.

[illegible]



**MO Sand Ecosystem** (This is how the handbook looks now. The HUC numbers will be removed. When a producer tries to enroll the HUC's are delegated within the CRP offer system and at least 50% of the producers offer will have to be within one of the designated HUCs below.)

Eligible SAFE Counties:

Bollinger	Butler	Cape Girardeau	Dunklin	Mississippi
New Madrid	Pemiscot	Ripley	Scott	Stoddard

Eligible Hydrologic Units in Project Area:

08020204050,	08010100020,	08020203030,
11010008100	08010100020,	08020201010,
08020302010,	11010007070	08020204060,
08020201030,	08020203020,	07140107030
08020204070,	07140105210,	08020204080,
07140107040	08020203040,	08020204020,
08020204010,	07140107060	08020203050,
08020204030,	11010007090,	07140105150
08020201020,	08020204040,	11010007080,
07140107050		

**Missouri State Technical Committee Meeting Attendee's**

**May 25, 2022**

**Personnel Present**

Casey Bergthold  
Kurt Boeckmann  
Scott Edwards  
Joe Aull  
Jim Ball  
Mark Flaspohler  
Amy Hamilton  
Erin Holmes  
Jennifer Eggemeyer  
Nate Goodrich  
Chris Hamilton  
Ken Henderson  
George Kipp  
Tom Lampe  
Jeff Lance  
Clayton Light  
Greg Luce  
Adam Jones  
Scott Martin  
John Murphy  
Frank Oberle  
Bob Parks  
Don Nikodim  
James Plassmeyer  
Andrew Rackers  
Charles Stevens

Spencer Tuma  
Melissa Vatterott  
Jeremy Redden  
Kent Wamsley  
John Weber  
Bill White  
Kyle Wilkens  
Chris McLeland  
Ken Tomlin  
Kayla Alexander  
Nick Prough  
Nick Cuchett  
Nick Althoff  
Ronna Chrisman  
Keely Malone  
Marilyn Gann  
Ally Travlos  
Rick Howard  
Ashley Johnson