

Missouri Natural Resources Conservation Services Programs

Informative Application Packet

What is Missouri Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)?

Missouri NRCS strives to help individuals reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters using natural resources conservation programs. As a result, public benefits include enhanced natural resources that help sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality while supporting continued economic development, recreation, and scenic beauty.

Missouri NRCS programs are currently administered under the 2018 Farm Bill. NRCS offers financial and technical assistance through conservation practices, activities, and enhancements to help agricultural producers make and maintain improvements on their land.

An overview of the following Missouri NRCS programs are included in this packet:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Classic
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program – Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Classic
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Applications are accepted year-round with established dates when all applications submitted are evaluated. For application cutoff dates reach out to your local field office. The programs application form and instructions are included at the end of this packet. Each program has a contract appendix that includes details pertaining to contract agreements. Ask your local field office for these additional documents.

Historically Underserved producers

Historically Underserved producers are producers that are in the following groups: socially disadvantaged, beginning, limited resource, and veteran farmers and ranchers. The 2018 Farm Bill includes provisions that address the unique circumstances and concerns that these groups face. This Farm Bill provides for voluntary participation, offers incentives, and focuses on equality in accessing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and services.

Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher

Is defined as a producer who:

- With direct or indirect gross farm sales that don't exceed the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and
- Who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of the county median household income in each of the previous two years.

NRCS Mission Statement: "Helping people help the land"

A Self-Determination Tool is available and can be completed online or printed as a hardcopy at: <https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

Beginning Farmer/Rancher

This is a producer who:

- Has not operated a farm or ranch, or has operated a farm or ranch for less than 10 consecutive years, and who
 - Will materially and substantially participate in the operation or the farm or ranch.
 - In the case of a contract with an individual, individually or with the immediate family, material and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the practices in the country or State where the farm is located.
- In the case of a contract made with a legal entity, all members must meet these requirements.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher

Are defined as an:

- Individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to a racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as member of a group without regard to their individual qualities.
- Socially disadvantaged groups consist of the following:
 - American Indians or Alaskan Natives
 - Asians
 - Blacks or African Americans
 - Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
 - Hispanics
- For an entity, at least fifty percent of ownership in the farm business must be held by a socially disadvantaged individual.

Note: Gender alone is not a covered group for the purposes of NRCS conservation program authorities. The term entities reflect a broad interpretation to include partnerships, couples, legal entities, etc.

Veteran Farmer/Rancher

This refers to a producer who:

- Served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve component thereof; was released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; and:
 - Has not operated a farm or ranch or has operated a farm or ranch for less than 10 years; or

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- Who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period.

A legal entity or joint operation can be a Veteran Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify.

Other Available Services

Farmers.gov

- see attached handout for additional information and how to create an account
- Additional resources available in other translations can be found at: [Translations for Non-English Speaking Producers | Farmers.gov](#)

Interpretive Services

- 24-hour service language line offers 200+ languages for interpretation with speaker phone and conference/video call options
- You can request interpreter services at (888)331-0185
- Some application forms are available in other languages, not limited to but including Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Korean. For current languages available, please ask your field office.
 - These forms can be found at: [eForms Home \(usda.gov\)](#)