

MO 2017 EQIP-RCPP Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Land Enhancement Initiative Environmental Quality Incentives Program Policy for the 2015 RCPP Project with Missouri Department of Conservation

Revised November 17, 2016

This Policy is based on the Final Rule for EQIP, Federal Register 7 CFR Part 1466 published May 12, 2016.

NRCS will verify Beginning Farmer, Limited Resource Farmer, and/or Veteran Farmer status prior to contract obligation. There is no verification process for participants who self certify as Socially Disadvantaged. All practices must meet the minimum criteria in the Conservation Practice Standard (see the Missouri eFOTG) and the criteria listed below.

If the applicant is a tenant, the applicant must obtain written evidence or assurance of control from the landowner prior to contract obligation. Control may be a written lease, other legal agreement, or letter signed by the landowner indicating the length of control. Zero payment share landowner signature on the contract document does not demonstrate control of land.

Payment Scenarios - Each conservation practice listed in this policy has one or more payment scenarios available. The scenario nomenclature is determined by NRCS at the regional or national level. Where the scenario name is not descriptive enough to cover all the State Conservationist and State Technical Committee approved uses of the scenario for Missouri, a footnote has been added directly below the scenario name to clarify its use in planning and contract development.

Management Practices - Management practice payments are only available on acres where the practice has not been previously applied (with or without financial assistance), or where the practice will result in a higher level of conservation benefit.

Structural Practices - Structural practices include conservation practices that are either structural or vegetative, and have a multi-year lifespan. Structural practices involve the establishment, construction, or installation of site-specific measures. Payments are established as a one-time payment. In addition to control of land, tenants must obtain and provide to NRCS prior to obligation written concurrence from the landowner to apply a structural or vegetative practice. In lieu of written concurrence, the landowner may be a signatory to the contract with 0% payment shares to indicate their concurrence.

Maximum Payments - Maximum payments, where identified in this policy, are implemented at the contract item (CIN) Level in ProTracts by using the Cost Share Cap input box. The contract may have multiple CINs for a practice, however each CIN must be capped utilizing the Cost Share Cap input box at the Maximum Payment level identified in this policy.

Additional payments will be provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) following practice implementation. Additional MDC incentive payments are noted within this policy for eligible practices. Maximum payment amounts include NRCS and MDC payments combined (see next page for details).

The MDC payment rate for Missouri focus areas or Comprehensive Conservation Strategy (CCS) Areas will follow this structure:

- Additional 25% for selected practice - Select at least 1 practice from one resource category
- Additional 50% for selected practices - Select at least 1 practice from two different Resource Categories
- Additional 75% for selected practices - Select at least 1 practice from three different Resource Categories
- Additional 90% for selected practices - Select at least 1 practice from four different Resource Categories

Resource Categories:

- Category 1 - Woody Cover Removal: 314 Brush Management
- Category 2 - Vegetation Diversity: 512 Forage and Biomass Planting
- Category 3 - Vegetation Structure: 528 Prescribed Grazing - Deferralment only
- Category 4 - Sensitive Areas/Stream Enhancement: 472 Access Control, 578 Stream Crossing

Pilot: Cover Crop/Native Warm Season Grass Establishment: This pilot practice will utilize 340 Cover Crop in conjunction with 512 Forage and Biomass Planting to establish native warm-season grass. Limited grazing will be allowed during the first and second year of grass establishment.

Additional 20% for selected practices in areas outside of MO focus Areas or CCS Areas - 512 Forage and Biomass Planting, 528 Prescribed Grazing-Deferralment option only

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
472	Access Control <i>Structural</i>	\$5,000	\$7,000	Acre			10
	Animal exclusion from sensitive areas			Acre	\$28.85	\$39.95	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <i>Payment is only authorized to exclude livestock from Riparian Areas and only if livestock currently have access to the area to be excluded at the time of EQIP application. An EQIP funded Permanent Fence (382) is required in conjunction with this practice.</i> 2 <i>Excluded area must meet a minimum distance of 50 ft from the edge of the stream up to a maximum of 180 ft.</i> 3 <i>Payment is based on the number of acres protected from livestock.</i> 4 <i>See the (472) Access Control conservation practice standard.</i> 						
314	Brush Management <i>Structural</i>	\$5,000	\$7,000	Acre			10
	Medium Brush Management <i>10% - 39% undesirable woody canopy cover</i>			Acre	\$53.02	\$73.41	
	High Brush Management <i>40% - 60% undesirable woody canopy cover</i>			Acre	\$126.46	\$175.10	
	Very High Brush Management <i>> 60% undesirable woody canopy cover</i>			Acre	\$207.08	\$286.73	
	Linear Tree Removal for Grassland Bird Habitat			Acre	\$812.13	\$1,124.49	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <i>This practice is authorized for the treatment of woody plants on all non-cropland areas (including those that are invasive, exotic and noxious). Payment is not eligible on cropland or forestland.</i> 2 <i>When addressing pasture or hayland resource concerns, this practice is only authorized when used in conjunction with an approved RCPP grazing plan.</i> 3 <i>This practice is not to be used for conversion of woodlands or forests to grassland; such as the removal of woody vegetation to establish or re-establish grass cover (See IS-MO-314).</i> 4 <i>Payment is not for site preparation activities for a new seeding or re-seeding, or maintenance/management of a new seeding or re-seeding. Where additional site preparation activities are needed for adequate seedbed prep a waiver can be requested from the State Office.</i> 5 <i>Clipping/mowing as a stand alone treatment is not authorized for payment.</i> 6 <i>Practice is not authorized for payment on the same acres as (649) Structures for Wildlife.</i> 7 <i>See the (314) Brush Management conservation practice standard and Information Sheet IS-MO-314.</i> 						

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
327	Conservation Cover						5
	<i>Structural</i>			Acre			
	Native Species with Foregone Income			Acre	\$453.72	\$544.46	
	Pollinator Species with Foregone Income			Acre	\$670.87	\$805.04	
	<i>Scenario is applicable to pollinator habitat and prairie restorations. For prairie restorations, payment is only authorized where the Ecological Site Description indicates a prairie, and is restored as specified within the 643 Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats conservation practice standard.</i>						
	Monarch Species Mix			Acre	\$673.36	\$808.04	
	Monarch Species Mix - Interseeding			Acre	\$226.73	\$272.07	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Payment is authorized for the establishment and maintenance of permanent vegetative cover on land not utilized for forage production. 2 Payment includes site preparation equivalent to two activities or passes (spraying, disking, mowing, burning, etc). Where additional site preparation activities are needed through 314, 315 or 338 for adequate seedbed prep a waiver can be requested from the State Office. 3 Only one scenario is applicable per acre (i.e., multiple options such as native species and pollinator species cannot be stacked on the same acre). 4 Refer to the (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management conservation practice standard for the Pollinator Species and Monarch Species scenarios. 5 See the (327) Conservation Cover conservation practice standard and (723) Vegetation Establishment, Herbaceous Seeding Specification 						
340	Cover Crop						1
	<i>Management</i>	\$20,000	\$28,000	Acre			
	Cover Crop - Basic and organic/non-organic			Acre	\$54.46	\$75.40	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 This practice is only eligible in conjunction with the PILOT MDC cover crop/native warm-season grass establishment practice 2 This practice is only eligible in conjunction with 512 - Forage and Biomass Planting 3 Eligible for a MDC 1-year \$30/acre rental payment. Paid in the second year of establishment. 4 See the (340) Cover Crop conservation practice standard. 						
342	Critical Area Planting						10
	<i>Structural</i>			Acre			
	Vegetation-normal tillage (Organic and Non-Organic)			Acre	\$121.12	\$167.71	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Grass species must be rated good or excellent for wildlife according to the (723) Vegetation Establishment, Herbaceous Seeding Specification. 2 See the (342) Critical Area Planting conservation practice standard and (723) Vegetation Establishment, Herbaceous Seeding Specification. 						

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
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647	Early Successional Habitat Development and Management <i>Management</i>			Acre			1
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	Disking			Acre	\$64.42	\$89.20	
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	Mowing and Heavy Disking			Acre	\$144.97	\$200.73	
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Scenario is applicable to brush hog plus multiple disk passes.

1 No more than three separate management practices may be combined per acre.

2 See the (647) Early Successional Habitat Development and Management conservation practice standard

382	Fence <i>Structural</i>	\$21,000	\$30,000	Feet			20
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	Temporary/Portable Fence			Foot	\$0.31	\$0.43	
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	Permanent High Tensile Electric Single Strand			Foot	\$0.68	\$0.94	
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	Permanent High Tensile Electric 2-3 Strand			Foot	\$1.00	\$1.38	
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Scenario is applicable to all multi-strand high tensile electric fence installations, and small ruminant electrified woven wire fence products.

1 This practice is only authorized as a component of a (528) Prescribed Grazing, (472) Access Control to exclude livestock from areas that need protection, confine livestock to an area, control domestic livestock while permitting wildlife movement, and/or subdivide grazing acres to facilitate the use of a (528) Prescribed Grazing system.

2 Only one Fence payment can be earned for each length/reach of fence (i.e., multiple options can not be stacked on the same running length/reach of fence).

3 See the (382) Fence conservation practice standard.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
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394	Firebreak						5
	<i>Structural</i>			Feet			
	Constructed - Handline			Foot	\$0.07	\$0.10	
	Constructed - Light Equipment			Foot	\$0.04	\$0.05	
	<i>Disking or equivalent</i>						
	Constructed - Medium equipment, flat-medium slopes			Foot	\$0.23	\$0.32	
	<i>Small dozer or equivalent. Scenario is applicable to all slope types.</i>						
	Vegetated permanent firebreak			Foot	\$0.10	\$0.14	
	<i>Payment includes vegetation establishment.</i>						

- 1 Payment is only authorized in conjunction with (338) Prescribed Burning.
- 2 Payment is not eligible on forestland.
- 3 See the (394) Firebreak conservation practice standard.

512	Forage and Biomass Planting						5
	<i>Structural</i>	\$28,500	\$40,000	Acre			
	Native Grass Establishment or Renovation - with fertility			Acre	\$329.83	\$395.80	
	<i>Scenario is applicable to any native grass establishment or renovation regardless of fertility requirements (follow standards and specifications for soil test and fertility requirements).</i>						
	Pasture Renovation Utilizing Interim Seeding			Acre	\$246.68	\$296.02	
	<i>For the smother crop and new forage planting follow the Year 2 cover crop and pasture seeding mixes outlined in the "Cover Crop to Native Grass Pilot Information sheet".</i>						

- 1 The High Diversity Cool-Season/Warm-Season Grass and Forb Establishment Pilot Project is available in coordination with the 512-Native Grass Establishment or Renovation scenario and payment rate. Reference the High Diversity Cool-Season/Warm-Season Grass and Forb Establishment Pilot Project information sheet for practice specifications.
- 2 Payment is not authorized for the conversion of native prairie or woodland to pasture or hayland.
- 3 Payment is only authorized for species with a good or excellent wildlife rating.
- 4 Native Grass Establishment eligible for MDC 2-year \$30/acre rental payment for years 1 and 2 of establishment when not used in conjunction with the Pilot Cover Crop/NWSG establishment practice.
- 5 See the (512) Forage and Biomass Planting conservation practice standard and (723) Vegetation Establishment, Herbaceous Seeding Specification

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
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561	Heavy Use Area Protection						
	<i>Structural</i>			Acre			10
	Gravel without Geotextile, Thick			Sq Ft	\$0.77	\$1.06	
	<i>Scenario is applicable to any gravel depth with and without geotextile that meets standards and specifications</i>						
	Geocell and Gravel HUA			Sq Ft	\$2.57	\$3.56	

1 Payment for this practice is only authorized as a component of (528) Prescribed Grazing or (472) Access Control.

2 See the (561) Heavy Use Area Protection” conservation practice standard.

315	Herbaceous Weed Control						
	<i>Structural</i>	\$5,000	\$7,000	Acre			5
	Light Spot Treatment			Acre	\$20.69	\$28.65	
	<i>≤ 10% undesirable herbaceous cover</i>						
	Medium Spot Treatments			Acre	\$59.80	\$82.80	
	<i>> 10% undesirable herbaceous cover</i>						
	Blanket Treatment One Pass			Acre	\$40.77	\$56.46	
	Blanket Treatment Multi Pass			Acre	\$88.66	\$122.76	
	Tree & Shrub Post-planting Weed Control			Acre	\$91.03	\$126.04	

1 This practice is authorized for the treatment of herbaceous plants, including those that are invasive, exotic and noxious on all non-cropland areas.

2 When addressing pasture or hayland resource concerns, this practice is only authorized when used in conjunction with an approved RCPP grazing plan.

3 Payment is not for site preparation activities for a new seeding or re-seeding, or maintenance/management of a new seeding or re-seeding. Where additional site preparation activities are needed for adequate seedbed prep a waiver can be requested from the State Office.

4 See the (315) Herbaceous Weed Control conservation practice standard.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
516	Livestock Pipeline <i>Structural</i>	\$11,500	\$16,000	Feet			20
	Above Ground Pipeline			Foot	\$0.69	\$0.96	
	Buried Pipeline, < 2in Plastic			Foot	\$1.60	\$2.21	
	Buried Pipeline, 2in - 3in Plastic			Foot	\$2.31	\$3.20	
	Buried Pipeline, >3in			Foot	\$4.15	\$5.74	
	Cased Pipeline with Boring			Foot	\$69.19	\$95.80	
	<i>Scenario includes pipe</i>						

- 1 Payment for this practice is only available as a component of (528) Prescribed Grazing and/or (472) Access Control to provide livestock water on grazing lands where existing water supplies are inadequate for proper grazing management and site conditions warrant the practice.
- 2 See the (516) Livestock Pipeline conservation practice standard.

338	Prescribed Burning <i>Management</i>			Acre			1
	Grassland, > 10 acres			Acre	\$20.27	\$28.07	
	Grassland, Small acreage (<=10 acres)			Acre	\$25.43	\$35.22	

- 1 Payment is not for site preparation activities for a new seeding or re-seeding, or maintenance/management of a new seeding or re-seeding. Where additional site preparation activities are needed for adequate seedbed prep a waiver can be requested from the State Office.
- 2 See the (338) Prescribed Burning conservation practice standard.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
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528	Prescribed Grazing Management	\$9,500	\$13,000	Acre			1
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Deferment for Wildlife Acre \$45.08 \$54.10

Defer pasture grazing from Feb 1 - July 15 to improve health of forage plants and provide nesting cover for grassland birds. Not to be used as deferment for forage establishment.

Long Term Deferment Acre \$60.77 \$72.92

Defer pasture grazing from Sept 1 - May 1 to manage for invasive weed control, improve health of forage plants, or nesting/cover for wildlife species. Not to be used as deferrment for forage establishment.

- 1 No more than three separate management practices may be combined per acre.
- 2 Must have an approved RCPP grazing plan
- 3 MDC category payments only offered on Deferment scenarios with a minimum of 10 acres.
- 4 Additional 10% MDC payment when deferring 40 acres or more.
- 5 See the (528) Prescribed Grazing conservation practice standard.

533	Pumping Plant Structural			Number			15
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Livestock Water, Shallow Well Pump (<= 25 ft deep) Each \$970.68 \$1,344.01

Livestock Water, Shallow Well Pump (<= 25ft deep) with Above Ground Pump House Each \$1,562.68 \$2,163.71

Livestock Water, Deep Well Pump (>25 ft deep) Each \$1,230.21 \$1,703.36

Livestock Water, Deep Well Pump (> 25ft deep) with Above Ground Pump House Each \$1,822.21 \$2,523.06

Payment is not authorized for a Deep Well Pump for use with surface water sources.

Solar Pump for Shallow Well or Spring Development Each \$2,141.87 \$2,965.66

Solar Pump for Deep Well Each \$6,850.26 \$9,484.98

Payment is only authorized for the Solar options when electricity is not available or cost prohibitive.

Livestock Non-Electric Pump Each \$763.94 \$1,057.77

- 1 Payment is only authorized when needed as a component of (528) Prescribed Grazing and/or (472) Access Control
- 2 Payment is not authorized for electricity or a power unit or for PTO-driven pumps.
- 3 Payment is not authorized for used pumps.
- 4 See the (533) Pumping Plant conservation practice standard.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
643	Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats						
	<i>Structural</i>			Acre			1
	Savanna or Prairie Restoration, Light			Acre	\$46.17	\$63.92	
	<i>10% - 39% canopy cover across the treatment area is in undesirable non-herbaceous cover.</i>						
574	Spring Development						
	<i>Structural</i>			Number			20
	Horizontal Collection Pipe			Each	\$621.09	\$859.97	
	Collection Structure			Each	\$829.37	\$1,148.36	
578	Stream Crossing						
	<i>Structural</i>			Number			10
	Concrete Crossing			Sq Ft	\$4.76	\$6.59	
	Rip Rap Crossing			Sq Ft	\$2.14	\$2.96	

1 Payment for Savanna or Prairie Restoration is only authorized where the Ecological Site Description indicates a savanna or prairie, and is planned in conjunction with (338) Prescribed Burning.

2 See the (643) Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats conservation practice standard.

1 Payment is authorized for this practice only as a component of (528) Prescribed Grazing and/or (472) Access Control to improve the distribution of water or to increase the quantity and quality of water for livestock.

2 See the (574) Spring Development conservation practice standard.

1 Payment is only authorized as a component of (472) Access Control

2 Financial assistance is not available for bridges or culverts.

3 Stream crossings will be constructed at the same elevation as the channel bed.

4 Applicant will acquire all US Army Corps of Engineers permits and wetland determinations before practice commencement.

5 See the (578) Stream Crossing conservation practice standard.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
649	Structures for Wildlife <i>Structural</i>			Number			5
	Downed Tree Structure			Each	\$168.16	\$232.84	
	Edgefeathering, heavy			Acre	\$672.02	\$930.49	
	Fence Markers, Vinyl Undersill			Foot	\$0.10	\$0.14	
	<i>Financial assistance is only authorized when implemented in Prairie Chicken T&E Buffers.</i>						
	<i>1 See the (649) Structures for Wildlife and (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management conservation practice standard, and the Downed Tree Structures Job Sheet.</i>						
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment <i>Structural</i>			Acre			15
	Bareroot Trees and Shrubs, Each			Each	\$0.49	\$0.68	
	<i>Payment is only authorized for bareroot shrubs.</i>						
	<i>1 See the (612) Tree/Shrub Establishment conservation practice standard.</i>						
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation <i>Structural</i>			Acre			1
	Chemical Application			Acre	\$35.78	\$49.54	
	Light Mechanical			Acre	\$36.22	\$50.15	
	Light Mechanical with Chemical			Acre	\$72.00	\$99.69	
	<i>1 See the (490) Tree/Shrub Site Preparation conservation practice standard.</i>						

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
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642	Water Well <i>Structural</i>	\$15,000	\$21,000	Number			20
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Large Diameter Drilled Well

Foot \$122.17 \$169.16

Large diameter wells provide water storage in low yield wells typically using diameters 36 - 60 inches. Commonly utilized in northern Missouri.

Shallow Drilled Well, <= 100 feet, <= 6in Diam

Foot \$35.76 \$49.51

Shallow Drilled Well, <= 100 feet, > 6in Diam

Foot \$42.75 \$59.19

Deep Drilled Well, > 100 Feet

Foot \$18.09 \$25.05

- 1 Payment is only authorized for this practice as a component of (528) Prescribed Grazing and/or (472) Access Control
- 2 Payment is authorized for this practice on grazing lands where the current water supply is inadequate, and the underground water supply is adequate in quantity and quality for the purpose to be served and can be developed at an economical cost.
- 3 Payment is not authorized for electricity or a power unit.
- 4 See the (642) Water Well conservation practice standard.

614	Watering Facility <i>Structural</i>	\$5,000	\$7,000	Number			10
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Portable Tank

Each \$130.14 \$180.19

Tire Tank

Each \$769.67 \$1,065.70

Payment is authorized using this scenario for all permanent tank installations that meet the 614 conservation practice standard.

Above Ground Storage, 1,000 - 3,000 gallons

Each \$1,903.07 \$2,635.02

Above Ground Storage, >3,000 gallons

Each \$3,189.86 \$4,416.73

Underground Storage Tank

Each \$3,066.77 \$4,246.29

Payment is only authorized for underground storage tanks >1000 gallons

Access Ramp

Sq Ft \$1.25 \$1.73

- 1 Payment is only authorized as a component of (528) Prescribed Grazing and/or (472) Access Control.
- 2 Permanent Tanks and Storage Tanks: Payment includes stabilized base directly under the watering facility. Use (561) Heavy Use Area Protection for the stabilized area around the watering facility as needed per the CPS.
- 3 See the (614) Watering Facility conservation practice standard.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
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Footnotes and Acronym Information

- 1/ HU Payment Rate refers to the payment rate for Historically Underserved Farmers (Limited Resource Farmers, Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, and Veteran Farmers who also qualify as Beginning Farmers).

This Program Policy is approved for use in Missouri

Curt McDaniel, Acting

Missouri State Conservationist

November 23, 2016

Date