

MO 2018 EQIP-NSHTI

Environmental Quality Incentives Program National Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative Statewide Policy

December 1, 2017

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.

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.

High Tunnel Land Eligibility Clarification: Land that is currently in crop production (e.g. row crop, vegetable crop) is eligible for a high tunnel. Land that is not currently in crop production is only eligible for a high tunnel if the plan meets the criteria provided under 440 CPM 515.81D(4)(i) Changes in Production System.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
325	High Tunnel System <i>Structural</i>	\$6,000	\$9,000	Number			5
	High Tunnel System, Gothic Style			Sq Ft	\$3.94	\$4.72	
<i>Scenario is applicable for any High Tunnel installation that meets standards and specifications including, but not limited to, Quonset style.</i>							
1 Payment is authorized for a new High Tunnel constructed using manufactured kits.							
2 Practice is only authorized for payment when utilized for food production.							
3 See the (325) High Tunnel System conservation practice standard.							

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

J. R. Flores

Missouri State Conservationist

December 1, 2017

Date