

MO 2018 EQIP-Monarch Butterfly Project

Environmental Quality Incentives Program National Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project

December 1, 2017

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

This policy covers financial assistance to eligible producers with acres located in Missouri NRCS Administrative Areas 2, 3 and 4. For producers with acres located in NRCS Administrative Area 1, refer to the EQIP-RCPP Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies program policy.

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.

Screening Criteria - Use of the national screening criteria is required and all eligible applications must have an assigned priority recorded in ProTracts.

All monarch habitat development practices will be planned under the umbrella practice of Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645). The monarch butterfly is the "targeted wildlife species". The Monarch WHEG Decision Support Tool, Monarch WHEG Datasheet, and Monarch Butterfly WHEG for Rapid Screening of Low Value Plant Communities will be used to evaluate limiting resources of habitat for the monarch butterfly and document benchmark and planned conditions. A minimum WHEG score of 0.5 is required. If the planned habitat for the offered acres does not meet the 0.5 level, the offered acres are not eligible for financial assistance under this project.

CORE AND SUPPORTING PRACTICE GUIDANCE - One Core Practice must be included in the Conservation Plan of Operations before any Supporting Practice can be included in the contract.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
314	Brush Management <i>Structural</i> Core			Acre			10
	Medium Brush Management <i>10% - 39% undesirable woody canopy cover</i>			Acre	\$63.00	\$75.60	
	Heavy Brush Management <i>40% - 60% undesirable woody canopy cover</i>			Acre	\$150.42	\$180.50	
	Very Heavy Brush Management <i>> 60% undesirable woody canopy cover</i>			Acre	\$246.22	\$295.46	

- 1 *This practice is authorized for the treatment of invasive, exotic and/or noxious woody plants on all non-cropland areas where habitat for monarch butterflies is being developed.*
- 2 *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).*
- 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 *Clipping/mowing as a stand alone treatment is not authorized for payment*
- 5 *See the (314) Brush Management conservation practice standard and Information Sheet IS-MO-314.*

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
327	Conservation Cover						
	<i>Structural</i>	Core		Acre			5
	Native Species with Forgone Income			Acre	\$460.28	\$594.56	
	Pollinator Species with Forgone Income			Acre	\$1,105.85	\$1,369.24	
	<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	\$1,114.44	\$1,337.33	
	Monarch Species Mix - Interseeding			Acre	\$383.90	\$460.68	
	<p>1 Payment is authorized for the establishment and maintenance of permanent vegetative cover benefitting monarch butterflies on land not utilized for forage production.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>4 Refer to the Native Pollinators Job Sheet (JS-MO643Pollinator) and use seeding specification in the Monarch Information Sheet (IS-MO-643Monarch)</p> <p>5 See the (327) Conservation Cover conservation practice standard and (723) Vegetation Establishment, Herbaceous Seeding Specification</p>						
647	Early Successional Habitat Development and Management						
	<i>Management</i>	Core		Acre			1
	Disking			Acre	\$75.78	\$90.93	
	Mowing and Heavy Disking			Acre	\$171.36	\$205.63	
	<i>Scenario is applicable to brush hog plus multiple disk passes.</i>						
	<p>1 Practice is only authorized for one payment per acre within the contract period.</p> <p>2 See the (647) Early Successional Habitat Development and Management conservation practice standard</p>						

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
386	Field Border						
	<i>Structural</i>	Core		Acre			10
	Field Border, Native Species, Forgone Income			Acre	\$410.93	\$535.33	
	Field Border, Pollinator, Forgone Income			Acre	\$1,073.61	\$1,330.55	
<p>1 Payment includes vegetation establishment. Payment is not available for natural regeneration.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3 Only one scenario is applicable per acre (i.e., multiple options such as native species and pollinator cannot be stacked on the same acre).</p> <p>4 Refer to the Native Pollinators Job Sheet (JS-MO643Pollinator) and use seeding specification in the Monarch Information Sheet (IS-MO-643Monarch)</p> <p>5 See the (386) Field Border conservation practice standard and (723) Vegetation Establishment, Herbaceous Seeding Specification</p>							
338	Prescribed Burning						
	<i>Management</i>	Core		Acre			1
	Grassland, > 10 acres			Acre	\$24.13	\$28.95	
	Grassland, Small acreage (<=10 acres)			Acre	\$30.14	\$36.16	
<p>1 Practice is only authorized for one payment per acre within the contract period.</p> <p>2 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.</p> <p>3 Payment is only authorized when burning will directly benefit habitat for monarchs.</p> <p>4 See the (338) Prescribed Burning conservation practice standard.</p>							
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover						
	<i>Structural</i>	Core		Acre			5
	Native Grass			Acre	\$525.41	\$672.70	
	Pollinator			Acre	\$487.07	\$626.70	
<p>1 Payment includes vegetation establishment. Refer to the Native Pollinators Job Sheet (JS-MO643Pollinator) and use seeding specification in the Monarch Information Sheet (IS-MO-643Monarch).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3 Only one scenario is applicable per acre (i.e., multiple options such as native species and wildlife/pollinator species cannot be stacked on the same acre).</p> <p>4 See the (390) Riparian Herbaceous Cover conservation standard.</p>							

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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382	Fence	Supporting		Feet			20
	<i>Structural</i>						

	Permanent High Tensile Electric 2-3 Strand			Foot	\$1.17	\$1.41	
<i>Scenario is applicable to all multi-strand high tensile electric fence installations, and small ruminant electrified woven wire fence products.</i>							

	Permanent Barbed Wire Multi Strand			Foot	\$1.62	\$1.95	
<i>Scenario is also applicable to woven wire fence installations.</i>							

- 1 This practice is only authorized for payment when needed to protect monarch butterfly habitat from livestock, equipment, or other access that would be considered damaging.
- 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 Boundary fence (property line fence) or Perimeter fence is only eligible under the following three exceptions; (1) on expired (2 years or less) or expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land to establish a grazing operation; (2) on land to protect, restore, or enhance an environmentally sensitive area, such as riparian area or wetland; (3) on land to facilitate a change in production systems per the requirements of section 515.81D(4). Refer to 440 CPM 515.81E, 515.52C and 515.81D(4) for complete policy guidance.
- 4 See the (382) Fence conservation practice standard.

394	Firebreak	Supporting		Feet			5
	<i>Structural</i>						

	Constructed - Handline			Foot	\$0.08	\$0.10	
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	Constructed - Light Equipment			Foot	\$0.04	\$0.05	
<i>Disking or equivalent</i>							

	Constructed - Medium equipment, flat-medium slopes			Foot	\$0.27	\$0.33	
<i>Small dozer or equivalent. Scenario is applicable to all slope types.</i>							

	Vegetated permanent firebreak			Foot	\$0.12	\$0.15	
<i>Payment includes vegetation establishment.</i>							

- 1 Payment is only authorized in conjunction with (338) Prescribed Burning.
- 2 See the (394) Firebreak 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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315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment <i>Structural</i>						5
	Supporting			Acre			
	Light Spot Treatment <i>≤ 10% undesirable herbaceous cover</i>			Acre	\$24.55	\$29.46	
	Medium Spot Treatments <i>> 10% undesirable herbaceous cover</i>			Acre	\$71.07	\$85.29	
	Blanket Treatment One Pass			Acre	\$48.81	\$58.57	
	Blanket Treatment Multi Pass			Acre	\$106.03	\$127.23	

- 1 *This practice is authorized for the treatment of herbaceous plants, including those that are invasive, exotic and noxious on all non-cropland areas where habitat for monarch butterflies is being developed.*
- 2 *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.*
- 3 *See the (315) Herbaceous Weed Control 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