Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART) Overview and Missouri Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Ranking Priorities

Fiscal Year 2022

Application Overview

Any applicant may apply for participation in EQIP. The NRCS State Conservationist, in consultation with stakeholders including the State Technical Committee, and Local Work Groups, has developed the following ranking criteria to prioritize and select applications that best address the applicable program purposes and priority natural resource concerns in Missouri.

The NRCS State Conservationist will establish application batching periods and select the highest ranked applications for funding, based on applicant eligibility and the NRCS ranking process. In Fiscal Year 2022, NRCS will use its Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART) to assess and rank all eligible applications for NRCS conservation programs.

Inventory and Assessment in CART

CART is a decision support system designed to provide a consistent, replicable framework for the conservation planning process based on geospatially referenced information, client-provided information, field observations, and NRCS conservation planner expertise. CART is designed to assist NRCS conservation planners as they assess site vulnerability and existing conditions and identify natural resource concerns on a unit of land.

In CART, assessments of existing management and conservation efforts are compared against conservation planning criteria thresholds to determine the level of conservation effort needed to address identified natural resource concerns. The results are then used to inform NRCS conservation planning activities for the client. NRCS also uses CART to consolidate resource data and program information to prioritize program delivery and report outcomes of NRCS investments in conservation.

In general, resource concerns fall into one of three categories for the assessment method used in CART to assess and document a resource concern:

- **Client Input/Planner Observation:** A streamlined list of options is presented to the planner to document the client input and/or planner observation of the resource concerns present. These observations are compared to the conservation planning criteria thresholds.
- **Procedural/Deductive:** A large group of resource concerns fall into this category and are assessed using a resource concern-specific tool or a list of inventory-like criteria. Due to variability in State tools, assessment questions and answers will be broad in nature to allow States to more carefully align them with State conditions.

- **Predictive:** The remaining resource concerns are assessed using a predictive interactive model simulation. The CART systems attempt to replicate the outcomes related to the assessment threshold being met or not compared to the model outputs.

After identifying resource concerns and describing existing conditions, planned conservation practices and activities can be added to the existing condition to determine the state of the proposed management system. Supporting practices that are needed to support primary conservation practices and activities are also identified, but do not add conservation management points to the total.

If the client is interested in financial assistance through an NRCS conservation program, the inventory and assessment information, along with client decisions related to conservation practice adoption, are directly and consistently transferred from the assessment portion of CART to the ranking portion of CART. Based on the transferred assessment information and the conservation practices proposed for implementation, CART identifies the appropriate program ranking pool(s).

Ranking in CART

In general, NRCS program ranking criteria uses the following guiding principles:

- Degree of cost-effectiveness of the proposed conservation practices and activities;
- The level of performance of proposed conservation practices and activities;
- Treatment of multiple resource concerns or national priority resource concerns;
- Magnitude of the environmental benefits resulting from the treatment of resource concerns
  reflecting the level of performance of proposed conservation practices and activities; and
- Compliance with Federal, State, local or tribal regulatory requirements with regards to natural resources.

CART uses a set of National Ranking Templates developed for each NRCS program and initiative. The National Ranking Templates contain four parameters that are customized for each program to reflect the national level ranking criteria. The four parameters are:

1. **Land Uses** - NRCS has developed land use designations to be used by planners and modelers at the field and landscape level. Land use modifiers more accurately define the land's actual use and provide another level of specificity and help denote how the land is managed. Land use designations and modifiers are defined in Title 180, National Planning Procedures Handbook, Part 600.
2. **Resource Concerns** - An expected degradation of the soil, water, air, plant, or animal resource base to the extent that the sustainability or intended use of the resource is impaired. Because NRCS quantifies or describes resource concerns as part of a comprehensive conservation planning process, that includes client objectives, human and energy resources are considered components of the resource base.

3. **Practices** - A specific treatment used to address resource concerns, such as structural or vegetative measures, or management techniques, which are planned and implemented in accordance with applicable standards and specifications.
4. **Ranking Component Weights** – A set of five components comprise the ranking score for an individual land-based assessment. The five components are:
    a. **Vulnerability** - Site vulnerability is determined by subtracting the existing condition and existing practice scores from the thresholds. This score is weighted by ranking pool to address the resource concerns prioritized by that ranking pool.
    b. **Planned Practice Effects** - The planned practice effect score is based on the sum of the planned practice on that land unit which addresses the resource concern. This score is weighted by ranking pool to address the resource concerns prioritized by that ranking pool.
    c. **Resource Priorities** - National and State resource priorities are established to address the most critical land and resource considerations and are based on NRCS national and State priorities identified with input from National, State, and local stakeholders.
    d. **Program Priorities** - National and State program priorities are established to maximize program effectiveness and advance program purposes and are based on NRCS national and State priorities identified with input from National, State, and local stakeholders.
    e. **Cost Efficiency** – Summation of 'Planned Practice Points' divided by the log of the 'Average Practice Cost'.

    NOTE: The points for vulnerability, planned practice effects, and cost efficiency are garnered from the assessment portion of CART.

Missouri created State-specific ranking pools within the above-described National Ranking Template parameters. The State ranking pools contain a set of questions that are divided into the following sections – applicability, category, program questions, and resource questions. Ranking pool customization allows States to focus funding on priority resource concerns and initiatives identified at the State level with input from NRCS stakeholders. Each eligible application may be considered for funding in all applicable ranking pools by program.

NRCS Resource Concerns

The following table lists the 47 Resource Concerns NRCS uses during the Conservation Planning process.

Categories	NRCS Resource Concerns
Soil	1. Sheet and rill erosion
	2. Wind erosion
	3. Ephemeral gully erosion
	4. Classic gully erosion
	5. Bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels
	6. Subsidence
	7. Compaction
	8. Organic matter depletion
	9. Concentration of salts or other chemicals
	10. Soil organism habitat loss or degradation
	11. Aggregate instability
Water	12. Ponding and flooding
	13. Seasonal high-water table
	14. Seeps
	15. Drifted snow
	16. Surface water depletion
	17. Groundwater depletion
	18. Naturally available moisture use
	19. Inefficient irrigation water use
	20. Nutrients transported to surface water
	21. Nutrients transported to groundwater
	22. Pesticides transported to surface water
	23. Pesticides transported to groundwater
	24. Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to surface water
	25. Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to groundwater
	26. Salts transported to surface water
	27. Salts transported to groundwater
	28. Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to surface water
	29. Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to groundwater
	30. Sediment transported to surface water
	31. Elevated water temperature
Air	32. Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors
	33. Emissions of greenhouse gasses (GHGs)
	34. Emissions of ozone precursors
	35. Objectionable odors
	36. Emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen
Plants	37. Plant productivity and health
	38. Plant structure and composition
	39. Plant pest pressure
	40. Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation

Animals	41. Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
	42. Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms
	43. Feed and forage imbalance
	44. Inadequate livestock shelter
	45. Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution
Energy	46. Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities
	47. Energy efficiency of farming/ranching practices and field operations

Missouri EQIP Program and Resource Priorities by Ranking Pool

A. Cropland

Program Priorities
Does the assessment include a vegetative or management planned practice or combination of vegetative/management planned practices, or does the applicant currently utilize Cover Crops and Residue and Tillage Management, No Till on the offered acres?
Does the assessment include a planned practice on cropland planning land units directly adjacent to surface water and will result in water runoff being filtered?
Does the assessment include a planned structural practice to address source water depletion?
Does the assessment include planned practices that will address existing ephemeral gully erosion on highly erodible cropland (HEL)?
Is the applicant a covered producer participating in the CRP-TIP (Transition Incentives Program) and NRCS is evaluating the assessment during the two year period covered by the CRP-1R?
Are the assessed land units within the watershed of a PL566 Dam?
Is the assessment addressing resource concerns within a Missouri designated Source Water Protection area?
Resource Priorities
Does the assessment include a planned practice to convert at least 25 acres of annual cropland (or all offered annual cropland acres if less than 25 acres) to permanent perennial vegetation (includes cover of grass, forbs, shrubs and/or trees)? (Answer one) a. No. b. Yes, and all of the plantings will be native. This includes native cool season or native warm season grasses and forbs, or native trees and shrubs. c. Yes, and the planting will include non-native species. This would include any non-native cool season or warm season grasses and legumes, or any non-native trees and shrubs.
Does the assessment include a planned practice to establish permanent perennial vegetation on at least 2% of the assessed cropland acres, or a minimum of 1 acre, whichever is greater (perennial vegetation includes cover of grass, forbs, shrubs and/or trees)?
Does the assessment include (answer only one): a. Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329) and Cover Crop (340) as planned practices on the same acres on 50% or more of the assessed cropland acres, and the planned Cover Crop is a minimum 3 species mix with no single species comprising more than 80% or less than 5% of the cover crop mix. b. Cover Crop (340) as a planned practice on the same acres where the applicant has already adopted Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329) on 50% or more of the assessed cropland

acres, and the planned Cover Crop is a minimum 3 species mix with no single species comprising more than 80% or less than 5% of the cover crop mix. c. Cover Crop(340) as a planned practice for at least two consecutive years on 50% or more of the assessed cropland acres. d. None of the above options apply.
Does the assessment include the installation of one of the following erosion control practices: 362, 410, 412, 600, 620, or 638 as a planned practice?
Does the assessment include Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (443) as a planned practice specifically to install at least one surge valve, and/or Irrigation Water Management (449) as a planned practice specifically to install at least one soil moisture sensor to improve an existing irrigation system?
Does the assessment include Nutrient Management (590) as a planned practice for one or more enhanced nutrient management activities: (i) split applications of nitrogen, (ii) slow- and controlled release fertilizers, (iii) nitrification or urease inhibitors, (iv) nitrogen applications guided by chlorophyll meter readings or crop canopy color sensing (variable-rate nitrogen), (v) manure applications based on a current (<1 yr old) manure tests?

B. Pasture

Program Priorities
Does the assessment include planned practices that will prevent land that has been withdrawn or expired from CRP (or will be in the next year) from being annually cropped?
Is the applicant a covered producer participating in the CRP-TIP (Transition Incentives Program) and NRCS is evaluating the assessment during the two year period covered by the CRP-1R?
Are the assessed land units within the watershed of a PL566 Dam?
Is the assessment addressing resource concerns within a Missouri designated Source Water Protection area?
Resource Priorities
Does the assessment include Pasture and Hay Planting (512) as a planned practice to convert existing non-native forages to native (CSG and/or WSG) permanent perennial vegetation? (answer only one) a. no b. yes, at least 50% of the existing non-native forages will be converted c. yes, at least 30% of the existing non-native forages will be converted d. yes, at least 10% of the existing non-native forages will be converted
Does the assessment include planned practices for a new prescribed grazing system with a minimum of 8 paddocks per herd, or will additional paddocks be added from new land not previously in the established grazing system (to equal a total of 8 or more paddocks per herd)?
Does the assessment include Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) or (381) Silvopasture Establishment to convert at least 3 acres of open land (or all offered acres if less than 3 acres) to trees/shrubs? (Note: not applicable on sites with Ecological Site Descriptions for Prairie, Savanna or Glade)
Does the assessment include Fence (382) as a planned practice for use as a containment fence that will exclude all livestock from (answer only one): a. All existing surface water features on the assessed land units. b. At least one existing surface water feature on the assessed land units where more than one exists.

c. Not applicable, either there are no surface water features on the assessed land units, livestock are already excluded from all surface water features, or applicant is not willing to exclude livestock from any existing surface water features.
Does the assessment include Prescribed Grazing (528) as a planned practice specifically for scenarios that would create stockpiled forage on at least 10% of assessed pasture acres?

C. Forestland

Program Priorities
Does the assessment include Forest Stand Improvement (666) to address plant productivity and health, plant structure and composition, plant pest pressure, wildfire hazard and biomass accumulation, GHG-Carbon stock, or terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates?
Does the assessment include at least one planned practice (314, 315) to control non-native invasive species and address plant pest pressure, plant productivity and health, plant structure and composition, wildfire hazard and biomass accumulation, GHG-Carbon stock or terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates?
Does the assessment include Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643) to address terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates?
Is the assessment addressing resource concerns within a Missouri designated Source Water Protection area?
Resource Priorities
Does the assessment include Forest Stand Improvement (666) as a planned practice on all offered land units where 666 is recommended in an approved Forest Management Plan (FMP)? (NRCS must have an approved FMP to answer yes to this question)
Does the assessment include at least one planned practice (314, 315) to control non-native invasive species on all offered land units as recommended in an approved Forest Management Plan (FMP)? (NRCS must have an approved FMP to answer yes to this question)
Does the assessment include Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643) as a planned practice specifically for restoration of a Woodland plant community as recommended in an approved Forest Management Plan (FMP)? (NRCS must have an approved FMP to answer yes to this question)
Does the assessment include Access Control (472) as a planned practice to exclude all livestock on all forest and/or riparian areas (perennial streams, wetlands, and sinkholes), currently accessed by livestock?
Does the assessment include Forest Trails and Landings (655) as a planned practice to treat existing erosion on trails and log landings as recommended in an approved Forest Management Plan (FMP)? (NRCS must have an approved FMP to answer yes to this question)
Does the assessment include Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) to convert at least 3 acres of open land (or all offered acres if less than 3 acres) to trees/shrubs? (Note: not applicable on sites with Ecological Site Descriptions for Prairie, Savanna or Glade)
Does the assessment include Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) as a planned practice to install at least one Wildlife Watering Facility?
Does the assessment include Forest Stand Improvement (666) as a planned practice specifically to create Temporary Forest Openings as recommended in an approved Forest Management Plan (FMP)? (NRCS must have an approved FMP to answer yes to this question)

D. Wildlife

Program Priorities
Does the assessment include at least one planned practice be implemented on a minimum of 1 acre to provide beneficial habitat for monarch butterflies and/or native pollinators?
Does the assessment include at least one planned practice to benefit threatened or endangered species?
Does the assessment include either Brush Management (314) and/or Herbaceous Weed Control (315) as a planned practice to specifically address invasive/noxious/prohibited plants such as sericea lespedeza, musk thistle, Canada thistle, common teasel, Johnson grass, non-native honeysuckle, autumn olive, spotted knapweed, or any other state-listed noxious weed on 100% of the infested acres that are offered?
Does the assessment include at least one planned practice be implemented within a Comprehensive Conservation Strategy area or Quail Restoration Landscape?
Is the applicant a covered producer participating in the CRP-TIP (Transition Incentives Program) and NRCS is evaluating the assessment during the two year period covered by the CRP-1R?
Resource Priorities
Does the assessment include at least one planned practice to restore or manage a natural community habitat (prairie, glade, savanna, open woodland, bottomland forest, or wetland) where the planned management will return the habitat to, or progress it towards, the reference plant community as detailed by the Ecological Site Description?
Does the assessment include at least one planned practice to provide 10% diverse, native grass, 0.1 acre of dense woody cover, and 10% early successional habitat/bare ground for quail and grassland birds? All habitat elements must be planned or existing per each 40 acres on the assessed acres.
Does the assessment include Pasture and Hay Planting (512) as a planned practice to convert at least 10 acres of either existing non-native pasture, hayland or annual cropland to native grasses (cool and/or warm season) with good or excellent wildlife rating?
Does the assessment include one planned practice to establish 1.0 acre native grasses/forbs by converting non-wildlife friendly grasses (rated poor or fair for wildlife), or establishing 30 feet or wider field borders around cropland field edges for a minimum of 1,500 feet or 1.0 acre, whichever is less?
Does the assessment include Shallow Water Development and Management (646) or Wildlife Watering Facility (645) as a planned practice?

E. Animal Waste

Program Priorities
Is the assessment addressing resource concerns within a Missouri designated Source Water Protection area?
Does the assessment include planned practice(s) to address resource concern(s) identified as a regulatory issue by a regulatory agency or as required by local planning and zoning.
Is the applicant a covered producer participating in the CRP-TIP (Transition Incentives Program) and NRCS is evaluating the assessment during the two year period covered by the CRP-1R?

Resource Priorities
Does the assessment include a planned practice to permanently close (not convert to another waste management system) all existing waste impoundments no longer used on the land units in the application.
Does the assessment include a planned practice to establish a permanent perennial vegetation strip or buffer on the offered livestock operation to filter runoff? (answer only one) a. No buffer practice is planned. b. A buffer is planned that is less than 50 ft. wide c. A buffer is planned that is 50-74 ft. wide. d. A buffer is planned that is 75 ft. wide or greater.
Answer one option below related to where the manure will be utilized. a. NRCS has an approved CNMP or NMP that indicates all collected and stored manure waste from the animal feeding operation and/or waste associated with a waste impoundment closure will be applied to planning land units owned and/or operated by the applicant. (If the applicant is not the owner of all of the planning land units, then prior to ranking all non-owned acreage required for spreading must have a signed spreading agreement and be included in the CNMP or NMP). b. NRCS has an approved CNMP or NMP that indicates at least some of the collected and stored manure waste from the animal feeding operation and/or waste associated with a waste impoundment closure will be exported to land units not owned and/or operated by the applicant. c. NRCS does not have an approved CNMP or NMP
What percent of the spreading acres included in the CNMP (or NMP associated with waste removed from a waste impoundment closure) are annual cropland and hayland acres? (Answer one) a. Do not know, applicant has not provided NRCS with an approved CNMP (or NMP) b. 0% -33% c. 34% - 66% d. 67% - 100%
Does the assessment include planned practices that require a CNMP (or NMP where applicable)? Select one: a. No, the assessment does not include practices that require a CNMP (or NMP) b. Yes, the assessment includes practices that require a CNMP (or NMP) and the applicant has provided NRCS an approved CNMP (or NMP) c. Yes, the assessment includes practices that require a CNMP (or NMP) but the applicant has not provided NRCS an approved CNMP (or NMP)

F. Soil Health Pasture

Program Priorities
Is the assessment addressing resource concerns within a Missouri designated Source Water Protection area?
Is the applicant a covered producer participating in the CRP-TIP (Transition Incentives Program) and NRCS is evaluating the assessment during the two year period covered by the CRP-1R?
Are the assessed land units within the watershed of a PL566 Dam?

Resource Priorities
Does the assessment include Pasture and Hay Planting (512) as a planned practice to convert existing non-native forages to native (CSG and/or WSG) permanent perennial vegetation? (answer only one) a. no b. yes, at least 50% of the existing non-native forages will be converted c. yes, at least 30% of the existing non-native forages will be converted d. yes, at least 10% of the existing non-native forages will be converted
Select one: a. 75% of the assessed pasture land units meet the high (<=2 day) rotation frequency grazing system. b. 75% of the assessed pasture land units meet the medium (7-3 day) rotation frequency grazing system. c. Neither a or b applies to the assessed pasture land units.
Are 75% or more of the assessed pasture land units (or crop land units being converted to pasture) Highly Erodible Land (HEL)?
Does the assessment include planned soil health pasture practices on land units directly adjacent to surface water?

G. Soil Health Cropland

Program Priorities
Is the assessment addressing resource concerns within a Missouri designated Source Water Protection area?
Is the applicant a covered producer participating in the CRP-TIP (Transition Incentives Program) and NRCS is evaluating the assessment during the two year period covered by the CRP-1R?
Are the assessed land units within the watershed of a PL566 Dam?
Resource Priorities
Does the assessment include Cover Crop (340) as a planned practice, and at least one year of Cover Crop will be a warm season cover crop mix with a minimum 5 species on at least 50% of the assessed crop fields? This Cover Crop will be planted instead of planting a warm season grain crop, and no single species will make up more than 20% of the mix based on Agron 340.
Does the assessment include Cover Crop (340) as a planned practice for 3 consecutive years on 100% of the assessed crop fields, and Residue and Tillage Management, No TIll (329) is either an existing practice or a planned practice on the same fields? For rotations including small grains, Cover Crop (340) will be planned for all non-crop production periods over the three year period.
Does the assessment include Cover Crop (340) as a planned practice, and at least one year of Cover Crop will include a 5 species cover crop mix on 100% of the assessed crop fields? No single species will make up more than 25% of the mix based on Agron 340.
Does the assessment include Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329) as an existing or planned practice on 100% of the assessed crop fields?
Are 75% or more of the assessed crop fields Highly Erodible Land (HEL)?
Does the assessment include planned soil health crop practices on land units directly adjacent to surface water.

H. Agroforestry

Program Priorities
To address resource benefits associated with increased diversity, answer only one: Does the planned planting include... a. one woody species? b. 2-4 woody species? c. 5 or more species?
Using COMET-Planner (http://comet-planner.com/) to assess the approximate carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reduction for the planned practices. Using the results of the analysis, answer only one: The COMET-Planner score Total CO2 Equivalent = ... a. 0 - 20 b. 21 - 50 c. 51 or more
Resource Priorities
Does the assessment address at least one Resource Concern Category on annual cropland with one or more of the following planned practices: 311 Alley Cropping, 380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, 381 Silvopasture Establishment, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 422 Hedgerow Planting, or 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment?
Does the assessment address at least one Resource Concern Category on any land use except annual cropland with one or more of the following planned practices: 311 Alley Cropping, 380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt, 381 Silvopasture Establishment, or 391 Riparian Forest Buffer?
Does the assessment address at least one Resource Concern Category on any land-use except annual cropland with one or more of the following planned practices: 422 Hedgerow Planting or 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment; OR where 314 Brush Management or 666 Forest Stand Improvement are used to support Multi-Story Cropping (379). Note: 314 or 666 must be included in an FMP/FSP or site-specific plan/Project Plan developed to support 379.

I. High Tunnel

Program Priorities
Will the planned High Tunnel(s) be located within a food desert?
Will the planned High Tunnel(s) be located within an NRCS designated Strikeforce County?
Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of a Veteran Farmer or Rancher (VFR)?
Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher?
Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of Beginning Farmer or Rancher?
Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher?
Resource Priorities
Are 50% or more of the crops grown in the operation currently being sold direct to consumer; donated to food banks or other similar facility; or used as a part of a coordinated food system using church, market, or other educational networks?
Is the high tunnel planned in an urban area?
Does the assessment include at least one High Tunnel (325) as a planned practice on acres where specialty crop production has occurred for at least three out of the past five years (2017-2021)?

J. Organic

Program Priorities
Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of a Veteran Farmer or Rancher (VFR)?
Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher?
Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of Beginning Farmer or Rancher?
Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher?
Resource Priorities
Does the assessment include planned practices that address soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?
Does the assessment include planned practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminates from entering the farm?
Does the assessment include planned practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects, or both?
Does the assessment include planned practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?
Does the assessment include planned practices to improve the management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?

K. On Farm Energy

Program Priorities
Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of a Veteran Farmer or Rancher (VFR)?
Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher?
Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of Beginning Farmer or Rancher?
Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher?
Resource Priorities
Select one (Answer only one): a. The assessment includes two or more planned practices to address inefficient energy use. b. The assessment includes one planned practice to address inefficient energy use.
Does the assessment include planned practices that improve air quality by reducing on farm generated carbon dioxide (CO2) by: (answer only one) a. 150,000 pounds or more. b. at least 100,000 pounds but less than 150,000 pounds. c. at least 50,000 pounds but less than 100,000 pounds. d. at least 25,000 pounds but less than 50,000 pounds. e. less than 25,000 pounds or unknown. f. unable to answer, applicant has not provided NRCS with a completed energy audit.
Use the Agriculture Energy Audit to calculate the payback for the planned conservation practice energy improvements and select the correct option: (answer only one) a. The calculated payback is <5 years. b. The calculated payback is between 5 and <10 years. c. The calculated payback is 10 years or more.

d. unable to answer, applicant has not provided NRCS with a completed energy audit
Does the assessment include DIA 120 Agricultural Energy Design and at least one planned practice addressing inefficient energy use?

L. Monarch Butterfly Project

Program Priorities
Does the assessment include practices to develop or enhance monarch habitat within the region of Missouri most important for monarch migration?
Does the assessment include management practices planned on existing vegetation according to monarch Best Management Practice guidance?
Does the assessment include at least 2 acres of Wildlife Habitat Planting (420) as a planned practice that includes a minimum of 2 milkweed types?
Resource Priorities
To address promoting species diversity, answer one based on the number of native forb species planned for all Wildlife Habitat Planting (420) plantings: (only answer one) a. All planned 420 plantings will include more than 40 native forb species. b. All planned 420 plantings will include 30-40 native forb species. c. All planned 420 plantings will include 21-29 native forb species. d. Assessment includes 420 planting with 20 native forb species. e. None of the above apply.
Does the planning land unit intersect the Working Lands for Wildlife Monarch Butterfly (WLFW MOBU) priority area?