



August 10, 2018

Missouri State Technical Committee

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for participating in the State Technical Committee process. The State Technical Committee and subcommittees are convened each year in an effort to assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in identifying and developing strategies to best meet the conservation needs of Missouri land and its stewards. Input from members is an important part of how technical-based, voluntary conservation opportunities are made available throughout the state.

This letter is being sent to provide each of you with technical and programmatic decisions for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019.

**Topic:** Priority Resource Concerns

**Background:** NRCS has ten macro resource concerns used in the planning process. Each year, input is requested on how Missouri should prioritize those concerns.

**STC Decision:** The five priority resource concerns at the state level will continue to be:

- Soil Erosion
- Soil Quality
- Water Quality
- Degraded Plant Condition
- Inadequate Habitat – Fish and Wildlife

**Topic:** Environmental Quality Incentive Program – Recommendations for ranking questions

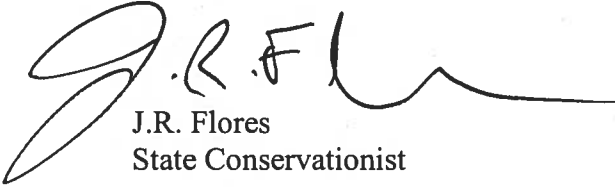
**Background:** Ranking questions are developed each year to prioritize applications. Comments are received from Natural Resources Committee and State Technical Committee members each year.

**State Conservationist Decision:** Comments received from committee members result in improvements to the ranking questions. Examples of improvements include:

1. Re-allocation of points to promote the relative importance of targeted resource concerns.
2. Edits to confusing language.
3. Edits to or removal of questions that may lead to contract management problems.
4. Addition of questions for addressing resource concerns related to flooding events.
5. Inclusion of ranking questions that give additional points for planting of native grasses.

Thank you for your support to the State Technical Committee. Your comments and input have been valuable tools in making conservation decisions throughout the year. I look forward to continue working with each of you in the near future.

Sincerely,



J.R. Flores  
State Conservationist

cc:

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