

Stockman, Tina

From: Soil & Water Conservation Program
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:22 PM
To: DNR.Soil and Water Conservation Districts staff
Cc: DNR.MGS SWC Staff
Subject: FW: Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funding and Sign Up - Hold the Date Training February 28, 2023
Attachments: CSAF Mitigation Activities 2023_1028.pdf; NRCS Conservation and IRA Fact Sheet.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please see the email below from Scott Edwards regarding training on IRA funding. Everyone is welcome to participate. The meeting invite will be forwarded as well.

Thank you,

Jim Plassmeyer
Staff Director
Soil & Water Conservation Program
Phone 573-751-4932

We'd like your feedback on the service you received from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Please consider taking a few minutes to complete the department's Customer Satisfaction Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MoDNRsurvey>. Thank you.

From: Edwards, Scott - NRCS, Columbia, MO <scott.edwards@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 10:47 AM
To: ug-MO-nrcs <mo-nrcs@usda.gov>
Cc: Plassmeyer, Jim <jim.plassmeyer@dnr.mo.gov>; Boschert, Jim <maswcd.net@gmail.com>; Andrew White <awhite@quailforever.org>; Casey Bergthold <cbergthold@pheasantsforever.org>; Christopher McLeland <cmcleland@ducks.org>; Mark Flaspohler <mflasphler@ducks.org>
Subject: Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funding and Sign Up - Hold the Date Training February 28, 2023

Good morning Missouri Conservationist,

Please Hold the Date for IRA Training – Tuesday February 28, 8:30 to 10:30 am. This will be an in depth training to cover all specific planning and program delivery options. Teams invite to follow.

Missouri has received our FY23 IRA funding and we are accepting applications for both EQIP and CSP. This is a great opportunity for Missouri producers, who may be contacting you to learn more. As always, with any producer that reaches out regarding assistance available, initiate the conversation to understand what their objectives are for their land, and continue to learn about their resource concerns. The IRA funding will be for Climate Smart Conservation practices for EQIP and Climate Smart enhancement activities for CSP. The attached file has the list of eligible practices and enhancement activities. To learn more, the Conservation Programs Manual (CPM) was updated on Friday, February 10 to include information on IRA. See Subpart M of the CPM.
<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=44506>

A national press release went out last week ([Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of Inflation Reduction Act Funding for Climate-Smart Agriculture Nationwide | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](#)) announcing the availability of IRA funds and the signup cut off dates. We are working to develop the process that will identify

contracts that will be funded with IRA funding. The current process will have state office staff managing the IRA funds and notifying staff when an IRA fund code is to be used.

Missouri IRA EQIP Act Now

As we ramp up our EQIP IRA this year, we are going to have a targeted sign up centered around two ACT NOW Initiatives. We will launch an ACT NOW Nutrient Management Initiative (590) that will allow a more streamlined process to deliver 590 across Missouri. The Native Forages Initiative will continue through August 1, 2023 utilizing the ACT Now process. Please continue to accept all Native Forage Initiative applications and process without delay. The additional EQIP IRA funds will be used to help cover some of the additional demand for Soil Health Cropland that is in excess of what can be funded under our EQIP Classic allocation.

Missouri IRA CSP Classic and Act Now

CSP will have an ACT NOW segment focusing on Socially Disadvantaged applicants. CSP will also have additional application dates for CSP Classic (see chart below). CSP Classic applications that meet IRA funding requirements can be funded with IRA funds.

Continuous Model of Conservation Delivery

Next year we will see a much larger allocation across all programs. It is imperative that we work with all customers and let them know that we are moving to a continuous model of conservation delivery. While we have set batching dates we should continue to work with all customers to develop quality conservation plans that can be implemented as more funding becomes available throughout this year and into next fiscal year. Funding will no longer be the limiting factor in our conservation delivery model. All of the quality conservation planning we do now will set us up to deliver funds as they come available.

IRA Timeline

Missouri will set and announce a sign up cutoff for EQIP IRA, CSP IRA and EQIP CIC. There will be a national sign up cutoff dates for ACEP ALE and ACEP WRE. Here's a summary of the sign up cut off dates:

Program	Sign Up Process	Signup Date Cutoff
EQIP Nutrient Management	ACT Now	August 1, 2023
CSP IRA	Traditional	April 21, 2023
CSP IRA	Traditional	June 9, 2023
CSP IRA SD	Act Now	June 9, 2023
EQIP CIC	Traditional	April 21, 2023
ACEP ALE/WRE	Traditional	March 17, 2023

Staffing

The additional IRA funds will allow us to increase our current NRCS staffing capacity. Not only will we be able to fill critical vacancies but we will be able to add additional staff to help at the field office level deliver and manage the increased workload. The additional investment in conservation will also allow us to grow the conservation partnership by adding additional partner employees that assist us with delivery conservation across Missouri.

Scott D. Edwards

State Conservationist

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

601 Business Loop, 70 West, Suite 250
Columbia, MO 65203

📞 Office: (573) 876-0909

📞 **Cell:** (573) 514-5160

✉ **Email:** scott.edwards@usda.gov

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