

Brief Overview of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for Missouri

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Missouri NRCS –EQIP

- Based on last three Farm Bills as passed by Congress (since 1996) ?And the Next?
- To enhance the long-term quality of our environment and conservation of our natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, animals)
- All voluntary enrollment
- Applicant(s) must meet ALL eligibility requirements of the specific Program
 - Land Eligibility
 - Applicant Eligibility

Missouri NRCS –EQIP

- Land Eligibility: agricultural land of cropland, grassland, pasture and other agricultural land on which agricultural and forest-related products, or livestock are produced and resource concerns may be addressed; other ag land can include cropped woodland, marshes, incidental areas in the ag operation, and other ag land used for the production of livestock
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Missouri NRCS –EQIP

- Applicant: person, legal entity, joint operation or tribe that has an interest in the agricultural operation, who has requested in writing to participate in EQIP; ag operation means a parcel(s) of land, where the applicant is listed as the operator or owner/operator in the farm Service Agency (FSA) record system.
 - Applicant eligibility: requires full compliance with AD1026 (HEL & WC), AGI, signature authority for entity, etc
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Missouri NRCS –EQIP

- Financial & technical assistance to install or implement structural & management conservation practices on eligible land
 - address multiple resource concerns
 - increase overall environmental benefits
 - long-lasting environmental benefits
 - encourage innovation
 - apply 60% of funds to livestock-related conservation practices (it's the law!)
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Missouri NRCS –EQIP

- Missouri has far more requests for EQIP financial assistance than our allocation, a ranking system must be implemented, so that applicants who pass the land and applicant requirements compete for funding on an equitable basis.
 - Fund Pools
 - Initiatives
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Missouri NRCS –EQIP

Organic Initiative (since FY09)

High Tunnel Initiative (since FY10)

Energy Initiative (since FY12)

National Water Quality Initiative (since FY12)

Missouri NRCS –EQIP

Cooperative Conservation Partnership
Initiative (CCPI)

Combines the resources of eligible Partners
to provide EQIP assistance to applicant's
who have an interest in agricultural and
nonindustrial private forestland, in order to
enhance conservation outcomes

NOT a 'grant' to the partners: all EQIP funds
contracted directly with eligible applicant

Missouri NRCS –EQIP

CCPI - Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative (MRBI)

- ❑ Improve the health of the Mississippi River Basin
 - ❑ Work with eligible partners and eligible producers who voluntarily implement specific conservation practices as contracted through EQIP in the targeted states in selected watersheds.
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Missouri NRCS –EQIP

- Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative (MRBI) (continued)
 - MRBI practices must:
 - Avoid, control and trap nutrients
 - Restore/enhance wildlife habitat
 - Maintain agricultural productivity
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Brief Overview of the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) for Missouri

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Missouri NRCS –WHIP

- Based on last three Farm Bills as passed by Congress (since 1996) ?And the Next?
- To assist in the development of fish and wildlife habitat on private agricultural land, nonindustrial private forestland and Indian land
- All voluntary enrollment
- Applicant(s) must meet ALL eligibility requirements of the specific Program



Missouri NRCS –WHIP

- Funding level for WHIP has declined the past few years
 - NHQ has a “Working Lands for Wildlife” initiative that targets these limited funds (WLFW does NOT include Missouri)
 - We have two CCPI-MRBI WHIP projects:
 - Linn & Sullivan SWCD’s “Locust Creek”
 - Livingston & Carroll SWCD’s “Lower Grand”
 - Obligated nearly \$400,000 with 92 producers in these two projects since 2010
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Missouri NRCS

- STAY TUNED to www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov for announcements and information



“It isn’t hard to be good
from time to time...

What’s tough is being
good every day.”

Willie Mays
