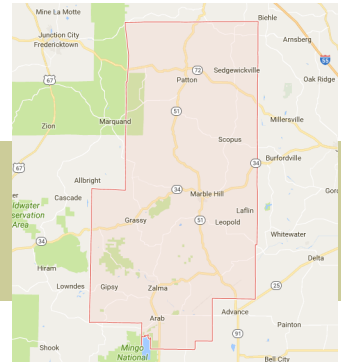




SPRING 2022

BOLLINGER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Cost-Share Projects Available

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The Bollinger County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is currently evaluating farms for the following cost-share practices for summer or fall:

- ***Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment or Improvement*** - Assistance available for minimum amount of lime and fertilizer, eligible seed, seeding operation, and seedbed preparation needed to establish adequate cover to control erosion on fields currently being pastured. Fields cut only for hay do not qualify. Seeding dates for fall is August 16 - October 15 with the optimum dates in September.
- ***Critical Area Treatments*** - Assistance for shaping and seeding down critical areas (such as gulleys, banks, roadsides, field borders and similar problem areas) on farms which are susceptible to erosion.
- ***Water Impoundment Reservoirs (Ponds)*** - Assistance available to build structures that provide erosion control benefits and may also provide water for livestock. Site must be surrounded by agricultural activity such as hay, crop or pasture field and have active gully erosion. Site cannot be located in the woods and the farm must be a minimum of 20 acres. Proposed sites will be sent to DNR for final approval.
- ***Sediment Retention, Erosion, or Water-Control Structure*** - Assistance available to create a dry hole structure to fix specific problem areas on farms where runoff of substantial amounts of sediment or runoff containing pesticides or fertilizers constitute a significant pollution hazard.
- ***Cover Crop*** - Incentive for Operators to adopt cover crops for reducing soil erosion and improve water quality and soil health. Contracted acres must be in a 2 species crop rotation. Cover crops must be no-tilled or broadcast seeded. Production crop following cover crops must be planted using a no-till system on the contracted areas. Cover crops will not be harvested. Soil Health samples must be taken on each field prior to seeding. Cut off date for cover crop requests is July 30.

Each practice has qualifying factors that determine eligibility for cost-share assistance and is based on first-come, first serve. If you would like more information concerning these practices or to schedule a site determination, please call Bollinger County SWCD at (573)238-2671 ext. 3.

Opportunities to Support Climate—Smart Agriculture in 2022

Columbia, MO, Jan. 21, 2022 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is announcing several new and expanded opportunities for climate-smart agriculture in 2022. Updates include nationwide availability of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Conservation Incentive Contracts option and added flexibilities for producers to easily re-enroll in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). These improvements to NRCS' working lands conservation programs, combined with continued program opportunities in Missouri, are part of the Biden-Harris Administration's broader effort to support climate-smart agriculture.

"Missouri's agricultural producers can be the key to reducing greenhouse gases and creating a more sustainable future," NRCS Missouri State Conservationist Scott Edwards said. "Using the new financial assistance programs combined with additional flexibility, we can work together to find mutually beneficial practices that benefit the producer and conserve natural resources."

EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC)

Conservation Incentive Contracts address priority resource concerns, including sequestering carbon and improving soil health in high-priority areas. Through these contracts, NRCS works with producers to strengthen the quality and condition of natural resources on their operations using management practices, such as irrigation water management, drainage water management, and residue and tillage management that target resource concerns, including degraded soil and water quality, available water and soil erosion.

The 2018 Farm Bill introduced EQIP incentive contracts to expand resource benefits for producers for the implementation, adoption, management, and maintenance of incentive practices that effectively address at least one eligible resource concern with a State-identified high priority area (HPA). EQIP-CIC can be a stepping-stone between the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). EQIP-CIC offers a unique opportunity for a 5-year contract with an annual payment, without enrolling the entire operation into the program. The flexibility can be a gateway to future participation in CSP enrollment and achievement of a higher level of conservation stewardship for their entire operation.

CSP Re-Enrollment Option

NRCS updated CSP to allow an agricultural producer to apply to re-enroll into CSP following an unfunded application to renew an existing CSP contract. Previously, if a CSP participant did not re-enroll the year their existing contract expired, they were ineligible for the program for two years.

This ineligibility was imposed on CSP participants even if their failure to sign a renewal contract was due to the unavailability of funds, which is beyond their control. USDA is now waiving this two-year ineligibility restriction for all CSP applications.

This year, producers renewed 2,600 CSP contracts covering 3.4 million acres. Applicants with unfunded fiscal 2022 CSP renewals will receive letters this month, notifying them they are automatically eligible to apply for future CSP funding opportunities, rather than needing to wait two years to reapply.

How to Apply

NRCS accepts applications for conservation programs – including EQIP and CSP – year-round. Applications for EQIP-CIC received by February 25, 2022 will be considered for the next available funding. To apply, producers should contact the Bollinger County USDA at (573)238-2671 ext.3.



The Missouri Department of Conservation Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Training

With the [Missouri Prescribed Burning Act](#) enacted into law on August 28, 2021, a Certified Prescribed Burn Manager (CPBM) program was established. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has announced the Prescribed Burning for Missouri Land Managers course that satisfies the training to be recognized as a CPBM. (This is the revamped version of the former MDC Landowner Burn Workshop). It is a blended training with a self-paced (1-3 hours) online course and exam followed by a mandatory field exercise. This training is not a requirement to conduct a prescribed burn, however, along with following a written burn plan, it does demonstrate further care when conducting a prescribed burn. Of special note, it is a recognized training by the new law to aid those in obtaining insurance for prescribed burning.

MDC has begun scheduling these training opportunities using the following procedure:

1. Find a field exercise on the [MDC Landowner Workshop Events page](#)
2. Register for the field exercise online - [Saturday March 19th - Perryville](#)
3. Upon registration, participants will be emailed a link to the virtual/online portion of the prescribed burn course. The online course is a mandatory prerequisite.
4. Complete the online course and final exam at your own pace within 90 days of registration or prior to the field exercise, whichever comes first.
5. Please bring your certificate of completion to the field exercise. We will be conducting a prescribed burn on a nearby property TBD, so please dress accordingly with leather boots, leather gloves, cotton pants, cotton long sleeve shirt, and safety glasses. Participants will learn about burn equipment, burn line installation, safe weather parameters, ignition operations, and other techniques to safely conduct a prescribed burn.
6. Receive certificate for completion of the Certified Prescribed Burn Manager training.



A. No recertification necessary to maintain CPBM Qualification.

B. Make sure to file your certificate for future reference.

If you have any questions, contact Wes Buchheit at (573)517-8860 or wbuchheit@quailforever.org.

USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program Signups for 2022⁴

Contact: FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 2022 – Agricultural producers and landowners can sign up soon for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a cornerstone conservation program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a key tool in the Biden-Harris Administration effort to address climate change and achieve other natural resource benefits. The General CRP signup will run from **Jan. 31 to March 11**, and the Grassland CRP signup will run from **April 4 to May 13**.

“We highly encourage farmers, ranchers and private landowners to consider the enrollment options available through CRP,” said Zach Ducheneaux, Administrator of USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA). “Last year, we rolled out a better, bolder program, and we highly encourage you to consider its higher payment rates and other incentives. CRP is another way that we’re putting producers and landowners at the center of climate-smart solutions that generate revenue and benefit our planet.”

Producers and landowners enrolled 4.6 million acres into CRP signups in 2021, including 2.5 million acres in the largest Grassland CRP signup in history. There are currently 22.1 million acres enrolled, and FSA is aiming to reach the 25.5-million-acre cap statutorily set for fiscal year 2022.

CRP Signups

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland.

Meanwhile, Grassland CRP is a working lands program, helping landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as working grazing lands. Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations and provides important carbon sequestration benefits to deliver lasting climate outcomes.

Alongside these programs, producers and landowners can enroll acres in Continuous CRP under the ongoing sign up, which includes projects available through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE).

Climate Benefits

Last year, FSA enacted a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive for CRP General and Continuous signups, to better target CRP on addressing climate change. This incentive aims to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CRP's climate-smart practices include establishment of trees and permanent grasses, development of wildlife habitat and wetland restoration. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is annual, and the amount is based on the benefits of each practice type.

Additionally, in order to better target the program toward climate outcomes, USDA invested \$10 million last year in the CRP Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation (MAE) program to measure and monitor the soil carbon and climate resilience impacts of conservation practices over the life of new CRP contracts. This will enable the agency to further refine the program and practices to provide producers tools for increased climate resilience.

More Information on CRP

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) (The Marble Hill Service Center is located at 404 E. Main Street in Marble Hill, phone (573) 238-2671 ext. 2) to learn more or to apply for the program -- for General CRP before the **March 11 deadline**, and for Grassland CRP before the **May 13 deadline**. Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Due to the pandemic, some [USDA Service Centers](#) are open to limited visitors. Additionally, fact sheets and other resources are available at fsa.usda.gov/crp.

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

A Few Reminders...

- **NRCS accepts applications for conservation programs, including EQIP & CSP, year-round. Applications for EQIP-CIC received by February 25, 2022 will be considered for the next available funding. Producers may submit a signed and dated application via the mail, fax, scan, email, or submit through the agency approved Client-Gateway at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cgate/> or make an appointment to fill out an application at the office by calling (573)238-2671 ext. 3.**
- **FSA has set a March 15, 2022 deadline for the ARC PLC Commodity Program.**
- **USDA has announced Conservation Reserve Program signups for 2022. The General CRP signup will run from Jan. 31 to March 11, and the Grassland CRP signup will run from April 4 to May 13. Please contact the Bollinger County Farm Service Agency at 573-238-2671 ext. 2 to set up a time to discuss CRP.**
- **SWCD & NRCS completes random spot checks on practices still under maintenance agreements. Maintenance life varies from 5 to 10 years depending on the practice.**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Equipment Rental

The Bollinger County SWCD & Missouri Department of Conservation have the following equipment available for completing your farming practices:

7' No-till Drill—\$12.00/acre

10' No-till Drill—\$12.00/acre

Pasture Renovator—\$6.00/acre

Root Plow—\$10.00/day

Wildlife Food Plot (1 row) Planter

Burn Spray Trailer