

MISSOURI CRCL

Grow Your Edges: Silvopasture

Why Silvopasture?

Livestock health and forage quality

The shade cast by trees in pastures reduces heat stress for livestock. It also can improve forage quality, especially for cool season grasses during hot and dry periods.

Tree crops and fodder

Some trees in silvopastures can provide additional sources of income through timber products, or fruit/nuts. Others can supply fodder, especially for small ruminants.

Biodiversity and wildlife

Adding trees to fescue pastures will increase plant and animal diversity. Adding trees to native forage pastures mimics the savannahs that once covered parts of Missouri.

Incentive Description:

The University of Missouri pays \$250 per acre to establish silvopasture. Farmers can enroll up to 40 acres per year for \$10,000 and a total of 80 acres for \$20,000 dollars over life of the CRCL project. The incentive can only be used for acres that are being planted with trees, it does not apply to already wooded acres that are being converted to silvopasture. Enrolled acres cannot currently or previously been enrolled in the NRCS Silvopasture practice.

Eligibility

1. Farm must be located in Missouri
2. Must have FSA farm records (farm, tract, and field numbers)
3. Must be legal resident of the United States
4. Have access to farmland to practice silvopasture for at least the next 3 years.
5. Must have either;
 - a. 1 year experience operating a livestock or forestry program
 - b. Completed a certification program (Agroforestry Academy, Grazing School).

Program Steps

1. Confirm eligibility
2. Submit application
3. Meet with silvopasture advisor
4. Approve silvopasture plan
5. Prepare site and plant trees
6. Verify planting with silvopasture advisor
7. Complete reporting requirements
8. Receive payment

FAQS

What does the CRCL silvopasture incentive pay for?

The CRCL silvopasture payment only pays for planting trees into pastures. It does not pay for bringing livestock into forests. The \$250 per acre payment can be used to buy trees, purchase protection (tree tubes, caging, fencing), irrigation, and any other costs associated with silvopasture establishment.

Can I combine the CRCL silvopasture incentive with other cost share programs?

Farmers cannot receive CRCL silvopasture payments for the same practice on the same acres as one for which they have already received cost-share from USDA. In the case of silvopasture, if you have received EQIP or CSP payments for silvopasture you cannot apply for CRCL payments for silvopasture on those same acres.

How is acreage calculated?

All area within 50ft of planted trees is counted in the payment. 50ft may be exceeded in certain planting arrangement.

How do I sign up?

Visit https://cra.missouri.edu/crcl_silvopasture/ and click sign up. After making an account and verifying eligibility, you will be contacted by a staff member to create a silvopasture plan.

When can I graze the silvopasture?

It depends on the livestock, growth rate of the trees, and how the trees are protected. Oak saplings can be damaged by grazing cattle for the first 5-10 years. Cages or fencing will protect young trees and allow for immediate grazing.