

6 **Improved Access to Cost-Share and Incentive Program Information Needed**
7 **for Owners of Marginal Farm and Agricultural Lands**

8 **WHEREAS**, of the total land in Missouri, 93 percent is privately owned, as reported by the
9 Missouri Department of Conservation, and 63 percent is used for agricultural production, as
10 reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the 2017 Missouri Census of Agriculture; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the larger portion of private land means there is greater potential for optimal
12 natural resource conservation when this land includes wildlife considerations and habitat
13 improvements; and

14 **WHEREAS**, it is common for properties in agricultural production to have portions of fields less
15 suitable for agricultural production; and

16 **WHEREAS**, field borders, land bordering waterways, and portions of fields exhibiting low
17 productivity are often considered less suitable for agricultural production; and

18 **WHEREAS**, these less suitable areas offer opportunities for landowners to improve wildlife
19 habitat, reestablish native plant communities, and improve overall natural resource quality of
20 such properties; and

21 **WHEREAS**, there are many private land cost-share and incentive programs that would be
22 suitable for these areas such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's
23 Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality
24 Incentives Program, and others; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the information regarding these cost-share and incentive programs is spread among
26 multiple agencies, private organizations, and websites, making it difficult for landowners
27 unfamiliar with these opportunities to find and understand the programs that are available; and

28 **WHEREAS**, these cost-share and incentive programs typically have differing eligibility and
29 contract requirements, making it challenging for landowners to determine which are the best fit
30 for their land; and

31 **WHEREAS**, increasing accessibility, awareness and understanding of said programs can boost
32 enrollment and as a result, increase the overall natural resource quality of agricultural lands in
33 Missouri; and

34 **WHEREAS**, finding and compiling this information into a central location via a website and/or
35 publication to be accessible and easily understood by private landowners, would be beneficial to
36 agricultural producers, wildlife, and environmental quality; now, therefore, be it

37 **RESOLVED**, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri, assembled this 6th day of March,
38 2021, encourages University of Missouri Extension to find and compile cost-share and incentive
39 program opportunities applicable to marginal agricultural production areas on agricultural land,
40 into a central location via a website and/or publication to be accessible and easily understood by
41 private landowners.

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43 Searchable Keywords: Private lands, habitat, cost-share, incentives, agriculture, Conservation
44 Reserve Program, CRP, Conservation Stewardship Program, CSP, Environmental Quality
45 Incentives Program, EQIP, Extension Service

46 Expires: March 6, 2026

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