

2021 Resolutions

Originating Committee: Public and Private Lands

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Intended Recipient(s): University of Missouri Extension

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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