

KENTUCKY NRCS

# EQIP Guidance Document

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**2017 Program Year**

**Version**

**Dated**

**10/31/2016**

State Guidance specific to administering the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Kentucky.

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## Fiscal Year 2017 EQIP/WHIP General Guidelines

(See Initiative addendums for guidance specific to National and State Initiatives offered through EQIP in 2017)

- No application will be considered for funding if it does not meet all eligibility requirements by the time applications are accepted for funding (512.22).
- The EQIP FY 2017 Payment Schedule will be used when determining the estimated cost for ProTracts.
- The RMS level is not required on EQIP acreage, although sound conservation planning is to be provided. Only the practices eligible for an EQIP payment shall be included on the EQIP schedule of operations NRCS-CPA-1155.
- **Practices awarded points shall meet Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) standards and specifications.** Existing practices that meet FOTG standards are not eligible to receive points or payments.
- All practices awarded points shall be included in the contract when the participant's application is accepted. Non-payment practices and/or practices planned under other programs are not eligible to receive points for the EQIP offer.
- All practices installed will be maintained as designed for the life of the practice. If livestock are allowed managed access to any practice it must be done judiciously to prevent degradation of the installed practice.
- Management practices that have previously been applied or adopted on a treatment unit are not eligible for payments on that treatment unit unless an increased level of management above and beyond the current management system will be achieved, and a resource concern is being addressed (such as adopting a soil quality cover crop where a soil protection cover crop was previously implemented).
- Land or structures under contract or with existing maintenance agreements (PL-566, etc.) are not eligible for EQIP.
- For livestock related practices, livestock must be present at the time of ranking **AND practice installation**. An exception may be granted based on whether livestock ownership can be determined **AND where the grazing unit is capable of being grazed** (existing fence, water sources, etc.). An exception would be when boundary fence is being installed on land exiting CRP or where cropland is being converted to pastureland. \*See specific boundary fence guidance under the Fence (382) guidance.
- All practices in the contract must be the least cost alternative to address the resource concern. **Reference 515.91, A for specific guidance concerning selecting payment rates.** The least-cost standard must be applied to support payments for practices to achieve the conservation objective. At the request of a participant, NRCS may provide design and technical assistance for implementation of a practice with extents greater than what is needed to address the resource concern, however, expense and costs associated with the extra extent are the responsibility of the producer and may not be reimbursed through program financial assistance. Example 1: A concrete walled manure storage structure where a less expensive earthen structure would service the resource need. Example 2: If minimum standards and specifications require a three-wire fence and the participant wants to install a woven wire fence that costs twice as much as the minimum acceptable standard, EQIP will pay the minimum payment rate, and any additional costs are borne by the participant.

- For practices planned on cropland where Sheet and Rill or Soil Quality are the resource concerns, RUSLE2 must be ran for both before and after scenarios to verify planned practices are needed to address current resource concerns. These scenarios must be included in the EQIP contract folder.
- **Remember that you are not to design or build conservation practices above your Practice/Engineering Design Authority level.** You should request specialist assistance as needed. Be especially careful when planning practices such as Streambank and Shoreline Protection.
- When a companion practice is required for a practice to properly function, payment shall not be made until the most environmentally sensitive practices have been installed and certified (**Examples:** Pipeline and Tank as alternative watering for stream exclusion, stream must be fenced before payment can be made for the pipeline and tank. Stream crossing and Fence; stream must be fenced prior to processing payment for the stream crossing. Waterway and GSS. Fence, Pipeline, and Tank when associated with a pond).
- In order for land to be eligible for irrigation-related practices in EQIP that land must have been irrigated **two out of the last five years**. This means that irrigation must have been part of managing the cropping system to meet the needs of the plant and to maintain the yields of an irrigated crop. In order to document irrigation history, applicants may provide any of the following:
  - Written self-certification of the irrigation history, by year, and crops produced on the land with yields indication irrigation;
  - Aerial Photography coverage showing evidence of irrigation history on the property;
  - Official copies of Farm Service Agency records such as aerial compliance photography, Farm Acreage Report, Production History Report, and Risk Management Insurance;
  - Water rights certificate, water rights maps and/or well or pumping plan permits issued by a federally recognized Tribe, State or Federal Agency;
  - Irrigation company share certificates and assessments that document water rights and water availability;
  - Fuel bills or maintenance records documenting the use of an irrigation system with the presence of an operable irrigation system or reliable water source indicating the ability to irrigate;
  - Irrigation water management plan implementation documentation;
  - Irrigation or water use reports provided by a local or State unit of government.
  - Note: The use of manual systems of irrigation by hose, buckets, or other hand delivery systems may be used as a justification of irrigation history.
- An approved, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is required BEFORE providing technical or financial assistance to an Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) to address manure or wastewater handling and storage/treatment and/or when providing technical or financial assistance for nutrient management that involves the application of manure and wastewater. See KY Bulletin 190-15-4 for additional guidance.
- No “new” operations to increase or initiate production will be considered for EQIP; however, expanded operations will be eligible if a resource concern will be addressed. Reference 515.81.

## APPLICATION EVALUATION AND RANKING TOOL

### Guidelines – General EQIP

- All EQIP applications will be evaluated using the screening tool and the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts. (Note: Some National and State Initiatives will not utilize a screening tool. See Initiative addendums for guidance.)
- For screening purposes, contracts must be considered as not on schedule if they have any prior-year incomplete items due to circumstances within the participant's control. However, contracts may also be considered as not on schedule with incomplete items remaining as planned in the current calendar year. A contract can be behind schedule without having a signed modification such as a "pen and ink" modification to move a practice forward one year from the originally planned year.
- **To allow for similar farming operations to compete against like operations the local pooling areas have been divided to include Cropland and Pastureland funding accounts. When determining which funding account to use for ranking select the land use with the greatest acreage that the participant's application will address. Example: An Ohio County participant's primary resource concern is sheet and rill erosion on cropland but also wants to address a water quality issue in a pasture field. The treatment units include 100 acres of crop fields with cover crop and no-till planned; and a 20 acre pasture field with fence, pipe and tank planned. Since cropland has the greater acreage the application would be ranked under the PA 1 Cropland funding account. Refer to the EQIP ProTracts Fund Accounts table for a complete listing of available fund accounts. If pasture practices are being completed in a cropland fund account select the livestock type on the ProTracts application page. If the majority of the application includes cropland conversion to pastureland, the application will be ranked in the pastureland account.**
- Selection of resource concerns will be limited to no more than two concerns. A primary and a secondary resource concern, per practice planned.
- Practices selected for ranking will be the same as the practices planned in the contract when the participant's application is accepted.
- All eligible practices that are planned in the contract will be entered into the ranking tool.
- When answering the questions for national, state and local issues only answer Yes (award points) for the practices that will be installed using EQIP funds.
- Answer "Yes" for every question that applies to the application (Example: 1. Livestock will be excluded from sensitive areas. 2. Livestock will be excluded from sensitive areas with a minimum 30 foot setback. If a setback is used you would answer yes to both questions.)
- All participants will be provided a copy of the field ranking sheet and will be required to sign it by the ranking deadline (prior to funding selection). Participants are not required to sign the ProTracts generated ranking sheet.

### National Issues:

Use the following chart to determine “Yes” answers for the EQIP National Issue Questions. Only answer yes to these questions when the practice(s) to be installed with EQIP funds will address that specific concern.

| Question | Guidance For Answering Questions   |
|----------|--|
| 1a       | Answer Yes if the application is for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). If the answer is yes, do not answer any other National Issues Questions.   |
| 2a       | This question only applies to AFOs. Answer yes if planned practices are in support of an existing or new CNMP.   |
| 2b       | Answer yes if planned practices are in support of an existing or new NMP.  |
| 2c       | Answer yes if a practice is planned in a field adjacent to a designated impaired water body according to the DOW Impaired Water bodies layer. Always answer no for Seasonal High Tunnels.  |
| 2d       | Answer yes if a practice is planned in a field that adjoins a stream. This criterion applies to any stream that has a defined channel that flows for more than just during or after rainfall. Always answer no for Seasonal High Tunnels.  |
| 2e       | Answer yes if application includes Animal Mortality Facility (316)   |
| 3a       | Always no  |
| 3b       | Answer yes if implementing practices identified in a certified Irrigation Water Management Plan (118)  |
| 3c       | Always no  |
| 3d       | Answer yes if implementing practices identified in a certified Irrigation Water Management Plan (118)  |
| 4a       | Always no  |
| 4b       | Always no  |
| 4c       | Answer yes only for Organic Certified or Transitioning Organic applications.   |
| 4d       | Answer yes when planning the following practice: Cover Crop (340), Tree/Shrub Planting (612), Forest Stand Improvement (666), Hedgerow Planting (422) or the following practices when native grasses are planned: Conservation Cover (327), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Field Border (386), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643), Riparian Forest Buffer (391) |
| 5a       | Field must be above “T” and the planned EQIP practice(s) takes the field to “T” or below. Must be supported with a RUSLE2 run. Always answer yes for Seasonal High Tunnel applications.  |
| 5b       | Answer yes when the application includes Cover Crop (340) for Soil Health option.  |

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 6a | <p>When answering question 6a refer to the NRCS <i>T&amp;E Species by County List</i> and the <i>Practice Effects Document</i> located in Section II of eFOTG under the Conservation Planning Guidance Tab in the Threatened and Endangered Species Folder. Example 1) "Access Control" being planned on a stream or direct tributary to a stream noted by the <i>Species by County List</i> to contain listed species could receive points for a benefit according to the <i>Practice Effects Document</i>. Example 2) Wetland Creation in a county noted by the <i>Species by County List</i> to contain threatened or endangered bats would receive points for a benefit according to the <i>Practice Effects Document</i>.</p> <p>Also answer yes for this question if Forest Stand Improvement (666) or Brush Management (314) is being planned in the Forestland Bird Conservation Area or when the following practices are being planned in the Grassland Bird Conservation Area as outlined in Kentucky's Comprehensive Wildlife Action Plan: Conservation Cover (327), Field Border (386), Hedgerow Planting (422), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) -Shrub Planting Only, and points may be awarded when native grasses are being used for a Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390) or Forage and Biomass Planting (512).</p> |
| 6b | <p>Answer yes if planned practices will help maintain wildlife benefits on land exiting CRP. Examples of practices that could apply include Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Field Borders (386), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), and Conservation Cover (327) when wildlife beneficial vegetation is being planned.</p>   |
| 6c | <p>Answer yes if native forbs or shrubs/trees are being established, or if Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Forest Stand Improvement (666), or Conservation Cover (327) is planned.</p>  |
| 6d | <p>Answer yes if Wetland Creation (658) is planned.</p>  |
| 7a | <p>Answer yes if any planned practices target/treat invasive plant species according to the Invasive Species Advisory List identified in the Field Office Technical Guide, Section II, NEPA Forms and Guidance, Special Environmental Concerns, Invasive Species Resources. Examples of practices that address invasive species would be Forest Stand Improvement (666) and Brush Management (314) that addresses Bush Honeysuckle, (315) Herbaceous Weed Control for <i>Sericea lespedeza</i> or Forage and Biomass Planting (512) that converts endophyte infected tall fescue.</p>  |
| 7b | <p>Answer yes if planned practices are included in a certified Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM).</p>  |
| 8a | <p>Answer yes for this question when planning the following practices through EQIP: Farmstead Energy Improvement (374), Lighting System Improvement (670), Building Envelope Improvement (672), Access Control (472), Conservation Cover (327), Field Border (386), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Grassed Waterway (412), Hedgerow Planting (422), Residue Management/No-Till (329), Riparian Forest Buffer (391) or Tree/Shrub Establishment (612). In addition, answer yes when Fence (382) is planned that includes a solar charger or if Forage and Biomass Planting (512) is being planned to convert cropland to pastureland or hayland.</p>  |
| 8b | <p>Answer yes when Farmstead Energy Improvement (374), Lighting</p>  |

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|----|---|
|    | System Improvement (670) and/or Building Envelope Improvement (672) is planned.   |
| 9a | Answer Yes if the planned practices will improve an existing conservation practice. (ex: GSS for outlet of existing grassed waterway)<br>Answer Yes if the planned practices will complete an existing conservation system. (ex: installing buffers to complete a CNMP) |

**State Issues – General EQIP**

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| 1e | <p>When answering question 2e refer to the NRCS <i>T&amp;E Species by County List</i> and the <i>Practice Effects Document</i> located in Section II of eFOTG under the Conservation Planning Guidance Tab in the Threatened and Endangered Species Folder. Example 1) "Access Control" being planned on a stream or direct tributary to a stream noted by the <i>Species by County List</i> to contain listed species could receive points for a benefit according to the <i>Practice Effects Document</i>. Example 2) Wetland Creation in a county noted by the <i>Species by County List</i> to contain threatened or endangered bats would receive points for a benefit according to the <i>Practice Effects Document</i>.</p> <p>Also answer yes for this question if Forest Stand Improvement (666) or Brush Management (314) is being planned in the Forestland Bird Conservation Area or when the following practices are being planned in the Grassland Bird Conservation Area as outlined in Kentucky's Comprehensive Wildlife Action Plan: Conservation Cover (327), Field Border (386), Hedgerow Planting (422), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) -Shrub Planting Only, and points may be awarded when native grasses are being used for a Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390) or Forage and Biomass Planting (512).</p> |
| 1f | <p>Answer Yes if the application is in one of the StrikeForce Counties listed here: ADAIR, ALLEN, BARREN, BATH, BELL, BOYD, BREATHITT, BRECKINRIDGE, BUTLER, CALDWELL, CARROLL, CARTER, CASEY, CHRISTIAN, CLAY, CLINTON, CRITTENDEN, CUMBERLAND, ELLIOTT, ESTILL, FLEMING, FLOYD, FULTON, GARRARD, GRAVES, GRAYSON, GREEN, GREENUP, HARLAN, HARRISON, HART, HENRY, HOPKINS, JACKSON, JOHNSON, KNOTT, KNOX, LAUREL, LAWRENCE, LEE, LESLIE, LETCHER, LEWIS, LINCOLN, LOGAN, MADISON, MAGOFFIN, MARION, MARTIN, MCCREARY, MCLEAN, MENIFEE, METCALFE, MONROE, MONTGOMERY, MORGAN MUHLENBERG, OHIO, OWSLEY, PERRY, PIKE, POWELL, PULASKI, ROBERTSON, ROCKCASTLE, ROWAN, RUSSELL, TAYLOR, TODD, UNION, WAYNE, WHITLEY, WOLFE</p>   |

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1g | For question number 2g answer yes if the applicant has a current Ag Water Quality Act (AWQA) Plan, and can provide a copy to NRCS at the time of ranking. If points are awarded during ranking for having a current AWQA Plan at time of ranking, a copy of the plan must be included in the case file. The signed certification sheet WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE for meeting this requirement. The only exception to having an AWQA plan is in accordance with the Ag Water Quality Act, which specifies that if a forest land owner has a stewardship plan that has been developed to ensure that ground and surface water is protected from pollution and activities on the property, then an Ag Water Quality Plan is not required. In this case the applicant should be considered to have met the AWQA Plan requirement for screening purposes. If there is a question in determining whether a stewardship plan meets this requirement, the Technical Area Resource Conservationist should be contacted for assistance. |
| 1h | Yes, if more than 50% of applicant's offered acreage falls within the boundaries of these special emphasis areas as per ArcMap  |
| 1i | Yes, if more than 50% of applicant's offered acreage falls within the boundaries of these special emphasis areas as per ArcMap  |

Questions 1e, 1h and 1i will be yes when the majority (>50%) of the applicant's offered acreage falls within the boundaries of one of these special emphasis areas and when certain practices are being planned within these special emphasis areas (see questions). The geographic data has been placed on the field office servers for use in Arc Map when making this determination (directions below):

- The field office users can open an Arc Map session and "Add Data" by browsing to the Geodata server location (F:\geodata\project\_data\nrcs) and loading the layer file "EQIP 2017 GIS Layers": (turn on individual layers as needed by the user)
  - DOW Identified Watersheds
  - DOW Impaired Waterbodies
  - DOW Wellhead Protection & KGS Karst Areas
  - Amphibian Conservation Areas
  - Aquatic Conservation Areas
  - Copperbelly Watersnake Conservation Areas
  - Grassland Bird Conservation Areas
  - Forestland Bird Conservation Areas
  - Grouse Focus Areas
  - Quail Focus Areas
  - MRBI Watersheds

If points are awarded for questions 1e, 1h and/or 1i a copy of the map showing the location of the participant's land within the special emphasis area must be included in the contract folder.

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## Access Control (472)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | Limited Resource       |
| Manure Management | MRBI                   |
| NWQI              | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas     | RCCP-Cerulean Warbler  |
| SEKESH            | Socially Disadvantaged |
|                   | Wildlife               |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- Access Control (472) can only be contracted in conjunction with a contracted permanent, exclusion-quality fence
- Payment occurs once the facilitating practice is installed (i.e. fence).
- Access Control Payment is not authorized on Grassed Waterways (412), Lined Waterways or Outlets (468), Ponds (378) or any other constructed practice that must be maintained as part of the participant's Operation and Maintenance Agreement.
- Payment will be made on all acres behind the fence. **Livestock must be excluded from these acres for the Access Control (472) practice lifespan of 10 years.**
- **Payments are limited to 1-year.**
- For karst basins, the payment is authorized only for open-throated sinkholes.
- When the "Trail and or Road Closure" payment scenario is used for Access Control, it must be used in conjunction with **Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)** practice code. The site requiring protection from access could have been treated under a prior contract, or planned under the current contract.
  - This payment scenario provides for a permanently mounted 12 ft gate (16 ga; 6 rail minimum) with sufficient fencing on each side to restrict reasonable access. Planners should refer to construction specification details of Fence (382) for post sizing, bracing, etc. Participants may submit gate designs that exceed the minimum for consideration. (i.e. heavy pipe or guardrail gates, etc.

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## Access Road (560)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | Limited Resource       |
| Manure Management | NWQI                   |
| Pooling Areas     | Socially Disadvantaged |
|                   |                        |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Payment for Access Road can only be authorized when it is the **least cost** solution to solve a resource concern related to winter feeding for livestock. The road must be the most practicable route for feed transport vehicular travel that protects the soil, water, fish, wildlife, and other adjacent natural resources.
- The Technical Area Resource Conservationist will review and concur prior to approval of this practice.

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## Agricultural Energy Management Plan (128)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- On-Farm Energy Initiative

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Rank all applications for CAP 128 in the On-Farm Energy ProTracts sub-account.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.
- Additional guidance on the purpose of AgEMPs and items that need to be included in a completed AgEMP (EQIP and non-EQIP written plans) can be found at the NRCS Energy Community Site on USDA Connect:

<https://connections.usda.gov/communities/service/html/communityview?communityUuid=31441d33-33cb-48fb-8ac9-c9d4a1823b9b#>

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## Animal Mortality Facility (316)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| Manure Management      | MRBI             |
| NWQI                   | Organic          |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- If large animal, State Cost Share will need to be considered for funding.
- Participant must have a certified CNMP that addresses animal mortality to be eligible for an Animal Mortality Facility. For composting systems the CNMP must address the end product of the composting.
- The *Small Rotary Drum w Composter* payment scenario will be capped at \$17,000 per contract.

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## Brush Management (314)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer        | Limited Resource       |
| NWQI                    | Pooling Areas          |
| RCP-CP-Cerulean Warbler | Socially Disadvantaged |
| Forestland              | Wildlife               |
| SEKESH                  |                        |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- NRCS has approved a national waiver for (314) Brush Management to apply this practice up to three consecutive years. As appropriate, the practice payment scenarios would be *Mechanical-Hand Tools* or *Mechanical/Chemical Cut Stump* the first year. The second year will utilize the scenario *Chemical, Individual Plant Treatment* to apply foliar or basal bark spray to kill all re-sprouts. For tree of heaven, the same payment scenarios would be utilized however the *Hack and Squirt* scenario could also be utilized on sites where trees are greater than four inch DBH.
- Species w/canopy average > 4.5 ft in height: Use either
  - *Mechanical, Hand Tools* (intended as an acceptable option for Organic producers; no chemicals applied; plants are pulled or uprooted) or
  - *Mechanical Chemical, Cut Stump* (includes treatment using a brush cutter/saw or bobcat mounted cutter/chipper + chemical herbicide application)
- Species w/canopy average < 4.5 ft in height:
  - *Mechanical, Hand Tools* (see above) or
  - *Chemical, Individual Plant Treatment* (chemical herbicide foliar applications by handheld, backpack, or ATV sprayer)

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## **Building Envelope Improvement (672)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- On-Farm Energy

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- For a producer to be eligible to implement Conservation Practice Standard 672, they must have an AgEMP – Headquarters or an on-farm energy audit (no more than five years old) that meets the ASABE S612 standard.
- This practice must be checked out and approved by a Field Engineer.

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## Composting Facility (317)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| Manure Management      | MRBI             |
| NWQI                   | Organic          |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- For composting of by-products only, not authorized for animal mortality composting.

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## Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (102)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| CAP - General | MRBI |
| NWQI          |      |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.
- All CAP 102s must be developed using Manure Management Planner (MMP) Software, or similar nutrient management software that produces a document that meets all components of the CAP-102 and CNMP checklist.
- CNMP Revisions are allowed for payment due to an increase in animal numbers or related resource concerns. See guidance under CAP-104 if only nutrient application acres have changed.
- The CAP 102 Plan Review Checklist is located on eFOTG, Section III.

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## Conservation Cover (327)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | High Tunnel System |
| Limited Resource       | Manure Management  |
| MRBI                   | NWQI               |
| Organic                | Pooling Areas      |
| RCPP-Cerulean Warbler  | SEKESH             |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                    |
| Wildlife               |                    |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- When planning in General EQIP or Initiatives other than Wildlife or SEKESH, must be planned in conjunction with other pasture or crop practices.
- Payments are authorized for conversion of agricultural lands (cropland, hay or pastureland) to native or cool season species (non-fescue).

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## Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (138)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- Organic Initiative (Transitioning to Organic sub-account)

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.
- A Local TSP is defined as headquartered within three hundred miles from the site and will utilize the payment scenario *Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition*.
- A non-local TSP is defined as headquartered greater than three hundred miles from the site and will utilize the payment scenario *Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition – No Local TSP*.
- Use application type “Plan-Organic” in the ProTracts application screen.
- The CAP 138 Plan Review Checklist is located on eFOTG, Section III.

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## Cover Crop (340)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer    | High Tunnel System      |
| Limited Resource    | MRBI                    |
| NWQI                | Organic                 |
| Pooling Areas       | RCP-CP-Cerulean Warbler |
| RCP-CP-Managing Poo | Socially Disadvantaged  |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- Cover crops may not be harvested for any reason.
- The payment scenario *Basic Organic/Non Organic* can be applied for a maximum of 3 years, for a total of \$45,000 (\$51,000 HU) per contract.
- When planning the *Multi Species Organic/Non Organic* option, consider contracting for the maximum 5 years to achieve maximum soil health benefits. Maximum of 5 years, for a total of \$150,000 (\$172,500 HU) per contract. Where field soil compaction is not a problem, brassica is no longer a requirement for the Soil Health cover.
- **When planning in the Organic Initiative:**
  - Additional leguminous, high-biomass cover crop/green manure seeding mixes are available for Organic producers. No maximum payment, but still limited to a maximum of 5 years for contracting.
- **When planning in the MRBI and NWQI:**
  - Cover crop may be applied for any year the field is fallow in the rotation. Maximum of 5 years, for a total of \$150,000 (\$172,500 HU) per contract for any payment scenario.

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## Critical Area Planting (342)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                     |                    |                         |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer    | High Tunnel System | Limited Resource        |
| Manure Management   | MRBI               | NWQI                    |
| Organic             | Pooling Areas      | RCP-PP-Cerulean Warbler |
| RCP-PP-Managing Poo | SEKESH             | Socially Disadvantaged  |
|                     | Wildlife           |                         |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Stand-alone Critical Area Plantings considered large (0.25 ac.) may be subject to spot check before the contract is approved.
- When planning as a companion practice with another ground disturbing practice (ex: pond, wetland creation, etc.) ALWAYS use the *Grass/Legume Mix- Normal Tillage* payment scenario.
- Mulch is not included in the Critical Area Planting (342) payment scenarios.

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## Diversion (362)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer | High Tunnel System     |
| Limited Resource | Manure Management      |
| MRBI             | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas    | Socially Disadvantaged |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Must plan (342) Critical Area for seeding of Diversion
  - Can only use Critical Area Scenario *Grass/Legume Mix- Normal Tillage*

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## **Drainage Water Management Plan (130)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- CAP General

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand-alone contract if funded.

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## Early Successional Habitat Development and Management (647)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| RCP-CP-Cerulean Warbler | SEKESH   |
|                         | Wildlife |

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## **Farmstead Energy Improvement (374)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- On-Farm Energy

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- For a producer to be eligible to implement Conservation Practice Standard 374, they must have an AgEMP – Headquarters or an on-farm energy audit (no more than five years old) that meets the ASABE S612 standard.
- This practice must be checked out and approved by a Field Engineer.

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## **Feed Management Plan (108)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- CAP General

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand-alone contract if funded.

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## Fence (382)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | Forestland             |
| Limited Resource  | Manure Management      |
| MRBI              | NWQI                   |
| Organic           | Pooling Areas          |
| SEKESH            | Socially Disadvantaged |
|                   | Wildlife               |
| RCCP-Managing Poo | RCCP-Cerulean Warbler  |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- When interior fence is contracted, Prescribed grazing (528) must be EQIP contracted and implemented in conjunction with this practice, based on Kentucky Graze (graze.xls) worksheet. Only *Interior* payment rate is authorized. Maximum payment for cross fencing for livestock distribution is \$10,000 (\$11,500 HU).
- Boundary fence (property line fence) or perimeter fence is eligible:
  - On expired or expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land to establish a grazing operation; however, the practice may not be installed until the CRP contract has expired. See 515.52C regarding eligibility for EQIP on CRP.
  - On land to protect, restore, or enhance an environmentally sensitive area, such as a riparian area or wetland.
  - On land to facilitate a change in production system.
    - Boundary fence is eligible on cropland/hayland being converted to pasture as long as the applicant can prove that the ground is currently in a long term crop rotation (permanent hay is not considered to be in a long-term crop rotation with annual crops), and the change in production system meets all of the following criteria:
      - The change in production system results in a higher level of environmental benefit, such as a lower intensity land use.
      - The producer will implement a management practice that supports the change in production system.
      - The practices are necessary to address a resource concern that is associated with the new production system.
      - Its cost effectiveness can be documented.
  - Boundary fence must be installed prior to receiving payment for any other grazing practices being installed within the grazing unit.

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## Field Border (386)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | Limited Resource       |
| Manure Management | MRBI                   |
| NWQI              | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas     | RCP-Managing Poo       |
| SEKESH            | Socially Disadvantaged |
|                   | Wildlife               |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Natural regeneration is not eligible for payment.

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## Firebreak (394)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| Organic                | Pooling Areas    |
| Pooling Areas          | SEKESH           |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |
| Wildlife               |                  |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice shall not be contracted in forestland or forested settings.
- This practice shall only be contracted in conjunction with Prescribed Burning (338).

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## **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan (142)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- CAP General

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand-alone contract if funded.

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## Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| Manure Management      | MRBI             |
| NWQI                   | Organic          |
| Pooling Areas          | RCP-Managing Poo |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- If Tall fescue is included, only novel endophyte fescue (5% or less) is acceptable for payment.
- When a Forage and Biomass Planting is scheduled on cropland being converted to pastureland, Prescribed Grazing (528) must be contracted to ensure the acres will be managed according to an approved grazing management plan.
- Payments are not authorized for planting or conversion to a stand of pure legumes.
- Payment for frost seeding legumes is limited to pastures where the dominant slope is equal to or greater than a D slope. Endophyte infected Tall fescue seed may be utilized in these instances if needed to add cover and erosion control, but will have to be seeded at the participant's cost.
- If utilizing the warm season introduced forage scenario, "Wrangler" Bermuda grass is the only seeded variety authorized for EQIP due to its ability to overwinter in Kentucky.
- **A minimum of 5 contiguous acres or 5% of the forage base is required.**
- This practice is not authorized for land currently in forest.

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## Forest Management Plan (106)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| CAP - General |  |
|---------------|--|

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will result in a Forest Management Plan that meets the criteria as identified by NHQ for the CAP 106. The Forest Management Plan will be developed for the woodland owner by a certified technical service provider (TSP).
- This practice is eligible provided that the woodland has never had a forest stewardship plan OR the current forest stewardship plan, prepared by KDF, or a private consultant forester, is more than 10 years old.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand-alone contract if funded.
- **The CAP 106 Plan Review Checklist is located on eFOTG, Section III.**

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## Forest Stand Improvement (666)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Forestland | RCPP-Cerulean Warbler |
| SEKESH     |                       |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- The cost of marking trees is included in the payment scenarios. Participants are expected to contact a private consultant forester to mark trees according to the recommendations in the Forest Management Plan if Kentucky Division of Forestry is not able to service the participant in time to meet contract schedule requirements. A list of private consultant foresters can be found at: <http://www.kacf.org/index.php/find-a-forester/> and <http://www.eforester.org/certifiedforester/CFdirectory-return.cfm>. or through local advertising efforts.
- **When planning in the Forestland Initiative:**
  - Prescription plans that call for light treatment thinning of 20 BA or less per acre are not eligible for this practice under EQIP.
  - Prescription plans that call for treatment of 21-60 BA per acre removed by the above methods use the *Forest Thinning* Scenario.
- **When planning for the Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - A practice prescription plan that describes planned improvement practices prepared by a Biologist or Forester must be on file in the NRCS office before the contract is approved.

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## Grade Stabilization Structure (410)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| MRBI                   | NWQI             |
| Organic                | Pooling Areas    |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |

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## Grassed Waterway (412)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer | High Tunnel System     |
| Limited Resource | MRBI                   |
| NWQI             | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas    | Socially Disadvantaged |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- When contracting an equipment crossing in a waterway use the Heavy Use Area Protection standard and Rock/Geotextile with site prep payment scenario. **Use the Grassed Waterway Equipment Crossing design.**

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## Grazing Management Plan (110)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| CAP - General | MRBI |
|---------------|------|

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.
- The CAP 110 Plan Review Checklist is located on eFOTG, Section III.

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## Heavy Use Area Protection (561)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                   |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource  | Manure Management |
| MRBI                   | NWQI              | Organic           |
| Pooling Areas          | RCCP-Managing Poo | SEKESH            |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                   | Wildlife          |

### **Practice Program Guidance:**

- Heavy Use Areas designed for feeding areas on animal feeding operations (AFO) are eligible for EQIP payments when identified as a component of a Conservation Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).
- Loafing areas identified as needed in the Conservation Nutrient Management Plan are authorized for financial assistance. In these instances, the Heavy Use Area will be planned for 50sq ft/animal unit not to exceed \$20,000/contract.
- Curbing on existing concrete slabs are eligible for payment under this practice.
- Heavy Use Areas will not be covered.
- Heavy Use Area may also be used as a crossing in a Grassed Waterway (412). Use the Rock/Geotextile with site prep payment scenario.
- Livestock Watering Ramps are now contracted under Watering Facility (614). **Heavy Use Area will ALWAYS be contracted as a companion practice to Watering Facility (614). Use the *Rock or Gravel on Geotextile* payment scenario.**

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## Hedgerow Planting (422)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|      |         |
|------|---------|
| NWQI | Organic |
|------|---------|

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## Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer | Forestland              |
| Limited Resource | MRBI                    |
| NWQI             | Organic                 |
| Pooling Areas    | RCP-CP-Cerulean Warbler |
| SEKESH           | Socially Disadvantaged  |
|                  | Wildlife                |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice is not EQIP eligible on pastureland.
- NRCS has approved a national waiver for Herbaceous Weed Control (315) practice for multiple applications for up to three consecutive years. As appropriate, the practice payment scenarios *Hand Removal* or *Mechanical and Chemical*, *Hand Removal and Chemical* and *Chemical, Spot* would be utilized in various situations depending upon degree of infestation, species and other factors. *Chemical, Spot* should in most cases be used as a follow up treatment.
- **When planning in the Forestland Initiative:**
  - Always use the *Chemical, Spot* Scenario (handheld, backpack, or ATV sprayer).

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## High Tunnel System (325)

**Practice Lifespan:** 4 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| High Tunnel System Initiative | Limited Resource       |
| Organic                       | Socially Disadvantaged |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice will be capped at \$10,000 (\$11,500 HU) per contract.
- Payment will not be made until the High Tunnel structure is completely installed according to manufacturer's kit instructions with bracing, plastic, end walls, etc. installed. The Seasonal High Tunnel must be capable of meeting the intent of the practice, which is to extend the growing season, before NRCS can approve payment.
- Fans, heating, lighting is **not** prohibited and can be installed at the participant's expense.

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## Integrated Pest Management (595)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| MRBI                   | NWQI             |
| Organic                | Pooling Areas    |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- For a producer to be eligible to implement Conservation Practice Standard 595, they must have a Integrated Pest Management Plan at time of application. This plan can either be written by a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) or an NRCS employee using WINPST.

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## Integrated Pest Management Plan (114)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| CAP - General | MRBI |
|---------------|------|

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.
- The CAP 114 Plan Review Checklist is located on eFOTG, Section III.

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## **Integrated Pest Management Herbicide Resistant Weed Plan (154)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- CAP - General

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.

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## Irrigation System, Microrrigation (441)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer | High Tunnel System     |
| Limited Resource | MRBI                   |
| NWQI             | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas    | Socially Disadvantaged |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice requires an Irrigation Water Management Plan that meets the Irrigation Water Management Standard (449).
- Applicants must provide documentation that they meet the Irrigation History requirements as outlined in the General Guidelines section of this manual.

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## Irrigation Water Management (449)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer | Limited Resource |
| MRBI             | NWQI             |
| NWQI             | Pooling Areas    |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Applicants must provide documentation that they meet the Irrigation History requirements as outlined in the General Guidelines section of this manual.

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## Irrigation Water Management Plan (118)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| CAP - General | MRBI |
| NWQI          |      |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.
- The CAP 118 Plan Review Checklist is located on eFOTG, Section III.

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## **Lighting System Improvement (670)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

- On-Farm Energy

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- For a producer to be eligible to implement Conservation Practice Standard 670, they must have an AgEMP – Headquarters or an on-farm energy audit (no more than five years old) that meets the ASABE S612 standard.
- This practice must be checked out and approved by a Field Engineer.

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## Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer | Limited Resource       |
| MRBI             | NWQI                   |
| Pooling Areas    | Socially Disadvantaged |

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## Livestock Pipeline (516)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |                   |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource | Manure Management |
| MRBI                   | NWQI             | Organic           |
| Pooling Areas          | RCP-Managing Poo | SEKESH            |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  | Wildlife          |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- EQIP eligibility for water system developments are limited to operations where poor livestock distribution is resulting in resource degradation or where livestock are being excluded from a stream, wetland or pond currently being used as a watering source.
- A resource concern, that can be addressed by improved livestock distribution, must be evident (resource concern cannot be due primarily to over-stocking).
- When grazing distribution is the resource concern being addressed, Prescribed Grazing (528) will be contracted. A prescribed grazing plan is required that includes both the KY Graze worksheet and Prescribed Grazing (528) Job Sheet.
- When water quality is the resource concern being addressed, Prescribed Grazing is not required to be contracted.
- A payment is authorized only for permanently installed tanks or waterers.
- Payments are not authorized for livestock water systems installation in confined livestock operations, loafing lots or barn lots
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - Only authorized when excluding livestock from an existing water source.

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## Mulching (484)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|                     |                    |                         |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer    | High Tunnel System | Limited Resource        |
| Manure Management   | MRBI               | NWQI                    |
| Organic             | Pooling Areas      | RCP-CP-Cerulean Warbler |
| RCP-CP-Managing Poo | SEKESH             | Socially Disadvantaged  |
|                     | Wildlife           |                         |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Mulching will be a companion practice for most ground disturbing practices and contracted separately (ex: grassed waterway, pond, lined waterway, etc.)

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## Nutrient Management (590)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource  |
| Manure Management      | MRBI              |
| NWQI                   | Organic           |
| Pooling Areas          | RCPP-Managing Poo |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                   |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- For a producer to be eligible to implement Conservation Practice Standard 590, they must have a NRCS certified Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (102) or Nutrient Management Plan (104) written at the time of application. A maximum of \$25,000 (\$29,000 HU) per contract per year for a maximum of 3 years; a total of \$75,000 (\$87,000 HU) per contract.

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## Nutrient Management Plan (104)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| CAP General | MRBI    |
| NWQI        | Organic |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Only applies to commercial fertilizer application, or the application of animal manure that is brought onto the farm and immediately applied or temporarily stored without a structural manure storage facility.
- NRCS CNMP's (CAP 102) that require a revision due to a change in nutrient application acres can be revised using the CAP 104 payment schedules.
- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand alone contract if funded.
- **The CAP 104 Plan Review Checklist is located on eFOTG, Section III.**

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## **Pollinator Habitat Plan (146)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- CAP General

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand-alone contract if funded.

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## Pond (378)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | Limited Resource       |
| Manure Management | MRBI                   |
| NWQI              | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas     | Socially Disadvantaged |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- EQIP eligibility for water system developments are limited to operations where poor livestock distribution is resulting in resource degradation or where livestock are being excluded from a stream, wetland or pond currently being used as a watering source.
- A resource concern, that addresses better livestock distribution, must be evident (resource concern cannot be due primarily to over-stocking).
- When grazing distribution is the resource being addressed, Prescribed Grazing (528) will be contracted. A prescribed grazing plan is required that includes both the KY Graze worksheet and Prescribed Grazing (528) Job Sheet.
- When water quality is the resource concern being addressed, Prescribed Grazing is not required to be contracted.
- A payment is authorized only for permanently installed tanks or waterers.
- Payments are not authorized for livestock water systems if they are to be installed in confined livestock operations, loafing lots or barn lots
- **Work on existing ponds is not authorized.**
- Required companion practices: Critical Area Planting (342), Mulching (484), Fence (382).

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## Prescribed Burning (338)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| NWQI                   | Organic          |
| Pooling Areas          | SEKESH           |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |
| Wildlife               |                  |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- Burning for site preparation for a planting is not authorized for payment.
- Prescribed burning should not be planned on contracts unless at least 10 acres is being planned. Prescribed burning is not eligible for field borders.
- Prescribed burning payment may only be received once every three years on the same acreage during the contract period.
- Detailed prescribed burning plans are not required for ranking purposes. However, a copy of the KDFWR, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), or qualified TSP detailed written prescribed burn plan must be in the six part folder before the burning takes place. Payment will not be made for burning without a KDFWR, TNC, or qualified TSP prescribed burning plan. Completed burn plans must also be sent to KDF prior to burn implementation.
- NRCS personnel are not authorized to prepare burn plans or conduct prescribed burns.

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## **Prescribed Burning Plan (112)**

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

- CAP General

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- All CAP applications must be supported in a single-stand-alone contract if funded.

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## Prescribed Grazing (528)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource  |
| Manure Management      | MRBI              |
| NWQI                   | Organic           |
| Pooling Areas          | RCPP-Managing Poo |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                   |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- Payment is authorized for one year to assist with planning, applying and maintaining an effective Prescribed Grazing System.
- Prescribed Grazing for livestock distribution is only authorized when producers are implementing a prescribed grazing system employing a **minimum of 4 paddocks for each herd**.
- Prescribed Grazing **must** be contracted through EQIP when livestock water is being contracted based on a resource concern of poor grazing distribution.
- **Maximum payment for any prescribed grazing contract is \$7,500 (\$8,600 HU).**
- **Prescribed Grazing cannot be planned in the first year of the contract.** All planned, facilitating practices needed to implement prescribed grazing (528) must be in place and operational before payment can be authorized.
- The 528 Prescribed Grazing KY EQIP Practice Certification Checklist must be used to document grazing plan implementation prior to practice payment. The certification checklist is included in the EQIP Guidance Document. A link to the certification checklist is included in the Table of Contents.

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## Pumping Plant (533)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| Manure Management      | MRBI             |
| On-Farm Energy         | Pooling Areas    |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |

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## Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (329)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| MRBI                   | NWQI             |
| Organic                | Pooling Areas    |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |

### **Practice Program Guidance:**

- Note that Strip-Till is no longer included in this standard despite the payment scenario name *No-Till/Strip-Till*.
- A payment is authorized for converting to an ALL NO-TILL crop rotation.
- A payment for no-till will only be made for those crops not previously planted using no-till (e.g. producer is already using no-till for his corn, but not on wheat. A payment is only authorized in the year and on the acres that wheat is no-tilled).
- Payments can be made from 1 up to 3 years depending on the rotation and the planner's recommendation.
- **Practice payment limited to \$3,000 (\$3,500 HU) per contract per year for this practice. Maximum of 3 years, for a total of \$9,000 (\$10,500 HU) per contract.**

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## Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | Limited Resource       |
| Manure Management | MRBI                   |
| NWQI              | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas     | RCP-Managing Poo       |
| SEKESH            | Socially Disadvantaged |
|                   | Wildlife               |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- NRCS staff will provide technical assistance for this practice. Do not send a TAR to KY Division of Forestry staff for assistance for Riparian Forest Buffer (391).
- KDFWR Biologists will provide technical assistance for this practice under the Wildlife and Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiatives.

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## Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | Limited Resource       |
| Manure Management | MRBI                   |
| NWQI              | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas     | RCP-Managing Poo       |
| SEKESH            | Socially Disadvantaged |
|                   | Wildlife               |

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## Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| Forestland | SEKESH   |
|            | Wildlife |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- This practice is not eligible on land that has been logged within the past 10 years.
- The Technical Area Resource Conservationist will review and concur prior to approval of this treatment in the practice schedule.
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast Early Successional Habitat Initiative or WLFW:**
  - Also requires Tree/Shrub Site Prep (490) and Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

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## Roof Runoff Structure (558)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | High Tunnel System     |
| Limited Resource  | Manure Management      |
| MRBI              | NWQI                   |
| Organic           | Pooling Areas          |
| RCPP-Managing Poo | Socially Disadvantaged |

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## Roofs and Covers (367)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource  |
| Manure Management      | MRBI              |
| NWQI                   | Organic           |
| Pooling Areas          | RCPP-Managing Poo |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                   |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Must be used in conjunction with Animal Mortality Facility (316), Composting Facility (317) or Waste Storage Facility (313).
- Cannot be used in conjunction with Heavy Use Area (561).
- Payment does not include cost for roof runoff management.

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## Spring Development (574)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | Limited Resource       |
| Manure Management | NWQI                   |
| Organic           | Pooling Areas          |
| SEKESH            | Socially Disadvantaged |
|                   | Wildlife               |

### **Practice Program Guidance:**

- EQIP eligibility for water system developments are limited to operations where poor livestock distribution is resulting in resource degradation or where livestock are being excluded from a stream, wetland or pond currently being used as a watering source.
- A resource concern, that addresses better livestock distribution, must be evident (resource concern cannot be due primarily to over-stocking).
- When grazing distribution is the resource being addressed, Prescribed Grazing (528) will be contracted. A prescribed grazing plan is required that includes both the KY Graze worksheet and Prescribed Grazing (528) Job Sheet.
- When water quality is the resource concern being addressed, Prescribed Grazing is not required to be contracted.
- Payments are not authorized for livestock water systems installed in confined livestock operations, loafing lots or barn lots.
- When ranking and contracting springs and ponds, the pipe, tank, fence (ponds), seeding, and mulching (if needed) will be ranked, contracted, and paid separately.
- Required additional practices: Critical Area Planting (342)
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - Only authorized when excluding livestock from an existing water source.

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## Stream Crossing (578)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Wildlife               | SEKESH           |
| Manure Management      |                  |
| Pooling Areas          | Beginning Farmer |
| MRBI                   | NWQI             |
| Organic                | Limited Resource |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- **Pasture situations:** When planned for livestock, or a combination of livestock/equipment, the stream exclusion fence must be installed prior to approving payment for the stream crossing.
- Culvert or bridge type crossings are not authorized under EQIP. Payments under EQIP are restricted to the ford type crossings using rock.

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## Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| NWQI                   | Pooling Areas    |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- **This practice is eligible ONLY on first (1<sup>st</sup>), second (2<sup>nd</sup>), and third (3<sup>rd</sup>) order streams according to the Strahler Stream Orders of the National Hydrography Data (NHD).** Additionally, this practice is eligible on fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) order streams where aquatic species listed on the “*T&E Species by County List*” (dated 2/2011) are present.
- All 580 practices shall be completed using bioengineering and natural stream channel concepts where possible.
- A Riparian Forest Buffer (391) is required in conjunction with streambank protection. The Riparian Forest Buffer must be applied to the entire reach of stream or shoreline contained in that field.
- Fencing is required when cattle are present and are impairing water quality or causing stream bank erosion. Fencing must be applied to the entire reach of stream or shoreline contained in that field. Required Companion Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

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## Stripcropping (585)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|      |         |
|------|---------|
| NWQI | Organic |
|------|---------|

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## Structure for Water Control (587)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|          |      |
|----------|------|
| MRBI     | NWQI |
| SEKESH   |      |
| Wildlife |      |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Possible facilitating practice for Wetland Creation (658) and Wetland Restoration (657).

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## Structures for Wildlife (649)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| SEKESH | Wildlife |
|--------|----------|

**Practice Program Guidance:**

This is not a standalone practice and should only be utilized in conjunction with other wildlife component practices to compliment a comprehensive management plan.

Brush piles for wildlife or pollinators should be established as recommended by an approved wildlife habitat assessment or as specified by farm bill biologist. A maximum of five (5) per acre are allowed.

In order to utilize the *Living Brush Piles/Hinge Cut Structures* scenario, there must be a minimum of 50 stems per acre to be cut. Examples may be cedars, red maple, etc.

Utilize the payment schedule entitled *Rock Structure* only in conjunction with (657) Wetland Creation for habitat adjacent or within shallow water areas or ephemeral pools.

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## Subsurface Drain (606)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer | High Tunnel System     |
| Limited Resource | MRBI                   |
| NWQI             | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas    | Socially Disadvantaged |

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## Terrace (600)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| MRBI                   | NWQI             |
| Organic                | Pooling Areas    |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Pipe outlet structures that only control water flow from natural drainage ways through fields and do not extend across the field on a gradient or contour shall be considered Water and Sediment Control Basins (638).

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## Trails and Walkways (575)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | Limited Resource       |
| Manure Management | MRBI                   |
| NWQI              | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas     | Socially Disadvantaged |
|                   |                        |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Authorized payment only for trails and walkways to facilitate movement of livestock.
- This practice is not applicable to protecting gate areas. However, the trail and walkway may be designed to include gate openings.

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## Tree and Shrub Site Prep (490)

**Practice Lifespan:** 1 Year

**Eligible Under:**

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer | Forestland             |
| Limited Resource | MRBI                   |
| NWQI             | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas    | RCP- Cerulean Warbler  |
| SEKESH           | Socially Disadvantaged |
|                  | Wildlife               |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- This practice will be included for all tree and shrub establishment in non-forest settings (use *Mow and Spray-NonForest* or *Mow and Disk –Non Forest* payment scenarios).
- Utilize the *Hand Applied Herbicide - Forest* payment scenario as the initial and only treatment of woody invasives (in forested setting) when average species height is less than 4.5 feet and infestation is sufficient to impede natural regeneration.
- **When Planning in the Wildlife Initiative or the Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - This practice should be utilized in conjunction with (612) Tree/Shrub Establishment for all tree and shrub plantings.
  - A one-time only payment is authorized

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## Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer | Forestland             |
| Limited Resource | MRBI                   |
| NWQI             | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas    | RCP- Cerulean Warbler  |
| SEKESH           | Socially Disadvantaged |
|                  | Wildlife               |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- If the applicant is not working with a private forester, complete and forward a TAR form to KDF as soon as application is pre-screened as high or medium priority.
- KY Division of Forestry will prepare a prescription plan before the practice is installed. Consult the KDF forester to determine the appropriate payment schedule scenario for obligation. (Refer to and complete “Tree & Shrub Establishment (612) Job Sheet”)
- Participants using the services of a private consultant forester should be provided a copy of the “Tree & Shrub Establishment (612) Job Sheet” for completion, or submit a detailed plan prepared by their forester.
- The *Potted, each, tube* scenario shall only be utilized where enrichment or inter-planting of trees is recommended to enhance wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Spacing shall be greater than 20 X 20 and shall not exceed 75 plants per acre. This scenario is not intended to be utilized where there are no existing trees. This scenario must be completed in conjunction with Forest Stand Improvement (666), Early Successional Habitat Development and Management (647) for Edge Feathering and/or Patch Clearcuts, or Brush Management (314).

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## Underground Outlet (620)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | High Tunnel System |
| Limited Resource       | MRBI               |
| NWQI                   | Organic            |
| Pooling Areas          | SEKESH             |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                    |
| Wildlife               |                    |

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## Vegetated Treatment Area (635)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| Manure Management      | MRBI             |
| NWQI                   | RCP-Managing Poo |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Required practices: Critical Area Planting (342)
- This practice is to be designed for “no discharge”.

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## Waste Storage Facility (313)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | Limited Resource       |
| Manure Management | MRBI                   |
| NWQI              | Socially Disadvantaged |
| RCPP-Managing Poo |                        |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- An approved, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is required **BEFORE** providing FA or TA assistance on any animal waste management structure that is planned on an Animal Feeding Operation (AFO).
- To be eligible for a Waste Storage Facility the applicant must have an existing roofed feeding area with a compacted granular surface floor that is capable of being scraped or their written CNMP must include the need for a roofed feeding area with a compacted granular surface floor which the participant is willing to construct at their own cost prior to payment for the Waste Storage Facility. The feeding area must be adequately sized for the number of animal units in the participant's Animal Feeding Operation (AFO). We cannot offer financial assistance for the construction of the feeding area, but we can offer technical assistance on sizing of the feeding area. The sizing guidelines in the Heavy Use Area Protection (561) Standard will be used when assisting participants with feeding area sizing.
- Under no circumstances will the roof of the cost shared Waste Storage Facility be connected to an existing or newly constructed feeding area.
- Required companion practice for dry stack facilities: Roofs and Covers (367)

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## Waste Transfer (634)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| Manure Management      | MRBI             |
| NWQI                   | RCP-Managing Poo |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Practice is only eligible when identified as necessary in a TSP written Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (102).

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## Waste Treatment Lagoon (359)

**Practice Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | Limited Resource       |
| Manure Management | NWQI                   |
| RCPP-Managing Poo | Socially Disadvantaged |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Livestock related resource concerns must be present during the evaluation period.
- An approved, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is required **BEFORE** providing FA or TA assistance on any animal waste management structure when the operation meets the definition of an Animal Feeding Operation (AFO).
- Modification to existing structures is only acceptable when the existing structure meets NRCS designs and standards.

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## Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer | Limited Resource       |
| MRBI             | NWQI                   |
| Pooling Areas    | Socially Disadvantaged |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- Anytime a WASC OB is planned and contracted, the fields draining into the WASC OB must be planned so that soil loss does not exceed the soil loss tolerance (T). RUSLE2 reports, before and after, must be in the case file for documentation of soil loss.
- Required companion practices: Underground Outlet (620)

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## Water Well (642)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Farmer       | Limited Resource |
| Manure Management      | MRBI             |
| NWQI                   | Organic          |
| Pooling Areas          | SEKESH           |
| Socially Disadvantaged |                  |
| Wildlife               |                  |

### **Practice Program Guidance:**

- EQIP eligibility for water system developments are limited to operations where poor livestock distribution is resulting in resource degradation or where livestock are being excluded from a stream, wetland or pond currently being used as a watering source.
- A resource concern, that addresses better livestock distribution, must be evident (resource concern cannot be due primarily to over-stocking).
- When grazing distribution is the resource being addressed, Prescribed Grazing (528) will be contracted. A prescribed grazing plan is required that includes both the KY Graze worksheet and the Prescribed Grazing (528) Job Sheet.
- When water quality is the resource concern being addressed, Prescribed Grazing is not required to be contracted.
- Payments are not authorized for livestock water systems installed in confined livestock operations, loafing lots or barn lots
- When ranking and contracting springs and ponds, the pipe, tank, fence (ponds), seeding, and mulching (if needed) will be ranked, contracted, and paid separately.
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - Only authorized when excluding livestock from an existing water source.

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## Watering Facility (614)

**Practice Lifespan:** 20 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Farmer  | Limited Resource       |
| Manure Management | MRBI                   |
| NWQI              | Organic                |
| Pooling Areas     | RCPD-Managing Poo      |
| SEKESH            | Socially Disadvantaged |
|                   | Wildlife               |

### Practice Program Guidance:

- EQIP eligibility for water system developments are limited to operations where poor livestock distribution is resulting in resource degradation or where livestock are being excluded from a stream, wetland or pond currently being used as a watering source.
- A resource concern, that addresses better livestock distribution, must be evident (resource concern cannot be due primarily to over-stocking).
- When grazing distribution is the resource being addressed, Prescribed Grazing (528) will be contracted. A prescribed grazing plan is required that includes both the KY Graze worksheet and Prescribed Grazing (528) Job Sheet.
- When water quality is the resource concern being addressed, Prescribed Grazing is not required to be contracted.
- These are planning considerations and are decisions which can only be made by the producer and conservation planner at the time of the field evaluation.
- A payment is authorized only for permanently installed tanks or waterers.
- Payments are not authorized for livestock water systems installed in confined livestock operations, loafing lots or barn lots
- **Required Companion Practices: Heavy Use Area (561) use the *Rock or Gravel on Geotextile* payment scenario.**
- **When planning in the Wildlife Initiative or Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative:**
  - Only authorized when excluding livestock from an existing water source.

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## Wetland Creation (658)

**Practice Lifespan:** 5 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|          |      |
|----------|------|
| MRBI     | NWQI |
| SEKESH   |      |
| Wildlife |      |

### **Practice Program Guidance:**

- Shallow water areas and ephemeral pools:
  - KDFWR Biologists shall work with NRCS personnel to identify suitable sites and develop designs for shallow water areas and ephemeral pools. NRCS is responsible for planning, designing, layout, and certification of this practice.
  - Payment should be based on the footprint (i.e. area of disturbance) to create the EP or SWA.
  - Required companion practices: Critical Area Planting (342), Mulching (484)

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## Woody Residue Treatment (384)

**Practice Lifespan:** 10 Years

**Eligible Under:**

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Forestland              | SEKESH   |
|                         | Wildlife |
| RCP-CP-Cerulean Warbler |          |

**Practice Program Guidance:**

- For natural disasters, KDF or a private consulting forester must have inspected the site and recommended the practice for consideration to alleviate current and future forest health.
- Utilize the *Chipper/shredder on-off site* scenario when resulting biomass from other cultural treatments (ex: Brush Mgt (314) will create a wildfire hazard or impede future follow-up treatments.

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## **Forestland Initiative**

### **Purpose**

Kentucky forests include over nine million acres of privately owned woodland. It is critically important that wise forest management be practiced to help preserve this significant, renewable, natural resource. A properly managed forest not only provides increased value in timber resources. It also serves to improve and protect water quality, create outdoor recreational opportunities, sequester more carbon from the atmosphere, enhance wildlife habitat, and increase overall aesthetics of the property. The 2008 Farm Bill placed increased emphasis on non-industrial private forestland with specific funding earmarked for forest related practices. This emphasis is continued through the 2014 Farm Bill. This initiative will focus on practices that will improve forest health; promote proper forest management; landowner education of the resource base.

### **General**

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- Have a forest stewardship plan, forest management plan, or compatible document prepared by a forestry professional, for all acreage included in the EQIP contract.

### **National Issues**

Refer to general guidelines when answering the national EQIP questions.

### **State Issues**

Questions 1a-1d are self-explanatory, only answer yes to these questions when the practice(s) to be installed with EQIP funds will address that specific concern/question.

Question 1e – Only answer yes when the participant has a current Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act Plan or a Forest Stewardship/Forest Management Plan (CAP 106) that includes the Best Management Practices (BMP) or land use they are requesting financial assistance for.

### **Local Issues**

The answers to local issue questions must be based on the applicant's forest plan prepared by a forestry professional.

### **Application Evaluation**

Applications will be screened using the *Forestland Initiative* screening tool to determine the ranking priority prior to full evaluation. All eligible High applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative.

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## **High Tunnel System Initiative**

### **Purpose**

Through the High Tunnel System Initiative, NRCS will assist producers to extend the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. The initiative has the potential to assist producers in addressing resource concerns by improving plant quality, improving soil quality, reducing nutrient and pesticide transport, improving air quality through reduced transportation inputs, and reducing energy use by providing consumers with a local source of fresh produce.

### **General**

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- Supporting practices offered under this Initiative must be used in conjunction with a high tunnel system.
- The High Tunnel System (325) practice will be capped at \$10,000 per contract for non-Historically Underserved (HU) applicants and \$11,500 per contract for HU applicants.

### **National Questions**

- Question 2c and 2d – Always answer “No” for a High Tunnel System application.
- Question 5a – Always answer “Yes” for a High Tunnel System application.

### **State Questions**

- Question 2 – This only applies to plants that would not typically be grown in the region such as peanuts or exotic flowers.

### **Local Questions**

- Self-Explanatory

### **Application Evaluation**

All eligible applications will be screened using the *High Tunnel System Screening Tool*. All eligible High priority applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative.

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## **Manure Management Initiative**

### **Purpose**

Through the Manure Management Initiative, Kentucky NRCS will assist Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) to manage waste generated by their livestock. The objective of this Initiative is to address water quality resource concerns created by the waste generated from AFOs. By offering financial assistance to construct storage facilities, this Initiative will improve water quality resources by providing waste storage during the winter months when the field conditions are not optimal for spreading waste. In addition to waste storage facilities, this Initiative will offer financial incentives for producers to spread the waste generated by their operations according to the recommendations in their Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

### **General**

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- 1) Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- 2) The applicant's operation must meet the Environmental Protection Agency's definition of an AFO. EPA considers operations that meet the following two criteria to be AFOs:
  1. Animals have been or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period, and
  2. Crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility
- 3) The applicant must have a CNMP written that meets the most current NRCS Nutrient Management conservation practice standard criteria. The CNMP must have been written by an NRCS certified Technical Service Provider.

### **National Questions**

- See the general guidelines section for guidance on answering national ranking questions.

### **State Questions**

- Self-Explanatory

### **Local Questions**

- Self-Explanatory

### **Application Evaluation**

All eligible applications will be screened using the *Manure Management Screening Tool*. All eligible High priority applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative.

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## **Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative (MRBI)**

### **Purpose**

Through the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and our partners work with producers and landowners to implement voluntary conservation practices that improve water quality, restore wetlands, enhance wildlife habitat and sustain agricultural profitability in the Mississippi River Basin. Kentucky MRBI Focus Watersheds include the Red River, Southeast Lower Green River, Central Lower Green River and Upper Buck Creek. Core and supporting practices offered through MRBI have been established based on the natural resources being targeted in each watershed across the State.

### **General**

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- To be eligible for MRBI-EQIP the majority (50% or greater) of the treatment unit must be within an approved watershed (ArcGIS layer should be used to determine MRBI approved watershed boundaries).
  - Red River Watershed - 05130206
    - Parts of Logan, Simpson and Todd Counties
  - Southeast Lower Green Watershed - 05110005
    - Parts of Henderson, Daviess, McLean, Hopkins and Webster Counties
  - Central Lower Green Watershed - 05110005
    - Parts of Daviess, McLean, Hopkins Webster and Henderson Counties
  - Upper Buck Creek Watershed - 05130103
    - Parts of Lincoln, Rockcastle, and Pulaski Counties
- ALL MRBI contracts must include at least one of the applicable core practices, or must be completing a conservation system that supports core practices that are documented as already applied on the land under contract. Core and Supporting practice designations are shown in the EQIP Ranking Tool after the MRBI fund account and corresponding practices are selected from the drop down lists.
- No application will be considered for funding if it does not meet all eligibility requirements by the end of the application period (512.22).
- All CAP applications submitted under the MRBI Initiative must have the Application Type "Planning" and **will** be ranked using the Application Evaluation Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts.

### **National Issues**

Refer to general guidelines when answering the national EQIP questions.

### **State Issues**

State questions vary throughout the different MRBI watersheds. They are self-explanatory, but may require the use of web soil survey or other GIS layers available in the EQIP ArcGIS layer file.

### **Local Issues**

All questions are self-explanatory

### **Application Evaluation**

All eligible applications will be screened using the *MRBI Screening Tool* to determine funding priority prior to full evaluation. All eligible high and medium applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative.

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## National Water Quality Initiative

### Purpose

Through the EQIP National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), NRCS will assist producers with addressing high-priority water resource concerns in small watersheds with streams or water bodies in one or more of the following categories:

1. *Impaired* – A stream or water body documented to be impaired and identified on a State’s 303(d) list of impaired waters as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
2. *Threatened* – A stream or water body with water quality data documenting an impairment, but does not have a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan and is not listed on the 303(d) list of impaired waters as designated by the EPA.
3. *Total Maximum Daily Loads* – A stream or water body that has been on EPA’s 303(d) list of impaired waters, but may have been removed because there is a TMDL plan for implementation.
4. *Critical* – A stream or water body upstream of an impaired segment, which is determined by the STC to be a significant contributing source of the downstream impairment for a stream in one or more of the three categories above.

### General

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- All CAP applications submitted under NWQI must have the Application Type “Planning” and must be ranked in the appropriate watershed fund account.
- ALL NWQI contracts must include at least one of the applicable core practices. Core and Supporting practice designations are shown in the EQIP Ranking Tool after the NWQI fund account and corresponding practices are selected from the drop down lists.
- The majority of the offered acres (50% or greater) must be included in one of the three watersheds identified in Kentucky which includes:
  - Lower Kentucky – Mocks Branch – HUC 051002050506
    - Boyle County and parts of Mercer
  - Lower Kentucky – Clarks Run – HUC 051002050505
    - Boyle County
  - Lower Kentucky – Cane Run – HUC 051002050507
    - Parts of Boyle, Garrard and Mercer Counties

### National Issues

Refer to general guidelines when answering the national EQIP questions.

### State Issues

Core and Supporting practices designations are shown in the EQIP Ranking Tool after the NWQI fund account and corresponding practices are selected from the drop down lists.

| Question | Guidance for Answering   |
|----------|--|
| 1-4      | Self-explanatory   |
| 5        | Must be applying practices in the Avoiding, Trapping and Controlling categories that address the resource concerns identified to be “primary”. Reference Eligible Practices below and Approved Primary and Secondary Resource Concerns listed below. |
| 6        | Only consider core conservation practices that are being applied. Use soils data from Web Soil Survey or ArcGIS.   |

### Local Issues

All Self-explanatory

## **Application Evaluation**

All eligible applications will be screened using the NWQI National Screening Criteria Worksheet. All “High” and “Medium” priority applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative. We will not fund “Low” priority applications.

### **Approved Resource Concerns**

#### **Primary Natural Resource Concerns:**

|   |
|---|
| Water Quality Degradation   |
| Water Quality Degradation   |
| Nutrients in Surface Water  |
| Excessive Sediments in Surface Water  |
| Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water |

#### **Secondary Natural Resource Concerns:**

|   |
|---|
| Water Quality Degradation   |
| Nutrients in Groundwater  |
| Salts in Groundwater  |
| Salts in Surface Water  |
| Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Groundwater |
| Pesticides in Groundwater   |
| Pesticides in Surface Water   |
| Elevated Water Temperature  |

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Fish and Wildlife        |
| Inadequate Habitat-Water |

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## On-Farm Energy Initiative

### Purpose

The On-Farm Energy Initiative is designed to assist producers in two ways:

- 1.) Identify ways to conserve energy on their farms through an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) conservation activity plan (CAP), also known as an on-farm energy audit.
- 2.) Provide assistance to implement various recommended measures through the use of conservation practice standards offered through this initiative.

### General

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- All CAP applications submitted under the On-Farm Energy Initiative must have the Application Type “Planning” and **will** be ranked using the Application Evaluation Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts in the On-Farm Energy fund account.
- Applicants wishing to apply eligible practices must have an AgEMP prepared by a NRCS certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) that recommends and calculates the energy savings of the practices they wish to apply for.

### National Issues

Refer to general guidelines when answering the National EQIP questions.

### State Issues

| Questions | Guide for Answering   |
|-----------|---|
| 1         | Self-explanatory  |
| 2 & 3     | Require data from an Energy Audit. If the applicant does not have an energy audit then these questions must be answered “no”.   |
| 4         | Refers to whether core and/or supporting practices will be included in the contract. All of the practices Kentucky chose to offer under this Initiative are considered core practices.  |
| 5         | Requires the use of the Energy Cost Efficiency Worksheet. This worksheet is located on the Programs page of the KY SharePoint site in the EQIP 2017 folder. You will need to use data from a completed Energy Audit to populate the estimated energy cost efficiency value. |

### Local Issues

Self-explanatory

### Application Evaluation:

All eligible applications will be screened using the *On-Farm Energy Screening Tool* to determine ranking priority. **All eligible High and Medium priority applications will be ranked in ProTracts.**

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## Organic Initiative

### Purpose

NRCS helps certified organic growers and producers working to achieve organic certification install conservation practices for organic production.

### General

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22. Producer must be transitioning to become a USDA-Certified Organic producer or already be USDA-Certified Organic to participate in this initiative.
- Producers will be required to submit an EQIP Organic Initiative Self Certification Worksheet and abide by the terms set forth in that worksheet concerning their organic status (Certified, Exempt or Transitioning). Prior to receiving any EQIP payments, the producer must prove that they are abiding by the terms set forth in the self-certification worksheet for the organic category they self-certified in.
- **7 CFR 1466.24 EQIP Payments. (c) Payments for conservation practices related to organic production to a person, joint operation, or legal entity, directly or indirectly, may not exceed in aggregate \$20,000 per year or \$80,000 during any 6-year period**
- All CAP applications submitted under the Organic Initiative must have the Application Type "Plan-Organic" and **will** be ranked using the Application Evaluation Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts under the Organic Transition fund account.

### National Issues

Refer to general guidelines when answering the national EQIP questions.

### State Issues

Questions are self-explanatory.

### Application Evaluation

All eligible applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this Initiative. The use of a screening tool is not authorized for this Initiative.

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## Southeast Kentucky Early Successional Habitat Initiative

### Purpose

The purpose of the Southeast Kentucky Early Successional Habitat Initiative (SEKESH) is to establish fish and wildlife habitat on private agricultural land and nonindustrial private forestland in a highly forested area of the State with a large potential for early successional habitat improvement. Many wildlife species either depend on or greatly benefit from areas of young forest in proximity to older more mature forest stands. However, early successional habitats are generally lacking within the initiative area. Emphasis will be placed on forest stand improvement practices with the objective of creating or maintaining early successional forest habitat to benefit a suite of wildlife species.

### General

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Applications will only be taken in the following counties:

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Bell      | Lee        |
| Boyd      | Leslie     |
| Breathitt | Letcher    |
| Carter    | Lewis      |
| Clay      | Magoffin   |
| Elliott   | Martin     |
| Estill    | Menifee    |
| Floyd     | Morgan     |
| Greenup   | Owsley     |
| Harlan    | Perry      |
| Jackson   | Pike       |
| Johnson   | Rockcastle |
| Knott     | Rowan      |
| Knox      | Whitley    |
| Laurel    | Wolfe      |
| Lawrence  |            |

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- Where wildlife is a primary objective, ponds may only be fenced in conjunction with pipeline and tank installation when livestock are being excluded from a stream or wetland currently being used as a water source
- Activities shall be planned and performed in accordance with all requirements under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and with regard for all species and habitats identified under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- If trees will be removed or harvested as a result of practice implementation, removal must be planned to ensure that the Indiana Bat is not affected according to the KY Guidance Document for ESA Compliance. Activities involving tree removal or harvesting shall be performed according to agreed programmatic consultation avoidance measures for the Indiana bat.
- Invasive species should be addressed using the Herbaceous Weed Control (315) and Brush Management (314) and any other facilitating practices.

## **Management Guidelines for Land Under an EQIP Initiative Contract**

### **Grazing Management**

- If grazing will occur on land under contract, the acreage should be managed according to a NRCS prepared prescribed grazing plan and detailed job sheet.
- Native grasses shall have an ending grazing height of not less than 8 inches.
- Grazing of native grasses under contract shall be deferred between September 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> unless a grazing plan detailing how the area shall be grazed to maintain habitat during this period is developed by an NRCS grazing lands specialist.

### **Mowing/Haying Requirements**

- During an establishment period for native grasses, top clipping can be done as needed for weed control from May through August as recommended by an NRCS conservationist, biologist or KDFWR biologist for two years after planting. Clip high as possible but no closer than 8 inches.
- After establishment and during the practice lifespan, native grasses can only be mowed once annually between August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 15 with a minimum mowing height of 8 inches. This mowing requirement ensures good nesting, brood rearing and winter cover is present on wildlife acres.

### **Native Grass Seed Harvest**

- Native grass seed may be harvested once a year between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>. Seed harvest must be done using equipment that strips the seed head from the stem and does minimal disturbance to the vegetative structure.
- Forb seed harvest is not allowed on stands under contract.

## **National Issues**

Refer to general guidelines when answering the national EQIP questions.

## **State Issues**

Self Explanatory

## **Local Issues**

Self Explanatory

## **Application Evaluation**

Applications will be screened using the *Wildlife and SEKESH Initiatives* screening tool to determine the ranking priority prior to full evaluation. All eligible High priority applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this Initiative.

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## **Wildlife Initiative**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Wildlife Initiative is to help participants develop fish and wildlife habitat on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land in Kentucky. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop or enhance upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

### **General**

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- Where wildlife is a primary objective, ponds may only be fenced in conjunction with pipeline and tank installation when livestock are being excluded from a stream or wetland currently being used as a water source
- Activities shall be planned and performed in accordance with all requirements under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and with regard for all species and habitats identified under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- If trees will be removed or harvested as a result of practice implementation, removal must be planned to ensure that the Indiana Bat is not affected according to the KY Guidance Document for ESA Compliance. Activities involving tree removal or harvesting shall be performed according to agreed programmatic consultation avoidance measures for the Indiana bat.
- Invasive species should be addressed using the practices Herbaceous Weed Control (315) and Brush Management (314) and Tree/Shrub Establishment (612).

## **Management Guidelines for Land Under an EQIP Wildlife Initiative Contract**

### **Grazing Management**

- If grazing will occur on land under contract, the acreage should be managed according to a NRCS prepared prescribed grazing plan and detailed job sheet.
- Native grasses shall have an ending grazing height of not less than 8 inches.
- Grazing of native grasses under contract shall be deferred between September 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> unless a grazing plan detailing how the area shall be grazed to maintain habitat during this period is developed by an NRCS grazing lands specialist.

### **Mowing/Haying Requirements**

- During an establishment period for native grasses, top clipping can be done as needed for weed control from May through August as recommended by an NRCS conservationist, biologist or KDFWR biologist for two years after planting. Clip high as possible but no closer than 8 inches.
- After establishment and during the practice lifespan, native grasses can only be mowed once annually between August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 15 with a minimum mowing height of 8 inches. This mowing requirement ensures good nesting, brood rearing and winter cover is present on wildlife acres.

### **Native Grass Seed Harvest**

- Native grass seed may be harvested once a year between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>. Seed harvest must be done using equipment that strips the seed head from the stem and does minimal disturbance to the vegetative structure.
- Forb seed harvest is not allowed on stands under contract.

### **National Issues**

Refer to general guidelines when answering the national EQIP questions.

### **State Issues**

Self Explanatory

### **Local Issues**

Self Explanatory

### **Application Evaluation**

Applications will be screened using the *Wildlife and SEKESH Initiatives* screening tool to determine the ranking priority prior to full evaluation. All eligible High priority applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this initiative.

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**RCPP-EQIP Cerulean Warbler  
FY 2015 Agreement**

**Purpose**

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project entitled “Cerulean Warbler Appalachian Forestland Enhancement” was submitted by the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture (AMJV). Collaborating partners include the AMJV, Green Forests Work (GFW), the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The 5-year project was approved in FY 2015, and will utilize financial assistance in FY 2016-2020 through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The project’s primary goal is to enhance forestland in Appalachia for Cerulean Warbler habitat. This RCPP project has a forestland component and a mined land component. The partners hope to improve 12,500 acres of forest habitat on private lands in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland. GFW and the American Chestnut Foundation plan to restore 1,000 acres on formerly mined lands in Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Maryland. They anticipate that almost half of those acres will be in Kentucky.

**General**

Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:

- Applications will only be taken in the following counties:

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| BATH      | LEWIS      |
| BELL      | MAGOFFIN   |
| BOYD      | MCCREARY   |
| BREATHITT | MENIFEE    |
| CLAY      | MONTGOMERY |
| ELLIOTT   | MORGAN     |
| ESTILL    | OWSLEY     |
| FLOYD     | PERRY      |
| GREENUP   | PIKE       |
| HARLAN    | POWELL     |
| JACKSON   | PULASKI    |
| JOHNSON   | ROCKCASTLE |
| KNOTT     | ROWAN      |
| KNOX      | WAYNE      |
| LAUREL    | WHITLEY    |
| LAWRENCE  |            |
| LEE       |            |
| LESLIE    |            |
| LETCHER   |            |

- Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- Activities shall be planned and performed in accordance with all requirements under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and with regard for all species and habitats identified under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- If trees will be removed or harvested as a result of practice implementation, removal must be planned to ensure that the Indiana Bat is not affected according to the KY Guidance

Document for ESA Compliance. Activities involving tree removal or harvesting shall be performed according to agreed programmatic consultation avoidance measures for the Indiana bat.

### **Application Evaluation**

Applications will be screened using the *Cerulean Warbler* screening tool to determine the ranking priority prior to full evaluation. All eligible High and Medium priority applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this Initiative. Use the RCPP-EQIP Ranking Tool to estimate application cost.

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## **RCPP-EQIP Managing Poo** **FY 2015 Agreement**

### **Purpose**

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project entitled “Managing Poo” was submitted by the Kentucky Division of Conservation. Collaborating partners include the University of Kentucky, Kentucky Beef Network, Kentucky Cattleman’s Association, the Kentucky Dairy Development Council and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The 5-year project was approved in FY 2015, and will utilize financial assistance in FY 2016-2019 through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The project’s primary resource concern is water quality, especially concerning nutrient pollution, and the secondary resource concern is soil erosion as it relates to livestock operations. The overall goal is to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads entering waterways from private lands. This project will be available to producers throughout Kentucky, but priority will be given to producers nearing regulatory action for water quality violations and/or producers operating in Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) and National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)-designated focused watersheds.

Funding for conservation practices will come from two main sources. State Cost Share will provide \$500,000 per year for five years (2015 – 2019) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will provide a total of \$1.268 million beginning in 2016 through 2019 (approximately \$317,000 per year.)

### **General**

- Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:
  - Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
- NRCS employees will work with the RCPP partner agencies to make field visits as time permits to prospective applicant’s operations.
  - NRCS will follow planning procedures to recommend practices for addressing resource concerns on the operation.
  - Practices not offered under RCPP-EQIP may be eligible under RCPP-State Cost Share.
- Any operation determined to be an AFO must obtain a CNMP prior to being eligible for waste management practices under RCPP-EQIP. An application for a CNMP can be submitted under RCPP-State Cost Share. CNMPs are not offered under RCPP-EQIP.

### **Application Evaluation**

Applications will be screened using the *Managing Poo* screening tool to determine the ranking priority prior to full evaluation. All eligible High and Medium priority applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this Initiative. Use the RCPP-EQIP Ranking Tool for a list of eligible practices and to estimate application cost.

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**RCPP-Precision Conservation Management**  
**FY 2016 Agreement**

**WE WILL NOT CONDUCT AN EQIP APPLICATION PERIOD FOR THIS AGREEMENT IN 2017.**

**Purpose**

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project entitled “Precision Conservation Management” was submitted by the Illinois Corn Growers Association, other partners and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The 5-year project was approved in FY 2016, and will utilize financial assistance in FY 2018-2020 through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The project’s primary resource concern is water quality. The project will focus on applying Precision Nutrient Management and other cropland conservation practices throughout high intensity cropland areas in Illinois and Kentucky.

Kentucky will receive \$456,000 to install conservation practices in certain Kentucky Counties through this RCPP-EQIP agreement.

**General**

- Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:
  - Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
  - The majority of the applicant’s operation must be within one of the following Counties:

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Carlisle  | Henderson |
| Christian | Hickman   |
| Daviess   | Logan     |
| Fulton    | McClean   |
| Graves    | Todd      |

**Application Evaluation**

Applications will be screened using the *Precision Conservation Management* screening tool to determine the ranking priority prior to full evaluation. All eligible High priority applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this Initiative. Use the RCPP-EQIP Ranking Tool for a list of eligible practices and to estimate application cost.

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## **RCPP-Overgrazing on Horse Farms** **FY 2016 Agreement**

### **Purpose**

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project entitled “Overgrazing and Soil Degradation on Horse Farms” was submitted by the University of Kentucky Research Foundation, and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The 5-year project was approved in FY 2016, and will utilize financial assistance in FY 2017-2020 through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The project’s primary resource concern is soil degradation. The project will focus on providing financial assistance to educate horse owners about utilizing a prescribed grazing plan to decrease the effects of overgrazing on the environment. Financial assistance will be provided to address resource concerns and to assist producers in adopting a prescribed grazing system for their operation.

Kentucky will receive \$296,909 to install conservation practices in Kentucky through this RCPP-EQIP agreement.

### **General**

- Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:
  - Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.

### **Application Evaluation**

Applications will be screened using the *Overgrazing on Horse Farms* screening tool to determine the ranking priority prior to full evaluation. All eligible High priority applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this Initiative. Use the RCPP-EQIP Ranking Tool for a list of eligible practices and to estimate application cost.

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**RCPP-Ground Cover on Marginal Land**  
**FY 2016 Agreement**

**Purpose**

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project entitled “Seeding Marginal Lands in Eagle and Elkhorn Creek Watersheds” was submitted by the Scott County Conservation District, other Conservation Districts in within the Eagle and Elkhorn Creek Watersheds, and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The 5-year project was approved in FY 2016, and will utilize financial assistance in FY 2017-2020 through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The project’s primary resource concern is soil loss. The project will focus on providing financial assistance to help offset the cost of establishing permanent vegetation on marginal land in and around crop fields that is creating an erosion concern in the Eagle and Elkhorn Creek Watersheds.

Kentucky will receive \$300,000 to install conservation practices in certain Kentucky Counties through this RCPP-EQIP agreement.

**General**

- Participants will need to meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this initiative:
  - Meet all producer and land eligibility as outlined in 515.51, 515.52 and 512.22.
  - The majority of the applicant’s operation must be within one of the following Counties:

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Carroll  | Jessamine |
| Fayette  | Owen      |
| Franklin | Scott     |
| Gallatin | Woodford  |
| Grant    |           |

**Application Evaluation**

Applications will be ranked within ProTracts using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) established for this Initiative. Use the RCPP-EQIP Ranking Tool for a list of eligible practices and to estimate application cost.

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| <b>Account</b>                                     | <b>Account Type</b>      | <b>Fund Code</b> |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|
| FY17 Organic Certified                             | Organic Certified        | 1776F 21 2       |
| FY17 Organic Transition                            | Organic Transition       | 1776F 21 3       |
| FY17 On-Farm Energy                                | On-Farm Energy           | 1776F 21 4       |
| PA 3 Northeast KY - Pastureland                    | Locally Led              | 1776F 21 11      |
| PA 4 Southeast KY - Pastureland                    | Locally Led              | 1776F 21 12      |
| NWQI Mocks Branch                                  | National Water Quality   | 1776F 21 13      |
| NWQI Clarks Run                                    | National Water Quality   | 1776F 21 14      |
| NWQI Cane Run                                      | National Water Quality   | 1776F 21 15      |
| Area 1 High Tunnel System                          | State                    | 1776F 21 1H      |
| Area 2 High Tunnel System                          | State                    | 1776F 21 2H      |
| Area 3 High Tunnel System                          | State                    | 1776F 21 3H      |
| PA 1 West KY-Cropland                              | Locally Led              | 1776F 21 6       |
| PA 1 West KY - Pastureland                         | Locally Led              | 1776F 21 7       |
| PA 2 Central KY - Cropland                         | Locally Led              | 1776F 21 8       |
| PA 2 Central KY - Pastureland                      | Locally Led              | 1776F 21 9       |
| Beginning Farmer                                   | Beginning Farmer/Rancher | 1776F 21 BE      |
| CAP General  | Planning                 | 1776F 21 CG      |
| MRBI-Central Lower Green                           | MRBI                     | 1776F 21 CL      |
| CAP General - CNMP                                 | Planning                 | 1776F 21 CN      |
| Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative | Wildlife 5%              | 1776F 21 ES      |
| Forestland   | State                    | 1776F 21 FL      |
| MRBI-Southeast Lower Green                         | MRBI                     | 1776F 21 LG      |
| Limited Resource                                   | Limited Resource         | 1776F 21 LR      |
| Manure Management                                  | State                    | 1776F 21 MM      |
| MRBI-Red River                                     | MRBI                     | 1776F 21 RR      |
| Socially Disadvantaged                             | Socially Disadvantaged   | 1776F 21 SD      |
| MRBI-Upper Buck Creek                              | MRBI                     | 1776F 21 UB      |
| Wildlife   | Wildlife 5%              | 1776F 21 WI      |