Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Kentucky Reference Document
Fiscal Year 2026

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Table of Contents

*Select an item to go directly to that section

- Forward
- Accepting Applications
- HU Criteria
- FY26 Fund Accounts/Categories
- General Guidelines
- Pasture Guidelines
- Crop Guidelines
- Irrigation Guidelines
- Forest Guidelines
- Focused Conservation Projects
- National and Landscape Initiatives
- High Priority and Source Water Protection Practices
- Conservation Planning Activities (CPA), Design Implementation Activities (DIA), and Conservation Evaluation Management Activities (CEMA)
- FY26 EQIP Eligible Practices List

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Forward

This guidance is provided to be used as a supplement to the National Environmental Quality Incentives Program guidance located in Conservation Program Manual 440, Part 530 Working Lands Conservation Program Manual, Subpart R-Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Specifically, this document provides guidance on how to accept and rank EQIP applications. This document will cover current EQIP Initiatives, list current ranking pools and categories, and provide any practice specific programmatic guidance that is in addition to the planning guidance included in the conservation practice standard. The guidance in this document does not replace the planning guidance included in the conservation practice standard.

Conservation planning and assessment of the conservation plan in CD/CART should be completed prior to program ranking.

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Accepting Applications

- Use only the latest NRCS CPA 1200 application form dated December 2025.
- Be sure the applicant completes ALL portions of the application form.
- Signature is very important and should be signed by the decision maker listed on page one of the form. Signature authority should be verified at the time of application if acting on behalf of another individual or entity.
- If an entity verify that the person signing has a current FSA 211, POA; they are listed with signature authority on the CCC-902, or have other legal documents which clearly designate signature authority for the joint operation or legal entity such as corporate charter, bylaws, court orders of appointment, trust agreement, articles of partnership. When in doubt contact your area office.
- Be sure and complete Box 3 on page 1 completely, listing last 4 of the applicant's tax identification number.
- Verify the mailing address is used on page one (1). Farm location, shop, etc. can be listed to the right of the address box in "location". Name should be the person responsible for making decisions on the contract.
- We can only accept electronic signatures on Form NRCS CPA 1200 applications from:
    - Farmers.gov – These undergo eAuthentication
    - OneSpan – this is an agency approved 2-factor authenticated system
- Additional instructions on what documents are acceptable for electronic signature are included in NI 440-319 which is located on the Kentucky NRCS Programs SharePoint under Shared Program Documents.
- Organic participants now self-certify their organic status when they fill out the NRCS CPA 1200. Make sure they select their Organic Certification Status Box 4(d) on the NRCS CPA 1200 application form. Organic producers include those operations that are certified organic, transitioning to organic, or exempt from organic certification.
    - Organic producers who receive ranking preference points or other program-specific benefits because of their status as organic producers agree to implement conservation practices that are consistent with an approved organic system plan. A private or governmental agency, accredited by USDA as a certifying agent, must certify a producer's organic system plan.
- Historically Underserved (HU) categories: We no longer verify HU self-certifications; however, at the time of application we need to provide and explain the definition of each HU category. HU definitions are included on the NRCS-CPA-1200 instructions.

- To receive program-specific HU considerations, participants on the contract must meet, at a minimum, the percentage interest requirements according to the following table.

Table 530C-1: (entities)

HU Category	% interest of HU certifying participant
Limited Resource Farmer (LRF)	100
Beginning Farmer (BF)	100
Socially Disadvantaged Farmer (SD)	50 (NRCS does not recognize gender as a HU category based on statutory authority)
Veteran Farmer	100

HU Category Definitions:

Limited Resource Farmer

- The term "Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher" means a participant:
- With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and
- Who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.
- For LRF, a self-determination tool is publicly available, or producers may request the link from the local NRCS field office.

Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher - Determination Tool (usda.gov)

Beginning Farmer

- To be considered as a Beginning Farmer, the application must be directly involved in the day-to-day management of the farming operation included in the EQIP application.
- Beginning farmer must certify they had no IRS form 1040 farming (income or expense) and they were not directly involved in the day-to-day management of the farming operation in any one of the last 10 years. For Program year 2026, this would be from years 2015 to 2024. (Tax returns not yet filed for year 2025 as of the date of this program for FY 26).

- For nonindustrial private forestland, the applicant must meet one of the criteria below to be considered a Beginning Farmer: not owned any land in the operation for more than 10 consecutive years. OR
    - If owned for more than 10 years, have not had definitive decision-making authority over the land for 10 consecutive years.

Veteran Farmer

To verify eligibility as a VFR, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Released under conditions other than dishonorable during the most recent 10-year period (10 fiscal years); (After 10/1/2016 for FY 2026 program year) or
- Meet the conditions of a VFR as described above AND have a DD Form 214 documenting discharge or release under conditions other than dishonorable (can be from any year).
- For a legal entity or joint operation to be considered a VFR entity, all members must meet the definition of VFR.

Entering Applications into ProTracts and Selecting CART Ranking Pools and Categories:

- Enter participant signed NRCS CPA 1200 into ProTracts. Enter the date the participant signed the NRCS CPA 1200 into the signup date field. This date will default to the date the application is being entered into ProTracts if not manually entered.
- Enter the application type "conventional" for every EQIP application. No other application types should be used.
- All EQIP practices the applicant is applying for will be planned in one Practice Schedule in Conservation Desktop (CD). One CART assessment will be completed on the practice schedule.
- ***IMPORTANT* Category Selection Parameters** - This one assessment will be ranked through the category that most aligns with the majority extent of practice(s) planned. Use the following parameters to select the appropriate ranking pool category:
    - CPA/DIA/CEMA Category
        - Only select this category when the only application in the contract is a CPA/DIA or CEMA
        - Applications that include practices and a CPA/DIA or CEMA should be ranked in the category that most closely aligns with the majority extent of the practices planned.
    - National Initiative Categories (MRBI, NWQI and RPP)

        - If the majority extent of the practices planned fall within an MRBI or NWQI watershed, only select the MRBI or NWQI category.
        - If the applicant meets the requirements for the Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP), only rank the application in the RPP category.
    - Focused Conservation Project (FCP) Categories
        - If the majority extent of practices planned fall within the FCP area and meet the objectives of the FCP, only rank in the FCP category.
    - High Tunnel System
        - If the majority extent of the practices planned align with the construction and use of a high tunnel system, rank in the High Tunnel System category only.
    - Wildlife Category
        - If the majority extent of practices planned are to benefit wildlife habitat, rank in the Wildlife Category only.
    - Forest Health Category
        - If the applicant has a Forest Management Plan and the majority extent of practices planned are to treat a forest health concern, only rank in the Forest Health Category.
    - Irrigation Water Management
        - If the majority extent of practices planned is to address the efficiency of an existing irrigation system, only rank in the Irrigation Water Management Category.
    - Manure Management Category
        - If the majority extent of practices planned is to address a confined feeding operation, and the applicant has a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and Design Implementation Plan that recommends practices, only rank in the Manure Management Category.
    - Energy Category
        - If the majority extent of practices planned is to address energy concerns as recommended in an Ag Energy Audit, only rank in the Energy category.
    - Organic
        - If the applicant self-certifies as certified, transitioning, or exempt organic, only rank in the Organic category.
    - Beginning Farmer and Socially Disadvantaged Category
        - If the applicant self certifies as Beginning Farmer or Socially Disadvantaged, the application must be ranked only in the Beginning Farmer or Socially Disadvantaged category.

    - Work Unit Categories
        - If the majority extent of the practices planned in the application does not fit into any of the other categories, only rank in the appropriate Work Unit category.
- If an application is preapproved in the category that is most applicable to the majority extent of practices planned within the application, then all practices associated with the application will be preapproved for funding. <u>There will be no partially funded applications.</u>
- The Service Center associated to the ProTracts application must match the Service Center associated to the client's CD case file. Do not assign ProTracts applications to a Program Delivery Point.
- Associate the Protracts issued application number with the applicable ranking pool in CART.
- When entering the cost estimate into the CART ranking pool, enter the estimate for all practices being considered across all categories within your Area ranking pool.

FY 2026 EQIP Area Fund Accounts and Categories

Area 1 EQIP Categories
Bowling Green Crop and Pasture
Ohio Valley Crop and Pasture
Pennyrile Crop and Pasture
Purchase Crop and Pasture
Wildlife
High Tunnel System
Irrigation Water Management
Manure Management
Energy
Organic
CPA/DIA/CEMA
Forest Health
Beginning Farmer
Socially Disadvantaged
Livingston and Crittenden Wetland Project
Regenerative Agriculture
MRBI Lower Green
NWQI Canoe Creek

Area 2 EQIP Categories
Elizabethtown Crop and Pasture
Lebanon Crop and Pasture
Shelbyville Crop and Pasture
Somerset Crop and Pasture
Wildlife
High Tunnel System
Irrigation Water Management
Manure Management
Energy
Organic
CPA/DIA/CEMA
Forest Health
Beginning Farmer
Socially Disadvantaged
Beaver Creek-Glasgow
Nolin-Walters Creek
Regenerative Agriculture
NWQI Nolin River

Area 3 EQIP Categories
Bluegrass Crop and Pasture
Foothills Crop and Pasture
Licking River Crop and Pasture
Southeast Crop and Pasture
Wildlife
High Tunnel System
Irrigation Water Management
Manure Management
Energy
Organic
CPA/DIA/CEMA
Forest Health
Beginning Farmer
Socially Disadvantaged
Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat (SEKESH)
Rockcastle River Watershed Project
Fox Creek Watershed Project
Fayette County Seasonal High Tunnel Project
High Tunnels for Future Vegetable Production Project
Season Extension Production Project

Area 3 EQIP Categories continued
Regenerative Agriculture
MRBI Hinkston Creek

General Guidelines

Applies to all EQIP ranking categories, practices and land uses

- No application will be considered for funding if it does not meet all eligibility requirements by the time applications are accepted for funding (530.20). An applicant must be eligible by COB February 20, 2026, to participate in round 1 of EQIP 2026.
- The FY 2026 Payment Schedule will be used when determining the costs for EQIP contracts.
- The RMS level is not required on EQIP acreage, although sound conservation planning is to be provided. Only the practices eligible for 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. All practices under EQIP must meet the Field Office Technical Guide standards and specifications.
- All practices awarded points must 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 planned practices installed in future years of the contract must meet FOTG standards and specifications in place at time of obligation of the participant's contract.
- All practices installed will be maintained as they are designed for the life of the practice.
- For contracts obligated in FY 2023 and beyond, NRCS limits the number of separate payments to a maximum of five for land management practices that address an identified resource concern on the same land unit within the maximum contract length of 10 years. Note: Contracts obligated before FY 2023 were limited to a maximum of three separate payments during the term of a contract, except for cover crops, which had a maximum of five separate payments during the term of a contract to address resource concerns related to soil health.
- 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.)
- EQIP Contract Limits established by regulation:
    - All FY26 obligated EQIP Contracts:
        - $450,000 for a person or legal entity
        - $900,000 for joint operations
- Land or structures under contract or with existing maintenance agreements (PL-566, etc.) are not eligible for EQIP.

- **REMEMBER that you are not to design or build conservation practices above your Practice/Engineering Design Authority** level. You must request specialist assistance as needed.
- Cultural resource reviews should be completed and forward for review as soon as possible; however, a pending CRR DOES NOT STOP obligation. It DOES STOP implementation. It's the field offices' responsibility to make sure the participant is not given a copy of the contract, and it is explained to them that they CANNOT begin installing/implementing practices prior to the completion and determination of the Cultural Resource Review.
- No "new operations to increase or initiate production will be considered for EQIP; however, expanded operations will be eligible if a resource concern is addressed. Ref: 530.403.
- Changes in Land Use – Producers may be eligible for conservation practices and activities that facilitate an environmentally beneficial change in land use if all the following criteria are met:
    - The change results in a higher level of conservation benefit.
    - To ensure the change results in conservation benefit, the applicant may implement a corresponding management practice to ensure the structural or vegetative practices are properly managed.
    - The conservation practices or activities will treat resource concerns associated with the new land use, and without which the planning criteria cannot be met.
- Practices that are eligible in multiple categories within the ranking pool, will be fully funded in the category that is preapproved first in the Select Applications Tool (SAT).

- Practices selected for ranking will be the same as the practices planned in the contract when the participant's application is accepted.
- When answering the ranking questions only answer 'Yes' (award points) for the practices that will be installed using EQIP funds.
- All practices in the contract must be contracted using the least cost payment scenario which addresses the resource concern. Example: If minimum standards and specs require a 3-5 wire fence and the participant would like to install a woven wire fence, EQIP will pay the minimum payment, and any additional costs are borne by the participant.

Pasture Specific Guidelines

- 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 they are adding is capable of being grazed. An exception would be when a boundary fence is being installed on land exiting CRP or where cropland is being converted to pasture. Both exceptions require livestock ownership at time of ranking and practice installation and provide additional grazing acres for existing herd(s) when the planner determines the need for the additional acres to improve resource concerns present.
- All practices installed will be maintained as they are designed for the life of the practice. If livestock is allowed managed access to any practice, it must be done judiciously to prevent degradation of the installed practice.
- When planning conservation practice **382 – Fence**:
    - When planning Interior/Cross Fence (328), 528 Grazing Management must be contracted.
    - When planning woven wire fence, use the nearest comparable payment scenario. For FY26, use *Barbed or Smooth Wire*, *Multi-Strand* as the payment rate and provide the participant with the IR and / or practice specifications for woven wire.
    - Boundary fence (property line fence) or perimeter fence is eligible:
        - On expired or expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land to establish a grazing operation.
            - Marginal pastureland is not eligible for boundary fence when exiting CRP. The incentive of providing financial assistance for boundary fence on land exiting CRP is so that producers have production opportunities that are less intensive than putting the land back into crop production.
        - 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 (530.403C):
                - The change results in a higher level of conservation benefit.

        - The producer will implement a management practice (ex. 528 – Prescribed Grazing) that supports the change in production system.
        - The practices are necessary to address a resource concern that is associated with the new production system.
    - Boundary fence (if eligible based on criteria above) must be installed prior to receiving payment for any other grazing practices being installed within the grazing unit.
    - Exclusion **fence** should be contracted in conjunction with **access control (472)** to treat resource concerns created by livestock. (I.E. forestland, water sources, riparian areas.)
    - When planning virtual fence to facilitate interior grazing distribution, a boundary fence capable of turning livestock must be present OR must be contracted for installation IF the criteria for boundary fence (above) is met.
- When contracting **Heavy Use Area (561)** the following guidelines apply:
    - Heavy Use Areas designed for feeding areas on animal feeding operations (AFO) are eligible for EQIP payments when identified as a component of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).
    - Loafing areas identified as needed in the CNMP are authorized for financial assistance.
    - Curbing on existing concrete slabs are eligible for payment under this practice.
    - Heavy Use Areas will not be under roof unless they are a part of a roofed winter feeding area that will be connected to a Waste Storage Facility (313) and the roofed winter feeding area is included in a CNMP. Roofed winter feeding areas constructed in conjunction with a Waste Storage Facility (313) must be covered using the Roofs and Covers (367) practice standard. Roof Runoff Structure (558) must be planned to manage roof runoff.
    - Heavy Use Area may also be used as a crossing in a Grassed Waterway (412). Use the Rock/Geotextile with site prep payment scenario.
- When planning a **Waste Storage Facility (313)** the following guideline must be followed:
    - For AFOs to be eligible for a <u>dry stack</u> Waste Storage Facility the applicant must have an existing roofed feeding area with a floor that is capable of being scraped or their written CNMP must include the need for a roofed feeding area. The feeding area must be adequately sized for the number of animal units in the participant's Animal Feeding Operation (AFO).
    - <u>Required companion practice for dry stack facilities</u>: Roofs and Covers (367) and Roof Runoff Structure (558)

- Payment for **Access Road (560)** 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.
    - Eligible for EQIP financial assistance if identified as a component of a CNMP.
    - The Technical Area Resource Conservationist will review and concur prior to ranking application.
    - Access Road (560) may be contracted as a supporting practice with Stream Crossing (578) when it is the least cost solution to solve a resource concern related to a sensitive area adjacent to a stream crossing (e.g., sloping floodplain, critical established riparian vegetation). The access road must be the most practical route for vehicle travel that protects the soil, water, fish, wildlife, and other adjacent natural resources. If the stream crossing is used mainly for livestock travel, consider planning Trails and Walkways (575) instead of Access Road (560).
- **Pasture and Hayland Planting (512)** overseeding of legumes is eligible on all soil types to treat plant and animal resource concerns when pasture conditioning score sheet/ planning criteria indicates legumes are needed.
- **Livestock Watering Systems**
    - EQIP eligibility for livestock watering system developments are limited to operations where poor livestock distribution results in resource degradation, where livestock are being excluded from a stream, wetland or pond currently being used as a watering source, or when there is an increase in the management level resulting in:
        - increase in the number of paddocks, complexity or diversity of livestock being grazed in the current grazing system or
        - where livestock are being confined for winter feeding according to the recommendations in a CNMP.
    - Freeze proof hydrants, quick connect couplers, surface pipeline, and portable tanks are only eligible to be contracted if they are a part of an intensive grazing system and Prescribed Grazing (528) is planned with the assistance of and approved by the State Grazing Specialist.
    - Surface pipelines, not associated with an intensive grazing system, may be used in limited situations as described in the 516 standards, if designed and approved by the Area Engineer.
    - Solar Powered Livestock Watering Systems should be planned in consultation with the Tech ARC and the Area Engineer and State Grazing Specialist.

- Livestock watering systems connected to a new water well **may** need an Aquifer Flow Test. Contact your Area Engineer who will work with the State Geologist.
- New Water Well – If an Aquifer Flow Test is needed, do not contract CEMA 224 as the Water Well (642) payment scenarios for a new water well has the Aquifer Flow Test expense included in the payment rate.
- Livestock watering systems connecting to an existing well or increasing the demand on an existing well **may** require an Aquifer Flow Test that meets the Water Well (642), Practice Specification - Aquifer Testing to assess well performance. Contact your Area Engineer who will work with the State Geologist.
- Existing Well (when needed) - Contract CEMA 224 as a supporting activity to 614 along with any other associated livestock watering system practices and add the CEMA 224 to the cost estimate.

➢ **When contracting Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580) the following guidelines apply:**

- **For General EQIP Applications, this practice is eligible ONLY on first (1st), second (2nd), and third (3rd) order streams according to the Strahler Stream Orders of the National Hydrography Data (NHD).** Additionally, this practice is eligible on fourth (4th) order streams when the KICT report shows that federally listed aquatic threatened and endangered species are present. If the KICT report shows that an aquatic species is potentially present, then proceed with the remainder of the guidance as outlined in the report.
  - Exceptions to this guidance may be made on a case-by-case basis as approved by the State Engineer.
  - **Focused Conservation Projects (FCP), whose main objective is streambank restoration, are not limited to working on 1-4th order streams.**
- 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)

Cropland Specific Guidelines

- When planning conservation practice **340 – Cover Crop**
  - The cover crop cannot be harvested for hay or grain.
  - Light grazing is allowed. No more than ½ of the cover crop growth can be removed by grazing livestock.
  - Payments for conservation practice 340 – Cover Crop are limited to a maximum of five separate payments during the term of a single contract on the same land unit.
  - Completed Cover Crops should be certified and paid when NRCS receives the seed tags and bills from the participant to verify that the seed sown meets the Cover Crop practice standard requirements, followed by an NRCS field visit to verify that seeding has been completed either by drill or aerial seeding. DO NOT hold payment until germination or termination of the Cover Crop.

Irrigation Specific Guidelines

- 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. 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.

Forestland Specific Guidance

- EQIP Policy in CPM 440, Part 530, Subpart R states if an EQIP schedule of operations includes forest-related conservation practices or activities on forest land, the participant must implement conservation practices and activities consistent with an approved forest management plan. There are two ways to obtain a forest management plan which meets EQIP planning criteria. More detailed information is included in KB 190 26 04:

1. The participant can pursue a forest management plan written by Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF). New plans written will be to pursue funding in the next signup batching period.
    - Submit a request to KDF using Technical Assistance Request (TAR) Version 6.0 to the appropriate Chief Forester.
    - EQIP application is not required since this plan will not be paid through EQIP.
    - KDF will write the forest management plan and include any practices recommended to address resource concerns on the forestland.
    - Once the plan is written and reviewed by NRCS, the participant can submit an EQIP application to implement eligible practices recommended in the KDF written forest management plan.
    - If selected for funding, KDF is responsible for completing any design work such as marking trees for removal as requested by NRCS on the TAR v6.

2. The participant can submit an EQIP application for a CPA 106 – Forest Management Plan and a DIA 165 - Forest Management Practice Design, which will be contracted together. Encouraged for clients that do not have existing plans prior to current batching period. KDF workloads may not facilitate plans returned to meet specific NRCS deadlines this fiscal year.
    - Do not submit a TAR to KDF.
    - This plan must be written by an NRCS certified Technical Service Provider (TSP).
    - Once the plan is written and reviewed by NRCS, the participant will be eligible for payment through EQIP according to the terms of the EQIP contract.
    - The participant can submit a second EQIP application to implement EQIP eligible practices recommended in the TSP written forest management plan.

        - If selected for funding, the EQIP participant will be responsible for obtaining a forestry professional to complete any design work, such as marking trees for removal. KDF will not design, implement, or certify practices recommended in a TSP written forest management plan.
- It is important to remember that EQIP contracts on forestland are subject to the policy in CPM 440, 530.41, B, (2) which states that planners will schedule at least one conservation practice or activity that the participant must implement within the first 12 months of the contract.
- When contracting **Brush Management (314)** and **Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315)**, National Policy allows application for up to three consecutive years.
- When contracting **Forest Stand Improvement (666)** the following guidelines apply:
    - If invasive "tree" species such as tree-of-heaven or paulownia occur within existing forest stands (regardless of size), planners may choose to utilize FSI (666) to address invasive species within the larger context of a forest management plan. For example, small areas of tree of heaven may be marked for removal alongside other undesirable species during normal FSI.
    - If invasive "shrub" species such as autumn olive or bush honeysuckle occur within existing forest stands, planners should utilize Brush Management (314) and FSI (666) together in the forest management plan to address control issues. When feasible, the initial treatment of these invasive "shrub" species may be treated during the initial FSI (666) planned activity, with additional follow-up treatment through Brush Management (314) for smaller areas of the stand where invasive "shrub" species exist that cannot be controlled with one treatment.
        - **When planning in the Forest Health category:** Prescription plans that call for light treatment thinning of 20 Basal Area (BA) or less per acre are not eligible.
        - Prescription plans that call for treatment of 21-60 BA per acre use the *Forest Thinning for Wildlife and Health* Scenario. Patch clear-cuts are eligible under FSI (666) when recommended in a forest management plan.
    - **When planning for the Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative (SEKESH):**
        - 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. SEKESH participants must remove 40 BA per acre unless a Private Lands Biologist notes on the prescription plan that the wildlife objective was reached with less than a 40 BA per acres removal.

- When contracting **Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)** the following guidelines apply:
  - Practice may be used for rehabilitation of existing logging roads and trails that are creating a water quality resource concern.
  - 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.
- Construction and installation of new roads and trails are not eligible under this practice. T
- The following practice(s) are not eligible on forestland.
  - **Pasture and Hay Planting (512)**

Focused Conservation Projects

Area 1

- **Livingston & Crittenden Counties Wetland Wildlife Initiative**
  - The Livingston & Crittenden Counties Wetland Wildlife Initiative Fund Account is for applicants with land located in Livingston and Crittenden Counties which are within the Wetland Wildlife Focus Area. The objective of this focused conservation project is to maintain, develop and improve wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland dependent wildlife by increasing the length of time crop fields are flooded outside of the growing season.

Area 2

- **Beaver Creek—Glasgow**
  - The Beaver Creek-Glasgow Fund Account is for applicants with land in the Beaver Creek watershed and the sub watersheds of Barren Fork, Racoon Creek, and Swannigan Creek located in portions of Barren and Metcalfe Counties. The objective of this focused conservation project is to address resource concerns caused by agricultural production on cropland, pastureland and forestland. 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.
  - Land within the HUCs below are eligible for this project: 051100020305 & 051100020304

- **Nolin – Walters Creek**
  - Lower Walter's Creek has a high nutrient load as identified by the KY Division of Water. The DOW report has identified several watersheds within the region as impaired due to a high nutrient load. The area contains little industry or urban areas, and the primary concern is non-point source pollution associated with the agriculture in the area. The agricultural operations which can be addressed in this project are both row crop operations and livestock operations located within the watershed. Project area spans the central part of LaRue county, from a proximity of 2 miles south of Hodgenville to Magnolia KY running south to north in flow.
  - Land within the HUCs below are eligible for this project: 051100010903

Area 3

- **Fayette County Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative**

- The Fayette County Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative Fund Account is for applicants with land located in Fayette County. The objective of this focused conservation project is to address the need for fresh, locally grown produce in areas which currently have limited access to fresh produce. High Tunnel Systems will be used to increase the growing season and increase the amount of produce production in urban and rural communities throughout Fayette County. The result will be a stronger local food economy with more fresh produce being marketed to the community.

- **Fox Creek Watershed Special Project**
  - This project will address the removal of dead ash trees which are creating flooding issues along the Fox Creek Watershed.
  - Land within the HUCs below are eligible for this project: Upper Fox Creek: 051001010803, Middle Fox Creek: 051001010804, Lower Fox Creek: 051001010805
- **Rockcastle River Watershed Project**
  - The geographic area of the Rockcastle River Watershed Project is the bounds of the HUC 8 (05130102) Rockcastle River Watershed. The Rockcastle River Watershed contains five 10-digit sub watersheds and twenty-five 12-digit sub watersheds. The objective of this project is to address water quality, forest health, at-risk habitats, terrestrial/aquatic species resource concerns on cropland, pastureland and forestland.
- **High Tunnels for the Future Vegetable Production Focus Project**
  - The High Tunnels for the Future Vegetable Production Focus Project Area are for applicants with land located in Letcher, Perry, and Knott counties. The objective of this focused conservation project is to address the need for fresh, locally grown produce in areas which currently have limited access to fresh produce. High Tunnel Systems will be used to extend the growing season and increase the amount of produce production within the counties. The result will be a stronger local food economy with more fresh produce being marketed to the community.
- **Season Extension Production Initiative**
  - The Season Extension Production Initiative (SEPI) Fund Account is for applicants with land located in the Foothills Work Unit which includes Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Floyd, Greenup, Johnson, Lawrence, Magoffin, Martin, Morgan, Pike and Wolfe Counties. The objective of this focused conservation project is to address the need for fresh, locally grown produce in areas which currently have limited access to fresh produce. High Tunnel Systems will be used to increase the growing season and increase the amount of produce production in the Foothills Work Unit Counties. The result will be a stronger local food economy with more fresh produce being marketed to the community.

National and Landscape Conservation Initiatives

Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI)

MRBI uses a watershed approach and emphasizes conservation systems to address priority natural resource concerns. Kentucky will utilize the following core and supporting practices to address this watershed approach to conservation. Contracts developed under MRBI 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 contracted land.

Core Conservation Practices	Practice Code	Unit	Practice Lifespan (years)1
Access Control	472	Ac.	10
Conservation Cover	327	Ac.	5
Conservation Crop Rotation	Acc328	Ac.	1
Cover Crop	340	Ac.	1
Critical Area Planting	342	Ac.	10
Filter Strip	393	Ac.	10
Grassed Waterway	412	Ac.	15
Nutrient Management	590	Ac.	1
Prescribed Grazing	528	Ac.	1
Pasture and Hay Planting	512	Ac.	5
Residue & Tillage Mgt, No-Till	329	Ac.	1
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	390	Ac.	5

Supporting Conservation Practices	Practice Code	Unit	Practice Lifespan (years)1
Fence	382	Ft.	20
Heavy Use Area Protection	561	SqFt.	10
Livestock Pipeline	516	Ft.	20
Pond	378	No.	20
Spring Development	574	No.	20
Stream Crossing	578	No.	10
Trails and Walkways	575	Ft.	10
Watering Facility	614	No.	10
Diversion	362	Ft.	10
Field Border	386	Ac.	10
Grade Stabilization Structure	410	No.	10
Lined Waterway or Outlet	468	Ft.	15
Mulching	484	Ac.	1

Supporting Conservation Practices	Practice Code	Unit	Practice Lifespan (years)1
Subsurface Drain	606	Ft.	20
Underground Outlet	620	Ft.	20
Water & Sediment Control Basin	638	No.	10

- Lower Green River MRBI is available for applicants within the Lower Green River watershed which covers portions of Daviess and Ohio Counties. The objective of the Lower Green River MRBI project is to address water quality and sedimentation concerns caused by agricultural production in the waterways of the Lower Green River watershed.

Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) included
051100050308
051100050303
051100050302
051100050307
051100050305
051100050304
051100050306
051100050301

- Hinkston Creek MRBI is available for applicants within the Hinkston Creek watershed which includes portions of Bath, Bourbon, Clark, Menifee, Montgomery, and Nicholas Counties.

Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) included
051001020301
051001020302
051001020303
051001020304
051001020305
051001020306
051001020307

National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

NWQI uses a watershed approach and emphasizes conservation systems to address priority natural resource concerns. Kentucky will utilize the following core and supporting practices to address this watershed approach to conservation. Contracts developed under NWQI 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 contracted land.

Core Conservation Practices	Practice Code	Unit	Practice Lifespan (years)1	Avoiding	Controlling	Trapping
Conservation Cover	327	Ac.	5	X		X
Cover Crop	340	Ac.	1	X		X
Critical Area Planting	342	Ac.	10		X	X
Field Border	386	Ac.	10		X	X
Filter Strip	393	Ac.	10		X	X
Grade Stabilization Structure	410	No.	10		X	X
Grassed Waterway	412	Ac.	15		X	
Heavy Use Area Protection	561	SqFt.	10	X		
Nutrient Management	590	Ac.	1	X		
Prescribed Grazing	528	Ac.	1	X		
Residue & Tillage Mgt, No-Till	329	Ac.	1		X	X
Riparian Forest Buffer	391	Ac.	15			X
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	390	Ac.	5			X
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	580	Ft.	20	X		
Waste Facility Closure	360	No.	15	X		

Supporting Conservation Practices	Practice Code	Unit	Practice Lifespan (years)1	Avoiding	Controlling	Trapping
Diversion	362	Ft.	10		X	
Fence	382	Ft.	20	X		
Livestock Pipeline	516	Ft.	20	X	X	
Mulching	484	Ac.	1		X	X
Obstruction Removal	500	Ac.	10		X	
Pasture and Hay Planting	512	Ac.	5	X		X
Pond	378	No.				X
Stream Crossing	578	No.	10	X		
Subsurface Drain	606	Ft.	20		X	
Trails and Walkways	575	Ft.	10		X	
Underground Outlet	620	Ft.	20		X	

Supporting Conservation Practices	Practice Code	Unit	Practice Lifespan (years)1	Avoiding	Controlling	Trapping
Waste Facility Closure	360	No.	15		X	
Watering Facility	614	No.	10	X		
Water and Sediment Control Basin	638	No.	10		X	X

- Canoe Creek NWQI is available for applicants within the Canoe Creek watershed which is included in portions of Henderson County. The objective of the Canoe Creek NWQI project is to address water quality and sedimentation concerns caused by agricultural production in the waterways of the Canoe Creek watershed.

Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) included
051402020402
051402020403
051402020404
051402020405

- Nolin River NWQI project encompasses 31,919 acres in LaRue County, surrounding Hodgenville, KY. The project area's 31,919 acres is split nearly in thirds. Efforts will be focused on improving the two-thirds of the watershed which are dedicated to agricultural production with cultivated cropland (9,314 acres) at 29% of the watershed and hay and pastureland (11,100 acres) at 34%. The majority of the final third is made of up forestland and wildlands (8,669 acres) at 27%.

Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) included
51100010904
51100010905

Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)

The Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) is a farmer-first, outcomes-based approach to conservation designed to return the agency it its core mission, helping people help the land, by addressing whole-farm resource concerns through support for voluntary regenerative agriculture Conservation Plans.

RPP will offer financial and technical assistance through EQIP to promote whole-farm planning and voluntary development of regenerative agriculture conservation plans that are designed to address natural resource concerns. RPP contracts will be a minimum of 5 years.

- Requirements for RPP
  - Whole Farm Assessment: A complete assessment of all resource concerns is required, with the goal of establishing a whole farm plan before the end of the contract period. At a minimum, whole farm plans must meet NRCS planning criteria in the soil and water resource categories.
    - Whole farm extent will be defined based on Program policy:
      - EQIP policy supports a subset of land under control of the customer to be part of the application, therefore, in conjunction with input from the customer the planner will determine the extent of the whole farm. Logical factors such as multiple farming enterprises (row crops, livestock, owned versus leased lands, etc.), or extensive geographical separation of land could determine separate whole farms.
  - Primary Practice: At least one primary practice must be scheduled on one planning land unit (PLU) included in the EQIP application.

Primary Conservation Practices

Code	Practice Name	Crop	Forest	Pasture
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	Y	N	N
330	Contour Farming	Y	N	N
340	Cover Crop	Y	Y	Y
554	Drainage Water Management	Y	Y	Y
511	Forage Harvest Management	Y	Y	Y
666	Forest Stand Improvement	N	Y	Y
449	Irrigation Water Management	Y	Y	Y
484	Mulching	Y	Y	Y
590	Nutrient Management	Y	Y	Y
595	Pest Management Conservation System	Y	Y	Y
528	Grazing Management	Y	Y	Y
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	Y	N	N
345	Reside and Tillage Management, Reduced	Y	N	N
585	Stripcropping	Y	N	N

  - Soil Health Testing: Participants must agree to perform soil health testing in the first and last year of the contract (at a minimum) to establish a starting

baseline and to record the resulting changes. Financial assistance for soil health testing will be available to producers who have not previously completed testing and producers who are already testing their soil health. CEMA 216 must be scheduled in the first and last year of the contract.

Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities

Code	Practice Name	Crop	Forest	Pasture
CEMA 216	Soil Health Testing	Y	Y	Y

FY 2026 EQIP High Priority and Source Water Protection Practices

The following practices will receive a higher payment rate through EQIP.

1. Field Border (386)
2. Stream Habitat Improvement and Mgt. (395)
3. Grassed Waterway (412)
4. Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
5. Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
6. Waste Storage Facility (313)
7. Well Decommissioning (351)
8. Nutrient Management (590)
9. Pest Management (595)

- When these practices are planned in a 2026 EQIP contract, they will be eligible for the High Priority Rate or the Source Water Protection Rate.
- These rate categories are identified on the FY 2026 Kentucky NRCS EQIP Payment Schedule.
- Practice payment scenarios are preceded on the payment schedule with the following identifiers.
    - PR – High Priority
    - WP – Watershed Protection
- Prior to adding the High Priority Rate (PR) or the Source Water Protection Rate (WP) for one of the identified practices in an EQIP contract, the planner will need to identify whether the planned practices will be applied within a Source Water Protection Priority Area (SWPPA) by using the KY SWPPA layer in Conservation Desktop (CD). If the practice is planned within a SWPPA, the planner will select the appropriate practice scenario that is preceded by the WP identifier.
- If one of the identified practices is being planned outside of a SWPPA, the planner will select the appropriate practice scenario that is preceded by the PR identifier.
- The PR or WP payment scenarios must be used when developing the contract cost estimate as well as the final contract item components.
- Always use the HU payment scenario if the applicant self-certified as meeting one of the HU categories regardless of whether the practices planned are high priority or within a SWPPA .

Conservation Planning Activities (CPA), Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities (CEMA) and Design and Implementation Activities (DIA)

- What are CPAs, DIAs, and CEMAs?
  - CPAs, DIAs, and CEMAs are EQIP financial assistance opportunities for participants to hire Technical Service Providers (TSP) or Qualified Individuals (QI) to provide conservation planning, practices designs or implementation instructions, and monitoring or evaluation of conservation measures applied to the land.
- NRCS established three categories of activities to align the TSP/QI assistance with phases of the NRCS conservation planning process.
  1. Conservation Planning Activities (CPAs)
     - CPAs produce conservation plans that document participant objectives, existing resource concerns, and participant decisions regarding conservation practices and activities that will be used to address identified resource concerns. CPAs are:
       - Provided by a Technical Service Provider (TSP) with appropriate certification in NRCS Registry.
       - Consistent with steps 1-7 of the NRCS conservation planning process.
  2. Design and Implementation Activities (DIAs)
     - DIAs produce designs, prescriptions, or other instructions for implementing a single conservation practice, or a system of conservation practices derived from the participant's conservation plan.
     - DIAs are provided by Technical Service Providers (TSP) with appropriate certification in NRCS Registry.
     - DIAs are consistent with Step 8 of the NRCS conservation planning process.
     - DIA scope does not include assistance for conservation practice installation, review, and checkout.
  3. Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities (CEMAs)
     - CEMAs produce results of an evaluation, monitoring, test, or assessment.
     - CEMAs may be provided by Qualified Individuals (QIs). QIs, self-certify they meet qualification criteria stated in a CEMA document. Professional licenses, accreditations, certifications, and experience typify qualification criteria for CEMA QIs. A QI may or may not also hold TSP certification.

        - CEMAs inform the participant and conservation planner about natural resource conditions on the area evaluated.
        - CEMA results can support adaptive management strategies, lead to new and revised conservation plans; and support development of new or revised site-specific conservation practice installation instructions.
        - CEMAs are consistent with Step 9 of the NRCS conservation planning process but may be used at any point in the iterative steps of conservation planning.
- Do CEMAs have to be written by a TSP?
    - No. CEMAs may be written by "qualified individuals" (QIs), who may or may not be a TSP.
    - NRCS does not have a registry or approval process for QIs.
    - The CEMA standards list the requirements for QIs and are specific to each CEMA.
    - The QI is responsible for providing documentation that demonstrates they meet the QI requirements as identified in the CEMA standard.
- Do we contract CPAs, CEMAs and DIAs at the same time?
    - Yes, the national recommendation is that CPA, CEMAs and DIAs can and should be contracted at the same time. We acknowledge that this may result in having DIAs for practices that are never contracted or receive EQIP financial assistance.
    - The participant is not required to implement all practices recommended in the CEMA or DIA. The participant has the design and can consider it for future implementation.
    - The participant should have discussions with the TSP as to which designs they intend to implement so the TSP won't spend time on designs for the DIA for which the participant has no interest.
    - Having a design in-hand should speed up the process for implementation. The participant won't have to go through another funding cycle to get the DIA, nor will NRCS need to provide a design.
    - Another advantage of completing a CEMA and DIA in the same year is if the DIA provides a design for a component or practice for which we currently do not have a Payment Schedule, but other states do (example: Automatic Controller System). The field office and area office can request that the state office add the scenario for next year's EQIP cycle. If approved, the state office adds it so that it can be contracted next year.
- Do we contract DIAs and practices at the same time?
    - No. The DIA is needed to accurately plan practices and create accurate cost estimates for contracting.

    - Once a DIA is obtained from the TSP, the applicant can complete an EQIP application to implement the practices from the DIA they would like to follow through with.
- When determining if an energy practice is eligible for financial assistance, do we compare the energy savings payback to the useful life of the equipment or the lifespan of the practice?
    - There is no specific EQIP policy regarding energy practices needing to meet a specific payback and payback will not be used to establish a condition of eligibility for EQIP or for ranking.
    - Refer to the specific Conservation Practice Standards for guidance on the requirements for each practice. If the practice addresses a resource concern on eligible land and is implemented according to the conservation practice standard, then it is eligible for EQIP financial assistance. (We must also have a Payment Schedule for it to be eligible in Kentucky.)
- An acceptable practice is one which is recommended in an assessment, addresses the resource concern, meets NRCS standards, and that the client has decided is the acceptable alternative.
- Who is going to help with installation and checkout of Energy Practices if a TSP does a DIA, the NRCS or the TSP?
    - NRCS.
    - A DIA is an activity that allows for development of specific practice designs, management prescriptions, or other instructions that allow the participant to implement a conservation practice or system of conservation practices. A DIA is consistent with Step 8 of the NRCS conservation planning process. (The DIA does not include assistance with conservation practice installation, review, and checkout.)
- What if producers/operators have questions about a TSP written CPA and DIA during implementation?
    - For CNMPs a certified CNMP writer should work with the State TSP POC to discuss or even meet with the TSP on site to review the concerns about the CNMP and how to revise, correct or improve the CNMP.
- See the CPA, DIA, CEMA User Reference Document on KY NRCS programs SharePoint for more information concerning ranking and contracting CPAs, DIAs, and CEMAs.

FY 2026 KY EQIP Eligible Practices

Practice Code	Conservation Practice Name	Typical Units	Lifespan
101	CNMP Design and Implementation Activity	no	1
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	no	1
106	Forest Management Plan	no	1
110	Grazing Management Plan - Written	no	1
116	Soil Health Management Plan	no	1
120	Agricultural Energy Design	no	1
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition	no	1
140	Transition to Organic Design and Implementation Activity	no	1
144	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Design and Implementation Activity	no	1
148	Pollinator Habitat Design and Implementation Activity	no	1
157	Nutrient Management Design and Implementation Activity	no	1
158	Feed Management Design and Implementation Activity	no	1
159	Grazing Management Design and Implementation Activity	no	1
160	Prescribed Burning Design and Implementation Activity	no	1
161	Pest Management Conservation System Design and Implementation Activity	no	1
162	Soil Health Management Design and Implementation Activity	no	1
163	Irrigation Water Management Design	no	1
164	Improved Management of Drainage Water Design	no	1
165	Forest Management Design and Implementation Activity	no	1
199	Conservation Plan	no	1
204	Adaptive Management for Soil Health	ac	1
206	Feed and Forage Analysis	no	1
207	Site Assessment and Soil Testing for Contaminants Activity	no	1
209	PFAS Testing in Water or Soil	no	1
216	Soil Health Testing	no	1
217	Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management	no	1
218	Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Assessment	no	1
219	Prescribed Grazing Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity	no	1
221	Soil Organic Carbon Stock Measurement	no	1
222	Indigenous Stewardship Methods Evaluation	no	1
223	Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity Forest Inventory	ac	1
224	Aquifer Flow Test	no	1
226	Waste Facility Site Suitability and Feasibility Assessment	no	1
227	Evaluation of Existing Waste Storage Facility Components	no	1
228	Agricultural Energy Assessment	no	1
313	Waste Storage Facility	no	15
314	Brush Management	ac	10
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	ac	5
316	Animal Mortality Facility	no	15
317	Composting Facility	no	15
325	High Tunnel System	sq ft	5
326	Clearing and Snagging	ft	5

FY 2026 KY EQIP Eligible Practices

Practice Code	Conservation Practice Name	Typical Units	Lifespan
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	ac	1
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	ac	1
332	Contour Buffer	ac	5
336	Soil Carbon Amendment	ac-ft	1
338	Prescribed Burning	ac	1
340	Cover Crop	ac	1
342	Critical Area Planting	ac	10
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till	ac	1
350	Sediment Basin	cuyd	20
351	Well Decomissioning	no	20
355	Groundwater Testing	ea	1
356	Dike	ft	20
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon	no	15
360	Waste Facility Closure	no	15
362	Diversion	ft	10
367	Roofs and Covers	no	10
368	Emergency Animal Mortality Management	no	1
372	Combustion System Improvement	no	10
374	Energy Efficient Agricultural Operation	no	10
378	Pond	no	20
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation	no	15
381	Silvopasture	ac	15
382	Fence	ft	20
384	Woody Residue Treatment	ac	10
386	Field Border	ac	10
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	ac	5
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	ac	15
393	Filter Strip	ac	10
394	Firebreak	ft	5
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	ac	5
396	Aquatic Organism Passage	mi	5
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	no	15
412	Grassed Waterway	ac	15
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	ac-ft	5
422	Hedgerow Planting	ft	15
430	Irrigation Pipeline	ft	20
436	Irrigation Reservoir	ac-ft	15
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	ac	15
442	Sprinkler System	ac	15
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	ea	15
449	Irrigation Water Management	ac	1
462	Precision Land Forming	ac	10

FY 2026 KY EQIP Eligible Practices

Practice Code	Conservation Practice Name	Typical Units	Lifespan
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	ft	15
472	Access Control	ac	10
484	Mulching	ac	1
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	ac	1
500	Obstruction Removal	ac	10
511	Forage Harvest Management	ac	1
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	ac	5
516	Livestock Pipeline	ft	20
520	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment	sf	15
521	Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner	no	20
522	Pond Sealing or Lining - Concrete	cuyd	20
528	Grazing Management	ac	1
533	Pumping Plant	no	15
554	Drainage Water Management	ac	1
558	Roof Runoff Structure	no	15
560	Access Road	ft	10
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	sq ft	10
570	Stormwater Runoff Control	ac-ft	1
574	Spring Development	no	20
575	Trails and Walkways	ft	10
578	Stream Crossing	no	10
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	ft	20
585	Stripcropping	ac	5
587	Structure for Water Control	no	20
590	Nutrient Management	ac	1
591	Amendments for Treatment of Agricultural Waste	ac	1
595	Pest Management Conservation System	ac	1
600	Terrace	ft	10
606	Subsurface Drain	ft	20
608	Surface Drain, Main or Lateral	ft	15
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	ac	15
614	Watering Facility	no	10
620	Underground Outlet	ft	20
629	Waste Treatment Lagoon	no	10
632	Waste Separation Facility	no	15
634	Waste Transfer	no	10
635	Vegetated Treatment Area	ac	10
636	Water Harvesting Catchment	no	20
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	no	10
642	Water Well	no	20
643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	ac	1
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	ac	1

FY 2026 KY EQIP Eligible Practices

Practice Code	Conservation Practice Name	Typical Units	Lifespan
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	ac	1
646	Seasonal Water Management	ac	1
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	ac	1
649	Structures for Wildlife	no	5
654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	ft	10
655	Forest Trails and Landings	ft	5
658	Wetland Creation	ac	20
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning	ac	10
666	Forest Stand Improvement	ac	10
670	Energy Efficient Lighting System	no	10
672	Building Envelope Improvement	no	10
823	Organic Management	ac	1