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Missouri NRCS · Nov 6 FY2027 Farm Deadline

ACEP · CSP · EQIP · Varney River irrigation efficiency

Missouri NRCS Farm Service Deadline: Apply by November 6 for FY2027 Conservation and Irrigation Funding

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Missouri is taking FY2027 ACEP, CSP, and EQIP applications through November 6, 2026 — including a Varney River irrigation efficiency project in Dunklin County.

Missouri farmers and ranchers who want a shot at fiscal year 2027 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) money have a hard date on the calendar. USDA's Missouri NRCS says applications are accepted year-round, but producers who want to be considered in the first FY2027 batch should apply by November 6, 2026.

The October 1, 2026 state news release covers the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Those are the core farm-service tools NRCS uses for land protection, stewardship upgrades, and on-farm resource fixes — including water and irrigation work.

What programs are open

- ACEP: Agricultural Land Easement component helps keep farmland from development. Wetland Reserve Easement component helps protect, restore, and enhance wetlands that were degraded by agricultural use.
- CSP: Helps producers strengthen existing conservation. For FY2027, Missouri will use the ACT NOW process so applications that meet or exceed the state's minimum ranking score can be preapproved faster.

- EQIP: Technical and financial help for resource concerns such as water quality, air quality, soil health, erosion, and related farm needs.

Irrigation and watershed targets in this batch

Among Missouri's targeted EQIP initiatives for this first batching period is the Varney River Irrigation Efficiency Project in Dunklin County (HUC12 080202030604). Other named watershed and wildlife targets include Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) sites across several counties, the National Water Quality Initiative Shoal Creek watershed in Barry and Newton Counties, Working Lands for Wildlife (northern bobwhite quail and monarch butterfly, statewide), organic agriculture, agroforestry, native forage, virtual fence, and several county urban-ag and habitat projects.

NRCS is also pointing producers to the Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) for whole-farm regenerative practices through a single EQIP/CSP application path, and to Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects — including James River Headwaters and Program Restoring & Improving Monarch Ecosystems (PRIME) — with the same November 6, 2026 participant deadline inside those project areas.

How to act

Contact a local Missouri NRCS field office and ask which ranking pool fits the operation. Start at <https://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov>. Bring a clear list of resource concerns (irrigation efficiency, soil, water quality, wildlife habitat, easements). Year-round applications still matter after November 6, but the first FY2027 funding cut looks at who filed by that date.

Source

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service — Missouri news release, publish date October 1, 2026: "NRCS in Missouri Accepting Applications for Conservation Programs." <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/nrcs/missouri/news/nrcs-in-missouri-accepting-applications-for-conservation-programs>

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