Climate-smart fieldscapes – Operational Plan (OP)

Please use this Operational Plan document to create your Operational Plan. Be sure to read all instructions carefully prior to filling out the template.

Important note: your approval to this program is contingent on submitting your Operational Plan by the deadline (March 30, 2025) and receiving approval.

Overview

Your Operational Plan (OP) must be reviewed and approved before implementing any practices. Here's what to expect:

1. Complete and submit your OP with farm information and planned practices
2. Technical team reviews your OP
3. If approved, USDA-required CPA-52 reviews begin (up to 3 months)
4. Sign your contract once all reviews are complete
5. Receive your first payment of $5,000

Step 1: Complete your Operational Plan

Work with your technical assistance provider

- Contact your assigned climate-smart fieldscapes representative (provided in acceptance email)
- Additional technical assistance providers may be consulted, but all plans must meet program requirements

Planning practices

- Include three conservation practices from the approved list
- At least two practices must be new to the field
- Follow NRCS practice standards (available in Canvas under "NRCS Conservation Practice Standards")

Mapping practices

- We recommend using a free mapping tool to plan where the practice will go in your field and plan the specific dimensions (e.g. square feet or square acre)

We recommend using one of these free mapping tools:

LiteFarm (www.litefarm.org)

- Creating an Account & Overview
- Creating Locations
- Exporting Maps

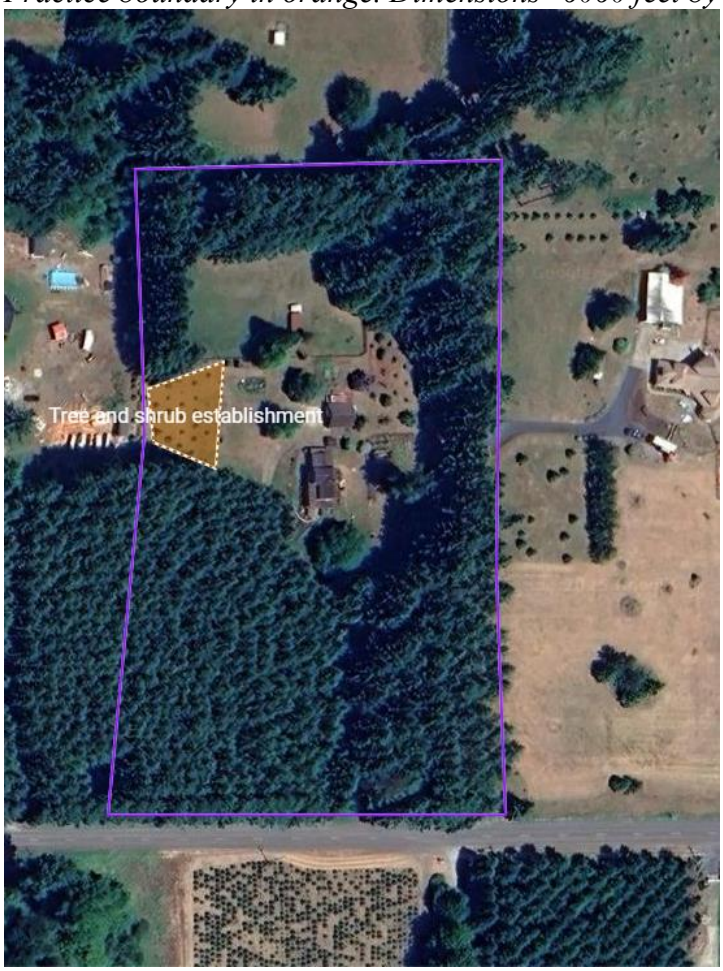
Google My Maps (mymaps.google.com)

- Usage Instructions

Example map

- Below is an example of a practice map created in Litefarm showing where a CPS 612 Tree and shrub establishment practice will be located on a farm

CPS 612 Tree and shrub establishment map
Farm boundary in purple
Practice boundary in orange. Dimensions=6060 feet by 325 feet



Step 2: Submit Operational Plan

- Once you have completed your Operational Plan, please notify your point of contact that it is ready to be reviewed
- Your point of contact will have access to this document link and your folder
- **Important note: The deadline to submit your first draft of your Operational Plan is March 30, 2025**

Step 3: Await approval

- Technical team will review your plan
- You may receive requests for clarification or revision
- Approval notification will be sent once requirements are met

Step 4: CPA-52s (environmental and cultural reviews)

- Missouri NRCS will conduct required CPA-52s, which are environmental and cultural evaluation required by USDA
- Assessment to determine there will be no long-term or short-term negative impacts of a practice implementation on people, their physical or social surroundings.
- Must be completed before practice implementation
- We are not given a specific timeline on how long these will take, but in the past they can take up to three months

Step 5: Sign your contract

- Notification sent to your application email
- Sign contract electronically through FarmRaise dashboard

Step 6: Receive payment 1

- $5,000 payment processed after contract signing
- Paid through University of Missouri
- Allow a few days for processing

Step 7: Follow your Operational Plan

- Begin practices only after contract signing
- Keep OP accessible for reference
- Follow management plans as specified
- Keep in mind that you will need to verify your practices and complete annual reporting survey. To learn more about this, review the Verification Information Table which you can find on our Canvas page.

Ready to start your Operational Plan? Go to the next page!

Farm Information

Producer details

- Name of producer: [redacted]
- Farm name: [redacted]

Contact information

- Email: [redacted]
- Phone: [redacted]
- Farm Address: [redacted]

Technical assistance provider

Please note that we assigned a point of contact for you which we provided in your approval email. Please list that person below. You may also indicate other technical assistance providers you are working with.

- Assigned point of contact: [redacted]
- Additional Service Providers (optional): [redacted]

Go to next page to start planning practices.

Practice 1

Practice type: CPS 327 Conservation Cover

Practice location

Please identify the FSA farm number, tract number, and field number where the practice will be located. Use your FSA farm map as a reference.

FSA Farm#: 5708 **FSA Tract#: 10523** **FSA Field#: 7**

New practice

Is this practice new to this field? As a reminder, at least two of the three practices in your climate-smart fieldscape must be new to that field.

Yes

Cultural resources

Do you know of any cultural resources located on this field? This may include Native American artifacts, mounds, or historic structures.

No

If yes, please provide a description below.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Land use

What is the current land use where the practice will be implemented?

This field is currently an orchard

What is currently or will be produced on this field?

Trees: Apple (15) Peaches (5) Nectarine (3) Cherry (3) Plum (2)

Mapping practice dimensions

Please indicate the size of the area where the practice will be implemented in either square feet or square acres.

19,000 sq ft

We suggest using a free online farm management tool such as LiteFarm or mymaps on google to map where your practice will go and estimate the dimensions. Please see instructions on page 1 (Mapping practices) on how to create a location, put features on a map, and export the map as an image file (either .png, .jpg, or .tif files).

To insert your map image: Select Insert > Pictures > This device >then select the map image file from your device.

Insert map fil



e image below (either .png, .jpg, or .tif files)

Management

What implementation and management practices are required to implement this practice?
This practice will require A soil sample to determine pH, nutrient, and organic matter. Any necessary amendments will be made after light tillage and before the broadcasting of seeds. This area is currently a diversified orchard. Multi-species perennial nitrogen fixing cover crops such as warm and cool season legumes will be preferred. These will add nitrogen to the soil, build biomass and offer pollinator habitat. This area, once established, will not be mowed except around the fruit zones during harvest season.
The project area will be tilled once upon initial broadcasting of seeds.
Species include:
Red clover (cool season) broadcast at a rate of 9.6 pounds per acre
Ladino clover (cool season) broadcast at a rate of 3.4 pounds per acre
Alfalfa (cool season) broadcast at a rate of 11.5 pounds per acre

Purple Praire clover (warm season) broadcast at a rate of 8.2 pounds per acre
Japanese clover (warm season) broadcast at a rate of 7.7 pounds per acre.
A soil sample to determine pH will be taken before planting. According to the results, the soil will be ammended, at an appopriate time, with lime, fertilizer or other needed inputs to ensure the success of the planting.
Broadcasting for cool season seeds will occur in late winter, so that seeds can be stratified for germination over winter. Broadcasting for warm season seeds will occur in late spring when soil temperatures are above 65 degrees.
Depending on the success of initial cover establishment, maintenance broadcasting will occur each year of this project, at appropriate times, to ensure a successful stand of cover crop.
There is no irrigation available in this area.

In the implementation of this practice, will there be excavation of the earth deeper than 10 inches?

No

Will any trees be removed in the process of implementing the planned practices?

No

Will any wildlife habitat be destroyed in the process of implementing the practice? This may include removing plants that provide pollinator habitat for insects like the monarch butterfly.

No

Timeline

What is the expected timeline to complete implementation of practice?
Depending on the practice, this might include:

- *Estimate planting dates, maintenance activities timeline, and harvesting dates*
- *Plan this out as a three-year timeline*
- *Note: not every practice must be implemented in year 1.*

- Depending on approval time, this could happen quickly. A soil sample will be taken within 3 months of approval. Perennial clover cover would best be planted in late winter and late spring following approval. After initial tilling and broadcasting, more broadcasting could occur each season throughout the program to ensure success. Estimated Planting Dates: Winter/Spring 2026-2027

What is the expected timeline to complete implementation of practice?

Click or tap to enter a date.

6/15/2027

Practice 2

Practice type: CPS 380 Windbreak/shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation

Practice location

Please identify the FSA farm number, tract number, and field number where the practice will be located. Use your FSA farm map as a reference.

FSA Farm#: 5708 **FSA Tract#: 10523** **FSA Field#: 7**

New practice

Is this practice new to this field? As a reminder, at least two of the three practices in your climate-smart fieldscape must be new to that field.

No

Cultural resources

Do you know of any cultural resources located on this field? This may include Native American artifacts, mounds, or historic structures.

No

If yes, please provide a description below.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Land use

What is the current land use where the practice will be implemented?

Wildlife area/volunteer windbreak

What is currently or will be produced on this field?

Currently this area is two swaths of volunteer trees/plants that have been left unmowed to create a wind and dust break. In the future this area will be a mix of volunteer trees/plants plus new plantings of trees and shrubs.

Mapping practice dimensions

Please indicate the size of the area where the practice will be implemented in either square feet or square acres.

.3 acres

We suggest using a free online farm management tool such as LiteFarm or mymaps on google to map where your practice will go and estimate the dimensions. Please see instructions on page 1 (Mapping practices) on how to create a location, put features on a map, and export the map as an image file (either .png, .jpg, or .tif files).

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Insert map fil



e image below (either .png, .jpg, or .tif files)

Management

What implementation and management practices are required to implement this practice?

Selective establishment and protection of volunteer plants and planting of shrubs, native perennials, and trees.

The project area is partially in a seasonally wet zone (north sides of both indicated areas) and already has many volunteer cottonwood, sycamore and willow trees established. Because the areas already have a majority of deciduous trees, the majority of large trees to be planted for this

project will be evergreens. In order to bring this area into a zone for regenerative agriculture, species to be planted will be a mix of evergreen trees and understory shrubs, all of which can be used for seasonal floral sales and designs.
Species to be planted include: Short-leaf pine (south faces of project areas). Native to Missouri, prefers sandy loam and well-drained soil.
Loblolly pine (north and middle areas of project area). These pines prefer a moist soil and grow tall and fast, so would do best within the cottonwood/sycamore areas and on the wet side of the project area.
Beautyberry (south faces of project areas). This native understory shrub is also beneficial to wildlife.
Ninebark (intermittent in project areas). This native shrub tolerates a variety of soil conditions.
Rose Mallow (north/wet sides of project areas). This native shrub prefers wet conditions.
Nannyberry Viburnum (south faces and intermittent in project areas). This native shrub will spread and naturalize via root suckers.
Smooth Sumac (intermittent in south faces of project areas). Fall floral interest and beneficial to wildlife.
A soil sample to determine pH will be taken before planting. According to the results, the soil will be ammended, at an appopriate time, with lime, fertilizer or other needed inputs to ensure the success of the planting.
Supplemental water will be given as needed through the use of drip buckets filled by hoses. These can be moved from plant to plant as needed.
Trees and shrubs will be planted with shrubs towards the edges and trees in the middle. Spacing will be determined per species at maturity. The areas that will be planted will be first be cleared of any vegetation, such as grasses or small woody plants, with a weedeater or japanese sickle tool.
Planting will be done using a dibble bar rather than a shovel to avoid excavation and removal of soil more than 10 inches.
There is no livestock in this project area.

In the implementation of this practice, will there be excavation of the earth deeper than 10 inches?

No

Will any trees be removed in the process of implementing the planned practices?

No

Will any wildlife habitat be destroyed in the process of implementing the practice? This may include removing plants that provide pollinator habitat for insects like the monarch butterfly.

No

Timeline

What is the expected timeline to complete implementation of practice?
Depending on the practice, this might include:

- *Estimate planting dates, maintenance activities timeline, and harvesting dates*

- *Plan this out as a three-year timeline*
- *Note: not every practice must be implemented in year 1.*

Native Trees and Plants would be procured each spring and/or fall during the program and added to the shelterbelt zone. Replacement of dead trees or shrubs will be continued until the barrier is functional (90% of the plants surviving with no two adjacent plants missing). In the first year, loblolly pine, rose mallow, viburnum, and smooth sumac will be planted. In the second year, short leaf pine, beautyberry and ninebark will be established. In the third year, areas within the project area with poor survival rates will be replanted with whatever species seems to be most successful in the previous two years.
Monitoring and maintenance would occur at least every six months throughout all three years. Monitoring would include looking for plants that need water, are being out competed, are diseased, or need protection from deer.
Maintenace would include clearing (by hand, hand tools, or weedeater) vegetation (such as grasses) from small trees/shrubs, pruning any dead or diseased branches, and caging if necessary, from deer.

What is the expected timeline to complete implementation of practice?

Click or tap to enter a date.

4/01/2027

Practice 3

Practice type: CPS 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment

Practice location

Please identify the FSA farm number, tract number, and field number where the practice will be located. Use your FSA farm map as a reference.

FSA Farm#: 5708 **FSA Tract#: 10523** **FSA Field#: 9**

New practice

Is this practice new to this field? As a reminder, at least two of the three practices in your climate-smart fieldscape must be new to that field.

Yes

Cultural resources

Do you know of any cultural resources located on this field? This may include Native American artifacts, mounds, or historic structures.

No

If yes, please provide a description below.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Land use

What is the current land use where the practice will be implemented?

Uncultivated meadow

What is currently or will be produced on this field?

Currently this area is an uncultivated meadow with mostly woody plants, and grasses. There are some stands of native grasses and milkweed. There are a few volunteer trees that have been let grow on the edges of this area. Annually, this field has been mowed and burned.

Mapping practice dimensions

Please indicate the size of the area where the practice will be implemented in either square feet or square acres.

14,000 sq ft

We suggest using a free online farm management tool such as LiteFarm or mymaps on google to map where your practice will go and estimate the dimensions. Please see instructions on page 1 (Mapping practices) on how to create a location, put features on a map, and export the map as an image file (either .png, .jpg, or .tif files).

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Insert map file image below (either .png, .jpg, or .tif files)

Management

What implementation and management practices are required to implement this practice?

To establish woody shrubs and trees in this field, management practices would include planting and maintaining seedlings as well as allowing natural regeneration of native species. The purpose of this practice will be to improve plant diversity, create wildlife habitat and food for wildlife and humans, and control erosion, while restoring native plant communities. Woody shrubs would include Rose Mallow, Elderberry, Beauty Berry, Button Bush, and Viburnum. Trees would include Tulip Poplar, Mulberry and Persimmon.

A soil sample to determine pH will be taken before planting. According to the results, the soil will be ammended, at an appopriate time, with lime, fertilizer or other needed inputs to ensure the success of the planting.

Site preparation will include clearing vegetation in the planting area using a weed eater and/or Japanese sickle tool.

To avoid soil excavations and disturbance greater than 10 inches, a dibble bar will be used for planting.

Spacings and placement of seedlings will be determined based on individual site requirements, as well as size at maturity.
Supplemental water will be given as needed through the use of drip buckets filled by hoses. These can be moved from plant to plant as needed.
Planting will be kept clear of vegetation by use of weed eater or hand tools until well established.
Plantings would be monitored for disease, damage or failure and protected from deer if required.
There is no livestock in this project area.

In the implementation of this practice, will there be excavation of the earth deeper than 10 inches?

No

Will any trees be removed in the process of implementing the planned practices?

No

Will any wildlife habitat be destroyed in the process of implementing the practice? This may include removing plants that provide pollinator habitat for insects like the monarch butterfly.

No

Timeline

What is the expected timeline to complete implementation of practice?
Depending on the practice, this might include:

- *Estimate planting dates, maintenance activities timeline, and harvesting dates*
- *Plan this out as a three-year timeline*
- *Note: not every practice must be implemented in year 1.*

Planting would occur each spring or fall depending on specific species and availability of specific seedlings.
Throughout the year plantings would be monitored for success or failure.
Each year failed seedlings would be replanted.
Depending on approval of this project, planting could begin in spring of 2025.

What is the expected timeline to complete implementation of practice?

Click or tap to enter a date.

5/01/2025-5/01/2027