

**Conservation Federation of Missouri
2015 Resolutions**

Committee: Ecology, Environment, Energy & Climate Change

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Promoting the Use of Prairie Strips in Row Crops

WHEREAS, farmers are concerned about soil quality and productivity; and

WEREAS, farmers and landowners understand the importance of keeping soil in place and minimizing erosion; and

WHEREAS, farmers are invested in developing new methods of profitable farming techniques that conserve natural resources and are economical to implement; and

WHEREAS, citizens' priorities include improved water quality for drinking, aquatic species, recreational use, flood control, game and non-game wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, tallgrass prairie is one of the most imperiled ecosystems on earth; and

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri is charged with developing and implementing a Nutrient Reduction Strategy to reduce hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, introducing prairie strips in row crop fields significantly address these concerns; and

WHEREAS, prairie strips at a 10% ratio minimize runoff by 40%, soil loss by 95%, phosphorus loss by 90%, nitrogen loss by 84%; and

WHEREAS, Prairie Strips account for a four-fold increase in plant species, two times the number of bird species, three times the bird abundance and provide habitat for native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, prairie strips provide a source of biomass for biofuel; and

WHEREAS, prairie strips provide a disproportionate benefit (significant benefits at low cost); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled in Jefferson City, Missouri, this 22nd day of March, 2015, use all available means to promote and encourage the use of prairie strips in row crops as an agricultural best management practice.