

**Conservation Federation of Missouri
2014 Resolutions**

Committee: Quail and Quail Habitat

15

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Development of a Native Warm-Season Grass Program for Agricultural Grazing

WHEREAS, native warm-season grasses provide beneficial forage for multiple sectors of livestock production and thus increasing agricultural sustainability; and

WHEREAS, these grasses provide suitable habitat for quail, pollinators, and other grassland wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, native warm-season grasses increase environmental, soil, and water quality; and

WHEREAS, native warm-season grasses provide forage during summer months when other forages have slowed production; and

WHEREAS, this increase in growth provides another option for graziers allowing for the stockpiling of other forages; and

WHEREAS, graziers traditionally become dependent upon other methods of feeding; and

WHEREAS, added warm-season species may lessen or eliminate the need to feed hay; and

WHEREAS, diverse warm-season grass mixtures provide increased benefits to the overall health and growth of livestock; and

WHEREAS, other programs related to the input of warm-season grasses in agricultural areas have been insufficient in deriving response from graziers; and

WHEREAS, increased incentives are needed to improve the response of producers incorporating such forage practices: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 23rd day of March, 2014 encourage the Missouri Department of Conservation(MDC) in cooperation with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and interested non-profit organizations to develop and promote a program with added incentives to already existing cost share programs to cover lost income during establishment, encouraging graziers to incorporate native warm-season grass species into their livestock production strategy.