



Farmers' Resource List: Polk County



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This fact sheet addresses the resources that are available to farmers in **Polk County, Missouri**.

Lincoln University (LU) provides farmers with education on crop production, crop protection, soil fertility, food safety, certified Commercial kitchen, and USDA grants and programs that are available to them to grow their operations, improve their practices, and increase their income. Lincoln University also helps farmers apply for these grants and programs.

University of Missouri (MU) offers in-person and online programming, publications, and information in the following areas: agriculture and environment, business and community, health and safety, and youth and family.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) helps farmers by ensuring a strong safety net through loan programs and insurance policies. FSA programs include Specialty Crops Insurance, Operating Loans, Microloans, Farm Ownership Loans, Guaranteed Loans, Youth Loans, Emergency Farm Loans, and Native American Tribal Loans.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps farmers develop conservation solutions to protect natural resources. NRCS also aids farmers in managing financial risk through diversification, marketing and/or conservation practices of natural resources. They provide farmers with financial and technical

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assistance to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits, and they help farmers enhance their working farms through conservation easements.

Rural Development (RD) provides funding to assist in the development of essential facilities in rural communities afflicted by extreme unemployment and severe economic depression. Funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for public safety and public service. Local food systems may apply for Rural Development funds. Local Food Systems include community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs, and greenhouses. Farmers may benefit from these services with conditions.

Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MO SWCD) carry out Missouri's soil and water conservation programs. The districts provide information and education, financial incentives, and technical support to help farmers reduce soil erosion and protect water resources.

North Central Region Food Safety Modernization Act Training, Extension, and Technical Assistance (NCR FSMA TEATA) provides farmers with information on whether they are required to comply with Produce Safety Rule (PSR). The center also provides farmers who must comply with the rule with information and training on how to comply with the rule, and address farmers' questions and concerns regarding food safety.

Missouri Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (MO-SARE) provides farmers with education on sustainable agricultural practices. It also provides farmers with information and training on how to access funding from Missouri SARE to implement innovative sustainable agricultural practices through farmer/rancher grants or partnership grants.

Table 1: What organization to contact for what service or program

| Service | Services/Programs include but not limited to: |
|---|--|
| Lincoln University Cooperative Extension | Lincoln University Cooperative Extension may be contacted for information on who to contact for what help is needed. Other services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farm need assessment• Variety selection• Soil fertility management• Insect management• Disease control• Bookkeeping• Information on grants and programs that are beneficial to farmers and are available to them• Trainings on farming and sustainability• Training on food safety• Information on Certified Commercial Kitchen |
| University of Missouri Extension | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agriculture and Environment• Business and Community• Health and Safety• Youth and Family |
| Farm Service Agency | This is where farmers can get a farm number for their operations. The farm number is required for all farmers in order for them to benefit from USDA programs, including programs to get high tunnels through NRCS. Other FSA programs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialty Crop Insurance• Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loan Program• Minority and Women Farmers and Ranchers Program• Farm Operating Loans Program• Microloan Program• Farm Ownership Loans• Guaranteed Farm Loan• Youth Loans• Emergency Farm Loans |

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| Service Provider | Services/Programs include but not limited to: | |
|---|--|---|
| Natural Resources Conservation Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ High Tunnel Initiative ◦ Organic Initiative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Landscape Initiative ◦ On-Farm Energy Initiative • Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) |
| Rural Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Food Systems • Community Gardens | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Pantries • Community Facilities |
| Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheet/Rill and Gully Erosion • Irrigation Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient and Pest Management • Sensitive Areas |
| Missouri Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer Rancher Grant • Partnership Grant • Business and Management Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good and easy-to-understand literature on farming sustainably |
| North Central Region Food Safety Modernization Act Training, Extension, and Technical Assistance | Services/Programs include but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide answers to questions regarding who needs to comply with the Produce Safety Rule (PSR) • Provide training to farmers on how to comply with the PSR • Provide answers to questions regarding food safety | |



Who to Contact

Who to contact at Lincoln University

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Who to contact at University of Missouri

Kathryn Drake
Horticulture Field Specialist
kdrake@missouri.edu
(417) 326-4916

Who to contact at FSA

Karen Stillings
County Contact
1333 E Broadway St
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Karen.Stillings@usda.gov
(417) 326-4823

Who to contact at NRCS

Diana Sheridan
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Who to contact at RD

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Who to contact at NCR FSMA TEATA

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Who to contact at MO SWCD

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