

# DSP-3 Practice FAQs

## General

Q: How long does a producer have to meet the 528 Prescribed Grazing Standards?

A: The producer must meet the standard within 3 years of the date of the first contract payment. If a producer puts in a DSP-3.1 pond and gets paid on June 15, 2009 he/she has until June 15, 2012 to meet the 528 standard for the system.

Q: Does the producer have to install the DSP -3 practices in a certain order, such as 3.1 Water Development first then 3.2 Water Distribution and lastly DSP-3.3 Fence?

A: The DSP-3 practices may be installed in any order the producer and grazing system planner feel will work best for that farm.

Q: Does the producer have to attend grazing school?

A: The producer must designate a system operator to attend grazing school. The system operator must attend or have attended grazing school before the contract is submitted to the program office for approval.

Q: How do we figure past funding received for contracts approved prior to March 2, 2009 in the per acre maximums?

A: Contracts approved prior to March 2, 2009 are not considered toward the per acre maximums. Contracts approved prior to March 2, 2009 must be completed prior to approving new contracts; however, dollars received on those contracts are not considered for per acre maximums if for new contracts are approved after March 2, 2009.

Q: Where is heavy use protection in the new DSP-3 practices?

A: Heavy use protection is not listed as an eligible component as in the previous DSP-3 practice. Components included under the DSP-3.2 Water Distribution include gravel, geotextile and 3-6' rock, which may be used for limited access watering on pond and stream sites.

Q: How many years is the maintenance agreement for the new practices?

A: The maintenance agreement is 10 years for the DSP 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 and 5 years for the DSP 3.4 and DSP 3.5. Districts should consider recording maintenance agreements for these practices so if the land is sold the maintenance of the practice is transferred to the new owner of the deed.

Q: Can the landowner have multiple contracts open at one time for the same and/or different DSP-3 practices?

A: Yes. Multiple contracts may be in place for a landowner for these practices.

## Water

Q: If the landowner installs multiple water sources such as a pond and a well, should they be on different contracts?

A: Yes, it will be easiest to manage the contracts if two different contracts are submitted for a DSP 3.1 Water Development. Components for a well and pond are all listed under the DSP 3.1; however, for the ease of review, separate contracts should be maintained.

Q: How many sources of water can be planned per paddock?

A: If water is existing in a paddock no additional water may be cost-shared on. The only exception is for ponds or springs that have an inadequate water supply year round. In those cases an explanation for an additional water source must be provided in a MoSWIMS note.

Q: Can a pump be installed behind a pond under the DSP 3.1 Water Development practice?

A: Yes, a pump may be installed if this is the minimum necessary to provide water from the pond.

Q: Can a well be drilled deeper to supply a house, as well as a grazing system?

A: The well may be drilled to any depth needed for multiple uses; however, the MoSWIMS contract should include only the depth required to supply adequate water to the grazing system.

Q: If installing a pond or well is one livestock watering tank included with the DSP 3.1 Water Development Practice?

A: For wells and ponds a shut-off valve may be installed under the DSP 3.1 but the tanks should be installed with DSP 3.2 Water Distribution practice.

Q: If a DWC-1 Water Impoundment Reservoir is constructed which also supplies livestock water in a grazing system, should it be included in the per acre maximum for DSP 3.1 Water Development?

A: No. The DWC-1 practice is constructed for erosion control purposes and although it may also be used for livestock watering, it is a stand-alone practice with a commission cap of \$10,000.00

Q: When do streams have to be fenced out?

A: All losing streams and streams that have a perennial pool or permanent flow that lie within paddocks served by a water source through DSP-3.2 must be fenced to exclude livestock. DSP-3.2 fence, N472 Livestock Exclusion, WQ10 Stream Protection or N391 Riparian Buffer may be used for exclusion fence along the stream.

Q: How do we know if a stream is losing stream?

A: The following table <http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/10csr/10c20-7J.pdf> show some information on losing streams. If you are unsure about a stream please contact the program office for assistance.

Q: Can the fence needed to exclude streams from the paddocks be cost-shared on?

A: Yes, any stream that is fenced within the grazing system to exclude livestock may be included for cost-share as a deterrent or containment fence.

Q: What can be included under the DSP 3.1 Water Distribution practice when the rural water supply is being utilized rather than installing a well, pond, or spring development?

A: Landowners using rural or city water for grazing system may receive cost-share only under DSP 3.2 Water Distribution practice. Meters and hook-up are not eligible components but the pipeline from the meter to the grazing system may be included under the DSP 3.2.

## **Fence**

Q: A producer has fence surrounding the property to contain livestock but no other fencing. He/she has a pasture adjacent to crop field. One of the fence lines for the DSP 3.3 Fence practice separates the crop field from the pasture. Does this fence line qualify for cost-share assistance?

A: No. Any fencing for a field that contains crops that are mechanically harvested cannot be cost-shared on (this includes hay fields harvested for seed unless these fields are part of the grazing plan).

Q: If a producer has an existing system for cattle and wants to change livestock species to sheep and/or goats, or wants to add a species for co-grazing, can the additional wires needed for the system be cost-shared on?

A: The producer must first bring all existing perimeter fence up to containment specifications under the NRCS 382 Fencing Standard and Specifications at his/her own cost for the new species. Once this has been done, additional enhancements requiring internal fencing may be cost-shared for the new species.

Q: Can a plan to graze woodlands be cost-shared on?

A: Woodland grazing can only be allowed under the following guidelines. Going by some definitions: a Savannah has 10-30% tree canopy with an herbaceous understory (predominantly grasses and forbs); an open woodland has 30-50% tree canopy with predominantly herbaceous understory. Generally, but not always above 50% tree canopy it is considered forest and the understory shifts to more shrubs and vines with some forbs and little grass. One exception to this would be if the landowner was running goats. There would be a substantial amount of browsing for goats even in a wooded area. So unless goats are the species being grazed and the forested area is written in the grazing plan, those acres should not be included in system acres.

Q: How do we determine when barbed wire is the least-cost alternative for the grazing system?

A: If the district board of supervisors determines that fence other than high tensile electric is the minimum necessary for the system, then cost-share can be provided to install other types of deterrent fence. The board's justification must be properly documented in MOSWIMS as a General note type. Districts are encouraged to use the least-cost components.

## **Lime/Seed/Nutrients**

Q: What level of soil fertility do producers need to have before they can sign up for the DSP-3 practice?

A: The only practices that requires the producers to take soil test to meet fertility requirements are the DSP 3.4 Lime and DSP 3.5 Seed. It is highly recommended the planner ask the landowner to do soil tests for planning purposes. The producer must meet the 528 Prescribed Grazing Standards and Specifications at the time of contract application for both practices.

Q: If the soil test shows a requirement of more than 1500lbs of ENM per acre, does the producer have to apply the required amount?

A: The producer must apply the amount of ENM that is required on the soil test up to the minimum of 1500 lbs. of ENM per acre. If the soil test requires more than 1500 lbs. of ENM, the producer may apply up to the requirement if desired to reach the \$50/acre maximum (unless they are following a N590 Nutrient Management Plan where the required amount must be applied).

Q: If a soil test shows a requirement of more than 1500 lbs. of ENM per acre and the producer applies 1500 lbs. of ENM, will this be enough to fulfill the requirement if the producer wants to apply for the N590 Nutrient Management practice?

A: If the producer is following a nutrient management plan under N590 Nutrient Management practice, the entire amount of ENM shown as required on the soil test must be applied to the field/paddock. If the producer only applied 1500 lbs. of ENM under DSP3.4 Lime practice, he/she would apply additional lime as required on the soil test.

Q: If a producer wants to split the lime application can he/she do more than one contract to meet the \$50/acre maximum?

A: Only one contract can be completed per field or paddock that the producer limes. The contract may stay open to allow a split application of lime; however, once contract has been paid on a field/paddock, even if the maximum cost-share amount has not been reached no additional lime may be cost-shared on.

Q: If the 3.5 Seed practice is installed, do all nutrients including lime have to be applied according to the soil test recommendation?

A: Yes. Fertility has to be applied the establishment year and two years following establishment.

## **CMT Map**

Q: What needs to be on CMT map for review for contract submittal?

A: The CMT map should show features existing for the system (fence, water distribution and water sources). Planned features that are included in the MoSWIMS contract should be labeled with the Fiscal Year (FY) of the contract (09 THE fence, 09 well, 09 hydrant etc.). Features in the grazing plan which will be installed in future years should be labeled "future".

Q: Do I need to redraw a CMT map for each DSP-3 contract I submit?

A: No. The same map should be used for all contracts (the map number must be entered in a MoSWIMS note). Careful labeling of existing, planned and future planned components is extremely important.