

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor • Mark N. Templeton, Director

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MEMORANDUM

2011-003

DATE: July 29, 2010

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM: Kurt Boeckmann, District Operations Section
Soil and Water Conservation Program

KNB

SUBJECT: Nutrient and Pest Management Policies

At their July 14, 2010 commission meeting, the Soil and Water Districts Commission revised the policies for the N590 Nutrient Management and N595 Pest Management practices. These practice policies are in effect as of July 14, 2010. With the new policies, operators will be eligible to begin participating in these programs January 1, 2011. The intent of these practices is to demonstrate the importance of developing and following a Nutrient or Pest Management Plan and not repeatedly enrolling operators until they have reached a practice maximum. District boards are encouraged to limit the operators' participation in these programs.

Attached to this memorandum are policy pages (Nutrient-1 to Nutrient-4 and Pest-1 to Pest-3) that need to be added to your current Cost-Share Handbook. It is important to note that the FY12 Needs Assessment should include funds the district anticipates utilizing for the new practice policies. The funding for Nutrient and Pest Management practices will become available with the January Advance Allocation funds.

Some of the notable changes in the N590 Nutrient Management and N595 Pest Management practices include, but are not limited to the following:

N590 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

- N633 Waste Utilization Practice combined with N590 Nutrient Management Practice.
- Reduced rate from \$30.00/acre to \$20.00/acre effective January 1, 2011, for all first time participants in the N590 Nutrient Management Program.
- A contract must be board approved between January 1 – April 15 and prior to any nutrients being applied.
- A nutrient plan must be developed prior to nutrients being applied.



Recycled Paper

- Contract payment can be issued after October 31 or after the crop is harvested, whichever is later.
- New enrolled operators in the N590 Nutrient Management Practice may receive a lifetime maximum of \$10,000 for this practice. Operators utilizing the practice prior to January 1, 2011, are limited to \$13,500 lifetime maximum. This will be monitored with MoSWIMS history reports.
- Operators with a N590 Nutrient Management contract (2nd or 3rd year) under the previous N590 Nutrient Management Policy are eligible for \$30.00/acre. District boards are encouraged to begin paying landowners \$20.00/acre for all contracts after January 1.
- A Nutrient Management Plan for a particular field must be followed in consecutive years. District boards should consider limiting operators from participating in multiple years.

N595 PEST MANAGEMENT

- Reduced rate from \$15.00/acre to \$10.00/acre for all new contracts approved after January 1, 2011.
- A contract must be board approved between January 1 - April 15 and cannot be paid until after October 31.
- New enrolled operators in the N595 Nutrient Management Practice are only eligible for a lifetime maximum of \$5,000 for this practice. Operators utilizing the practice prior to January 1, 2011 are limited to \$7,500 lifetime maximum. This will be monitored with MoSWIMS history reports.
- All acres of the field are considered for the incentive when spot treatments are applied on at least 75 percent of the field.

If you have questions, please contact your district coordinator at the Soil and Water Conservation Program.

KB:tm

Attachments

Policy Effective January 1, 2011

Note: Cooperators with an approved Nutrient Management or Waste Utilization Contract with a termination date of FY 2011 are eligible for an additional payment in FY 2012 in accordance with the prior policies for this practice.

Nutrient Management and Pest Management Resource Concern

N590 Nutrient Management

Purpose

1. Demonstrate the environmental and economic advantages of following a nutrient management plan.
2. Provide operators an incentive to encourage the adoption of new management techniques and/or technologies for applying manure and fertilizer. The definition of operator for the purpose of this practice is any individual farming the land, that has incurred the expenses for the nutrients applied. The operator's name should also be listed on file with FSA as the operator of such land. The contract must contain the name of the legal owner. If an operator is participating, the landowner must complete a "Landowner Signature Authorization" form.

Applicability

Practice may be applied on lands where plant nutrients (commercial fertilizers and/or manure) have been improperly applied and the landowner is utilizing a new approach in the application of nutrients. **The land must be eroding at or below the tolerable soil loss level.**

Specifications

1. The completed practice must meet the NRCS Standards and Specifications for Nutrient Management (590) contained in the Field Office Technical Guide.
2. Items for Contract Payment
 - a. Copies of soil test reports from a MSTA-certified soil testing laboratory, including nutrient recommendations and where those recommendations originated.
 - b. Receipts (fertilizer, lime) indicating the quantity and blending analysis of the fertilizer purchased. The corresponding field numbers must be shown on the receipts.
 - c. Records showing harvest date, yield and any sources of nutrients that will credit or deduct from the nutrient balance (hay feeding, legume crop or cover crop) for the applicable season.
 - d. Copies of the Field Nutrient Balance report generated from Manure Management Planner (MMP) shall be scanned and attached to the contract payment. A copy shall be distributed to landowners with the copy of the contract payment.
 - e. A completed dated, nutrient management plan that documents the safe and effective application of nutrients for crop/hay/forage production.

Policies

1. Contracts must be board approved between January 1 -April 15, prior to application of any nutrients. The Nutrient Management plan must be developed prior to the application of nutrients. Contract payments can be issued after October 31 or after the crop is harvested, whichever date is later.
 - a. **Example 1:** If a contract for cropland is approved on April 1 the contract payment cannot be approved until November 1 of that year. If the nutrients have been applied and yield records for that growing season are complete the operator is eligible for contract payment. Proper documentation is required.
 - b. **Example 2:** If a contract for cropland is approved on April 1 and the crop is harvested on December 15th, the landowner would be eligible for payment after December 15th allowing crop nutrient withdrawals to be accounted for in the nutrient balances. Proper documentation is required.
2. All recommendations must be based on realistic yield goals. Realistic yield goals shall be based on the following criteria:
 - a. Actual yield data collected from the field for five (5) or more years. Ignore highest and lowest years and calculate the mean of the remaining three. Add 10 percent to the mean yield to allow for potential to improve yield.
 - b. Crop yield estimates from county soil survey adjusted by soil-based crop productivity indices.
 - c. County average yield data collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.
3. The complete nutrient management plan must be developed to cover the life of the soil test (four years) prior to the operator signing the initial cost-share contract. The soil test used to develop the plan must be less than 2 years old. The nutrient management plan must be developed based on soil test phosphorus levels, not phosphorus index. The plan must be updated to reflect alternate crops planted and to illustrate the actual withdrawals for the crop/hay/forage produced.
4. Soil test analysis for nutrient status must be performed by a Missouri Soil Testing Association (MSTA) approved laboratory. A current list of approved laboratories may be found at <http://soilplantlab.missouri.edu/soil/mstacertified/htm>.
5. The nutrient applications for each year must be within 10 pounds per acre of the nutrient plan recommendations for N, P, and K. Unutilized P and K is not factored into a nutrient management plan the first year. Yield goals and recommendations can be adjusted to meet economic situations of a landowner, however the plan must be adjusted accordingly in the planning for the next year and nutrient balances must be reflected accordingly.
 - a. **Example:** If a landowner reviews the plan based on soil tests and is not comfortable applying the recommended 120-60-60 then yield goals can be adjusted to reduce the recommended N, P, and K to meet his/her economic situation. All nutrients (N,P,K) should be reduced proportionately when establishing realistic reduced yield goals based

upon the landowner's economic situation. (ie.. Reduce the yield goal on a forage crop from 4 tons per acre to 2 tons per acre.)

6. Nutrient credits from all sources (hay feeding, previous legume crops, etc.) shall be included in the nutrient budget and shall be deducted from amounts of nutrient required.
7. Nitrogen application rates for cool season grasses may be applied at 75% of soil test recommendations.
8. Fertilizer application, according to the nutrient management plan, may be waived if the following criteria are met. Individual nutrient requirement is less than 25 pounds per acre and the total amount of the application less than 50 pounds per acre.
9. Phosphorous and potassium may be applied for future planned crops. This includes all planned row crop, cool season grass and warm season grass rotations. The nutrient budget must indicate a proper balance of P and K at the end of the soil test cycle.
10. If the soil test indicates a need of 600 or more pounds of ENM per acre, the lime must be applied in the first year to be eligible for payment. If more than 1200 pounds of ENM per acre is required, the lime applications can be split between the 1st and 2nd year of the plan. Fields with only rice grown will not have to apply lime according to soil test.
11. A nutrient budget report shall be developed in Manure Management Planner and specify all sources, amount, timing, and method of application for all nutrients both commercial and manure or organic by-products required by the Nutrient Management Standard (590).
12. Nutrient management may be used in conjunction with DSP-3 practices and the N590 Pest Management Practice. Nutrient management practices may be approved on fields were DSL-1, DSL-2 or DSP-2 seeding practices were applied beginning one year after contract payment is approved for the seeding practices.
13. The nutrient management plan for a particular field must be followed in consecutive years.
14. ***Cost-share is authorized for:***
 - a. Incentive payments, following one complete growing season where the operator (including landowner-operators) can produce documentation that the nutrients were applied in accordance with the nutrient management plan and the crop nutrient withdrawals are based on the crop/forage yields.
15. ***Cost-share is not authorized for:***
 - a. Reimbursement for soil testing as a stand alone component.

Maximum State Cost-Share

1. Incentive Payment
 - a. Not to exceed \$20.00 per acre per year for new contracts approved after January 1, 2011.
 - b. Operators are eligible to receive a lifetime maximum of \$10,000 from the N590 Nutrient Management practice. District boards should consider limiting operators to participation for multiple years. The definition of operator for the purpose of this practice is any individual farming the land (listed as the operator in the FSA office) and incurring the expense if pesticides need to be applied.

2. Utilize the Practice Limits Detail report in MoSWIMS to ensure compliance with applicable maximums.

Map Requirements

A map that displays the completed practice must be scanned and attached as a “Map Document” in MoSWIMS prior to contract payment submission.

Technical Responsibilities

Technical staff has the responsibility for determining the need for the practice, for design of the practice based upon the minimum extent necessary, and to certify that the completed practice meets NRCS standards and specifications within commission policy.

Acres Served

Acreage treated by nutrients.

Extent Installed

Acres.

Maintenance Life

This practice is completed upon contract payment therefore the contract will not have a maintenance life.

Policy Effective January 1, 2011

Note: Cooperators with an approved Pest Management contract with a termination date of FY 2011 are eligible for an additional payment in FY 2012 in accordance with the prior policies for this practice.

Nutrient Management and Pest Management Resource Concern

N595 Pest Management

Purpose

To minimize entry of chemical contaminants to ground and surface water by following a pest management plan. The pest management plan will assist the operator in determining whether, when, and how an application of pesticides (herbicide, fungicide, insecticide) should occur for the crop. The definition of operator for the purpose of this practice is any individual farming the land that incurred the farm operating expenditures. The operator's name should also be listed on file with FSA as the operator of such land. The contract must contain the name of the legal owner. If an operator is participating, the landowner must complete a "Landowner Signature Authorization" form.

Applicability

Practice may be applied on cropland/hay land/pastureland where pesticides have been inappropriately managed.

Specifications

1. The completed practice must meet NRCS Standards and Specifications for the Pest Management (595) contained in the Field Office Technical Guide.
2. Items for Contract Payment
 - a. Receipts for the pesticide applied. The corresponding field numbers must be shown on the receipts.
 - b. A record of scouting dates and times, treatment application rates, dates and times for each field under contract.

Policies

1. Contracts must be board approved between January 1- April 15, prior to application of any treatments. Contract payments can be issued after October 31.
2. Spraying of fence rows is not eligible for payment.
3. All acres of the field included in the pest management plan are eligible for incentive when spot treatments are applied on at least 75% of the field.
4. A pesticide application on the crop/forage must be planned in order to qualify for the Pest Management incentive. Biological controls are not considered pesticide treatments.
5. N590 Nutrient Management and N595 Pest Management can be utilized on the same fields in the same year.

6. Cropland – **A crop needs to be planted to participate in this incentive.*

- a. As a minimum, crop scouting will require field visits and written reports by a trained individual (preferably a Certified Crop Advisor, CCA) during critical periods such as pre-plant, post-plant, mid-season, high risk pest infestation periods, and post-season. ALL crop fields receiving payment must be scouted a minimum of four times.
- b. To be eligible for the pest management incentive, the pest management plan must indicate that a chemical application is planned for the crop. If proper scouting indicates that an application does not need to be made, the operator is still eligible for the incentive.
- c. Incentive payments are not authorized when only mechanical or biological pest control practices are planned.

7. Grassland/Hay Land

- a. To be eligible for participation in the Pest Management incentive, the Cool Season and Warm Season Grass fields must meet either the Forage Harvest Management (511) or the Prescribed Grazing (528) specification in the FOTG.
- b. A pest (weeds, fungus, insects etc.) inventory from the previous crop should be available before the pest management plan is developed.
- c. May be used in conjunction with a DSP-3 Planned Grazing System during the maintenance life of the practice.
- d. A pest inventory must be done pre and post chemical application.

8. Cost-share is authorized for:

- a. Incentive payments, following one complete growing season of an established pest management plan. This period begins with the board approval of the contract and continues through the growing season. For the purpose of cost-share, at a minimum the growing season will encompass the timeframe of April 15 – October 31.

Example: A contract must be approved by the board by April 15, and the contract payment cannot be approved prior to October 31 of the same calendar year.

9. Cost-share is not authorized for:

- a. Utilization of any cost-share program to re-establish legumes in cool season or warm season grass fields receiving the pest management incentive. The operator should be informed that he or she would incur the entire expense to reestablish legumes in their cool season or warm season grass stands.

Maximum State Cost-Share

1. Incentive Payments

- a. Not to exceed \$10.00 per acre per year. The lifetime maximum an operator can receive from this practice is \$5,000.
- b. The operator does not have to participate in consecutive years. District boards should consider limiting operators to participation for multiple years. The definition of operator

for the purpose of this practice is any individual farming the land (listed as the operator in the FSA office) and incurring the expense if pesticides need to be applied.

2. Utilize the Practice Limits Detail report in MoSWIMS to ensure compliance with applicable maximums.

Map Requirements

A map that displays the completed practice must be scanned and attached as a "Map Document" in MoSWIMS prior to contract payment submission.

Technical Responsibilities

Technical staff has the responsibility for determining the need for the practice, for design of the practice based upon the minimum extent necessary, and to certify that the completed practice meets NRCS standards and specifications within commission policy.

Acres Served

Acreage treated by the pest management plan.

Extent Installed

Acres.

Maintenance Life

This practice is completed upon contract payment therefore will not have a maintenance life.

