



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor • Sara Parker Pauley, Director

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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### MEMORANDUM

2012-017

DATE: December 27, 2011

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM: <sup>KS</sup> Ken Struempf, District Operations Section  
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: **Grazing Management Certification Testing**

The program is continuing to provide opportunities for professional development, which allow district staff more opportunities and responsibilities in the delivery of the state cost-share program. This effort will assist with maintaining outstanding service to Missouri landowners. One of the many professional development opportunities that will be offered is Grazing Management Certification. Achieving this certification acknowledges that staff possesses the skill set to properly plan and design grazing systems. This certification allows district staff to certify DSP 3.1 (Grazing System Water Development – Wells Only), DSP 3.2 (Grazing System Water Distribution), DSP 3.3 (Grazing System Fence), DSP 3.4 (Grazing System Lime), and DSP 3.5 (Grazing System Seed).

Lincoln University has been contracted to develop certification criteria. In order to fully test the aptitude for grazing certification, Lincoln University has developed a four-part test. The test will be composed of the following:

- A written test to illustrate understanding of grazing principles.
- A plan and design for a stock water pipeline delivery system. The NRCS Missouri Pipeline Design spreadsheet will be provided for the exercise.
- An in-field exercise where participants will determine a landowner's needs, desires, and available resources. Participants will use the knowledge acquired from the in-field exercise to design a workable grazing system for the landowner.
- A forage and animal balance exercise for development of the grazing plan. The NRCS Graze4 spreadsheet will be available for this exercise. Other suitable tools may be used to complete the pipeline design and forage and animal exercises.

This certification will be available to all district staff who have passed the District Technician II baseline test and work for a district that has spent funds in the Grazing

Management Resource Concern within the last year. Compensation associated with the Grazing Management certification has yet to be determined. For this initial training, the Board of Supervisors may only request one eligible employee (already certified as a Technician II) attend. Space will be available for a maximum of 10 technicians for this first test. In the event that more than 10 technicians apply to take the test, priority will be given to those technicians from districts that have shown the greatest need for grazing management through the Needs Assessment and through completion of grazing contracts.

The first scheduled date for the grazing management certification is January 18 and 19, 2012. Testing will be conducted at Lincoln University's Carver Farm. Participants will need a pencil, pen, calculator, and notepad to take the test. Please bring appropriate clothing and footwear for the in-field exercise. **These will be closed book tests, so staff will not be allowed to bring any reference material to take the test.**

The approximate schedule for the test is as follows:

**Day 1**

12:00 – 2:30 Written examination  
2:30 – 3:00 Break  
3:00 – 5:00 Pipeline design exercise

**Day 2**

8:00 – 11:00 Field exercise at farm  
11:00 - 12:00 Lunch (on your own)  
12:00 – 4:00 Prepare and submit grazing management plans

The employee or the district will be responsible for making the hotel reservations. Lunch will not be provided during the testing, but there will be an hour break for lunch to allow the attendees to go out for lunch. The program office will reimburse the district for the employee's expenses to attend the session, which includes all meals, and mileage. The hotel cost for the evening of the first day of testing will be reimbursed for those staff that the board feels are not within a reasonable travel distance. The district will need to incur the expenses in local funds and submit the documentation with the next quarterly report to receive reimbursement. For the hotel cost, the district will be reimbursed up to \$79.00, which is the state government rate that the program pays for lodging in Cole County. Some of the local hotels in Jefferson City are:

Truman Hotel 573-635-7171, Super 8 573-636-5456, Holiday Inn Express 573-634-4040, Days Inn 573-761-3600, and Best Western 573-635-4175. Please make your room reservations early, as during this time of year, the hotels book quickly in Jefferson City.

All SWCDs  
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Please contact Lori Bax at [lori.bax@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:lori.bax@dnr.mo.gov) to register for the testing so that Lincoln University will know the number of technicians planning to attend for preparation purposes. Please send the technician's name and county. Your county will be notified of the acceptance/non-acceptance of the registration.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeremia Markway, Soil and Water Conservation Program, PO Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-01765, by email at [jeremia.markway@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:jeremia.markway@dnr.mo.gov) or by phone at 573-522-3159.

KS:jmd

