

MEMORANDUM

2012-024

DATE: April 2, 2012

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM: *Ken* Ken Struempf, District Operations Section
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: Grazing Management Certification Testing

The Soil and Water Conservation Program has contracted with Lincoln University to develop a grazing certification test. Lincoln University has recently held two testing sessions on January 18-19, 2012 and February 29 to March 1, 2012. A number of district technicians have taken advantage of this opportunity during these sessions. Lincoln University has notified the program that a third testing session will be held April 25th and 26th to accommodate individuals interested in becoming a certified grazing planner. The compensation structure for the grazing management certification has yet to be determined.

As a reminder to prepare for the grazing certification test, Lincoln University has developed a four-part session to fully test the aptitude of our grazing planners. The test will be composed of the following parts:

- A written test to illustrate understanding of grazing principles.
- A plan and design for a stockwater pipeline delivery system. The NRCS MOPipeline 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.

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

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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).

The grazing certification process is available to all district staff who have passed the Baseline Conservation Practice Certification (District Technician II) test and work for a district that has shown interest in the Grazing Management Resource Concern through the FY 13 Needs Assessment. Space will be available for 20 technicians for this test. All individuals interested in taking the exam must register for this particular session. In the event that more than 20 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 Board of Supervisors may only request attendance for one eligible employee (already certified as a Technician II) per session, to allow as many districts to send staff as possible.

Again, the next scheduled date for the grazing management certification is April 25 and 26, 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. The program office will reimburse the district for the employee's allowable 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 with the next quarterly report to receive

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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.

Please email Lori Bax at lori.bax@dnr.mo.gov with your signed and completed registration form by April 13th, so that Lincoln University will know the number of technicians planning to attend for preparation purposes. Your county will be notified of the acceptance/non-acceptance of the registration for this testing session.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeremia Markway, at the Soil and Water Conservation Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-01765, by email at jeremia.markway@dnr.mo.gov or by phone at 573-522-3159.

KS:jmd

Attachment

Grazing Management Certification Test Registration

Name _____

Job Position _____

County _____

Test(s) you need to take (please check)

Written exam _____ Forage and Livestock Balance exercise _____

Pipeline design exercise _____ Grazing system design _____

Board Approval:

I, _____, _____ of the
(Name of Supervisor) (Position on Board)

_____ SWCD, approve of
(County)

_____ attending the Grazing
(Employee's Name)

Management Certification Testing at Lincoln University on _____
(Date of testing)