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NATURAL RESOURCES


Michael L. Parson, Governor

Carol S. Comer, Director

MEMORANDUM 2019-017

DATE: May 29, 2019

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM:  Colleen Meredith, Director
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) N340 Cover Crop Practice Policy Variance

The Soil and Water Districts Commission approved two variances to the N340 Cover Crop Practice for FY19 contracts at their May 7, 2019 meeting

For districts that are impacted by flooding by the Mississippi and Missouri rivers listed in Governor Parson's federal disaster declaration, which was approved by the president on May 20th, the Commission granted a variance to the no-till requirement. The variance allows landowners or operators to till fields where silt and sand deposits need to be incorporated or to smooth flood scouring. If the field is tilled prior to planting the production crop, the payment can still be made on the FY19 cover crop contract. The districts this variance applies to are: Andrew, Atchison, Buchanan, Carroll, Chariton, Holt, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Platte, Ray and Ste. Genevieve.

The second variance the Commission granted is a statewide variance. Current policy allows payment to be made after the production crop is no-till planted into the cover crops or after May 25th if the production crop has not yet been planted, but will still be planted. The Commission granted a variance to the requirement of the production crop being planted and is allowing payment on any FY19 cover crop contract if the production crop is not planted this growing season due to wet field conditions. It is not required that the cover crop is terminated, however it cannot be harvested for grain or seed. The variance to allowing haying at cover crop termination for FY19 was made by the Commission at their July 27, 2018 meeting and applies to FY19 contracts. Fields that cannot be planted are eligible for cover crops in FY20 as long as the \$20,000 lifetime maximum for the practice has not been exceeded.

If you have any questions about the variances, please contact your district coordinator. Thank you.

CM:ts



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