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NATURAL RESOURCES


Michael L. Parson, Governor

Carol S. Comer, Director

**MEMORANDUM
2021-003**

DATE: July 23, 2020

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM:  Jim Plassmeyer, Environmental Program Manager
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: Grazing School Requirement for DSP Grazing System Practices

During the June 23, 2020 Soil and Water Districts Commission's meeting, the commission evaluated the grazing school requirement variance they adopted during the April 17, 2020 meeting. The commission approved a new motion changing the April 17, 2020 variance for the DSP Grazing System Practices.

The approved motion is "to change April 17, 2020 variance allowing payment to be made without system manager attending grazing school. The system manager will be expected to attend a grazing school within a year once schools are rescheduled. In the event, the system manager does not attend grazing school within one year of grazing school being reinstated. The contract recipient shall pay back 100% of the cost-share funds."

The commission stated districts need to make sure the variance is explained to landowners who are eligible for it to ensure they understand what is required of them. The commission suggested an acknowledgement be signed by the landowner. An acknowledgement form is attached that needs to be signed by the landowner and a board member and attached to the contract(s) in MOSWIMS as "Supporting Documentation".

When submitting the contract for approval, the response to the qualifying criteria question about attending grazing school needs state no one has attended and who is anticipating attending. It is the district's responsibility to ensure that landowners who use this variance are notified when grazing schools are scheduled and the system manager attends.

If you have any questions, please contact your district coordinator.

Enclosure

**Grazing System Policy Variance
Acknowledgement**

I, _____ acknowledge I am using the Soil and Water Districts Commission's variance to their grazing system practices policies of not requiring the system manager to attend an approved grazing school provided by the University of Missouri and NRCS prior receiving payment on my state cost-share contract number(s) _____.

Furthermore, I understand that the system manager for my grazing system must attend a grazing school within a year of the schools being scheduled in my grazing school region or 100% of the cost-share funds will have to be repaid to the Department of Natural Resources – Soil and Water Conservation Program.

Landowner

Date

SWCD Board Member

Date