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**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Eric R. Greitens, Governor


Carol S. Comer, Director

**MEMORANDUM**

**2018-007**

DATE: December 14, 2017

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM:  Colleen Meredith, Director  
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: N312 Beef and Small Ruminant, N595 Pest Management, and N590 Nutrient Management Policy Updates

During the November 27, 2017, Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting, the Commission made changes to practice policies following the recommendation of the Current Practices Committee. The policy changes will be effective for contracts funded with Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 cost-share funds.

The N312 Beef and Small Ruminant Waste Management practice was changed to provide cost-share assistance at 65 percent for the whole barn excluding feed bunk areas and bedding areas of the barn. This change will eliminate the need to separate the footage of roofing and cubic yards of concrete for the waste collection and waste storage areas. Based on evaluation of a few FY2018 contracts, the policy change will provide more cost-share assistance to the producer up to the maximum but there may also be some that will receive less. The design will still need to be submitted with the contract for review.

The Commission approved a couple of changes to the N595 Pest Management Practice. The first change is allowing board approval of contracts until October 1. This change will allow districts to develop a pest management plan and a contract throughout the growing season to address the current pest issue. The growing season for this practice still remains as April 15 – October 31. Later in the growing season, consideration needs to be given to the time of the year and what pest(s) is present, whether or not an application of a pesticide or herbicide will be effective. If an application of a pesticide or herbicide will not be effective to control the pest, then a contract should not be developed. Please remember that the purpose of the practice is to demonstrate the proper application of pesticides by following a pest management plan.



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The other change to the policy is on the re-establishment of legumes. Current policy states that cost-share assistance is not available to re-establish legumes in fields receiving the pest management incentive payment. The interpretation of this policy was that a landowner would never be eligible for cost-share assistance to re-establish legumes after receiving the incentive payment for the practice. The Commission changed the policy to state that cost-share assistance would not be available to re-establish legumes until 5 years after receiving the incentive payment. The 5-year period corresponds with the maintenance life of other commission practices that establish legumes.

A comment was received on the N590 Nutrient Management practice related to the consistency across districts on the verification of applied nutrients when applied following variable rate technology (VRT). Even though this is not a policy change, it was discussed with the practice committee and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff. NRCS has guidance referencing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) but this guidance also applies to state cost-share on how to certify a nutrient management plan when VRT is used to apply the nutrients. This process needs to be used to certify the state practice so that the nutrient budget aspect of the VRT application can be verified. The guidance provided ensures that the nutrients are applied according to University of Missouri-Columbia Extension recommendations. NRCS also developed instructions on how to summarize the grid samples within Excel. The guidance and the summary can be found on the SWCD Intranet at <https://mosoilandwater.land/content/fy-2018-memorandums>.

Please feel free to contact your district coordinator if you have any questions. Thank you.

CM:jpd

Attachments

FY17 VRT Guidance  
Summarizing Grid Soil Sample Data