

Sign-up Period for Fall Seeding and Cover Crops, and Drought Assistance

The Gasconade County Soil & Water Conservation District (GCSWCD) supervisors would like to remind area producers of the deadlines for registering for fall seeding and cover crops. The fall seeding deadline is July 15th and the cover crop deadline is September 15th. The Governor signed a Drought Executive Order 25-05, which became effective on May 31st and will expire on December 1, 2023. The Soil and Water Commission has approved the drought provisions listed below in bold print for areas listed in the D1 or above on the drought monitor.

Those planning to utilize either of these programs is reminded to check with the district office to verify that you qualify. In order to receive cost-share or drought assistance, you must have a Board-approved packet in hand before you begin. Programs include:

- DSL-1, Permanent Vegetative Establishment (Grass Seeding). Landowner assistance is authorized for lime/fertilizer, eligible seed, seeding operation and seedbed prep. Conventional tillage or the no-till method may be used for establishment. Soil tests are required (less than 2 years old) and the fields must be eroding above T (tolerable soil loss factor) either through Sheet and Rill Erosion or Ephemeral Gully Erosion, in order to qualify. Payment is based on 75% of the State Average Cost. Maintenance agreement – 5 years. **DROUGHT PROVISION: A VARIANCE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY DSL-1, DSL-2, DSP-3.5 THAT IS CURRENTLY UNDER THE 5 YEAR MAINTENANCE AND HAS FAILED DUE TO THE DROUGHT. ONE MAY APPLY FOR COST-SHARE TO RESEED, EVEN IF THE 1 YEAR RESEEDING OPTION HAS BEEN UTILIZED. THIS WILL ONLY COVER THE COST OF THE SEED AND SEED DELIVERY AT 75% OF THE STATE AVERAGE COST.**
- N-340, Cover Crop. Applies to cropland acres which are currently in a minimum of a two production crop rotation. The cover crop must be terminated or grazed. The production crop, following the cover crops, must meet a no-till threshold of less than 20 Stir Value. The cover crop must be planned with a minimum of 25 percent grasses. Annual Warm and Cool season grasses and legumes may be utilized. Payment of \$30 per acre for a one to two species planting or \$40 per acre for three or more species. A soil health analysis will be required based on the land capability. After four consecutive years of cover crops, a follow-up soil test will be required. The district will pay up to 75% of the Soil Health test. The landowner must give the District authority to pay the operator for the cover crop, through the landowner authorization form. Lifetime maximum for this practice is \$20,000, no matter which county the operation takes place. **DROUGHT PROVISION: A VARIANCE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE COVER CROP TO BE HAYED FOR FORAGE AND WAIVE THE TWO PRODUCTION CROP ROTATION REQUIREMENT FOR THE NEXT PLANTED PRODUCTION CROP. ANY OPERATOR THAT HAS EXCEED THE LIFETIME MAXIMUM AND WISHES TO HAY THE COVER CROP, MAY RECEIVE UP TO \$30 PER ACRE, REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF COVER CROP SPECIES PLANTED. ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS WILL APPLY, IF APPLICABLE.**
- **DSP-3.1 AND DSP 3.2 – A VARIANCE WILL BE GRANTED TO WAIVE THE GRAZING SCHOOL REQUIREMENT FOR 12 MONTHS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH ONE WATER WELL**

AND ONE WATERING FACILITY. A LANDOWNER MAY UTILIZE THIS VARIANCE ON TWO GRAZING SYSTEMS THAT ARE NOT CONTIGUOUS. ONCE THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN ATTENDED, THE REST OF THE SYSTEM MUST NEED TO BE INSTALLED WITHIN 3 YEARS AND MEET THE 528 GRAZING STANDARD. OTHERWISE, ALL THE FUNDS WILL NEED TO BE REPAYED IN FULL.

- **A VARIANCE WILL BE GRANTED FOR GRAZING ACRES THAT ARE CURRENTLY UNDER MAINTENANCE FOR ACCESS CONTROL. GRAZING WILL BE ALLOWED AS LONG AS THE ESTABLISHED FORAGES CAN WITHSTAND THE GRAZING ACTIVITY. ESTABLISHED PRACTICES THAT FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY ARE N-472 WOODLAND EXCLUSION, WQ10 STRAMBANK PROTECTION, DWC-1 WATER IMPOUNDMENT RESERVOIRS, AND N-391 RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS.**
- **DWC-2 POND CLEAN OUT VARIANCE. ANY POND THAT WAS BUILT WITH STATE COST-SHARE DOLLARS AND IS IN NEED OF CLEAN OUT MAY RECEIVE UP TO \$1,500 PER HALF ACRE (UP TO 2 ACRES) FOR SEDIMENT REMOVAL. THE MAXIMUM COST-SHARE IS \$6,000 REGARDLESS OF THE SIZE OF THE POND. THIS APPLIES WHETHER THE POND IS UNDER MAINTENANCE OR NOT, HOWEVER IT MUST BE BROUGHT BACK TO SPECIFICATIONS. THE 10 YEAR MAINTENANCE WILL BE REINSTATED FROM THE DATE OF PAYMENT.**

If you are interested in any of these practices or have other resource concerns, please do not hesitate to call the office at 573-437-3478 x3.