



Soil and Water Districts Commission
April 17, 2020
Suspension of Attending Grazing School Policy

The Soil and Water Districts Commission during their April 17, 2020 meeting suspended their policy requirement in the DSP 3 grazing system practices that the system operator has to attend a grazing school prior to the district submitting the contract for program office approval, until the grazing schools are reinstated by the University of Missouri Extension and NRCS. The system operator for the contracts approved under the suspended policy will have to attend a grazing school prior to the contract being submitted for payment. The suspended policy allows the soil and water districts to develop a contract with a landowner to setup a grazing system but not make payment on the contract until they attend a grazing school. The action of Commission was in response to the following press release from the University of Missouri Extension and NRCS.

“This following is a temporary policy developed by the State Coordinators of the Missouri Grazing Schools, Selma Mascaro (NRCS) and Craig Roberts (MU Extension).

The 2020 grazing schools in Missouri have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is highly likely that schools will not resume until after May.

The initial postponement is because of Governor Parson’s stay-at-home order, as well as restricted travel and activity for instructors in MU Extension and NRCS. The postponement may continue through May and possibly early summer because of COVID-19 cases projected in Missouri.

The number of cases in Missouri is currently projected to peak in late April or early May. If this holds, cases will plateau then decrease gradually over the months of June and July. Sometime in late May, we can assess the situation and consider re-opening the Missouri Grazing Schools in the summer.

We urge our forage-livestock producers to be patient as we experience this blip in our program. Please consider that the Missouri Grazing Schools are in their 30th year. The program increases the state economy by \$125 million each year and adds jobs to our state. It is a highly effective program, largely because how it is taught—not through a computer, but with hands-on learning and classroom-to-field exercises. We want this prestigious program to remain a prestigious program. So please be patient as we experience this temporary interruption. We are confident that we will be up and running this year, but we do not yet know when. Thank you for your patience.

For more information, please check with your local NRCS or MU Extension office, or contact MFGC at www.mofgc.org, by phone at 573-338-1772, or email ann@mofgc.org. Also check the status on our Facebook page.”