

## 2020 MASWCD RESOLUTIONS

### Resolution #2020-01 Proposed by Osage County SWCD

**Whereas,** the N340 Cover Crops practice requires a soil sample for the Initial Standard Soil Health Package Test to be taken on each field prior to seeding cover crops.

**Whereas,** a second soil sample for the Follow-Up Standard Soil Health test is required for landowners that are still under the lifetime maximum and receiving cost-share on cover crops in a field that had the initial soil health test taken and had cover crops on that field every year in the three years following the initial test.

**Whereas,** these requirements add extra costs to the practice. Producers often have difficulty interpreting the test results. The site sampled is small and often not representative of the entire field. Even though the sampling method is explained, it is unlikely the four samples are pulled correctly each and every time. Producers with average to minimal technological skills and equipment cannot easily provide the information requested on the form. Producers often receive test results a year or more after submission. Comparison of test results to the county average is of little value to the individual producer. Four years of cover crops are unlikely to make a measureable difference in soil health and/or organic matter.

**Whereas,** the N340 Cover Crop practice incentive offers producers a low cost opportunity to try cover crops. The Soil Health test requirement provides minimal benefit when single species cover crops are used to help control soil erosion. Whereas, the N340 Cover Crop practice is a beneficial program for soil and water conservation. The focus should be on the benefits, but the Soil Health test is often perceived negatively because of the problems experienced with the methodology and test results.

**Therefore, be it resolved:** that the Osage County Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors strongly recommends that MASWCD requests the Soil and Water Districts Commission remove the mandatory testing requirements for the N340 Cover Crop practice and make the Soil Health tests an optional practice component for producers who find value in the test results and reports.

*Passed -- Yes - 24 / No - 20*

**Resolution #2020-02**  
**Proposed by Lawrence County SWCD**

**Whereas,** Resolution #2016-05 addressing a proposal that would make portable shade eligible for cost share when incorporated as a component of an existing grazing management system, and

**Whereas,** this Resolution was approved by the MASWCD at the Annual Training Conference and subsequently referred to Program Management which upon their review declined to allow portable shade to be an eligible component for a grazing management system, and

**Whereas,** it is the opinion of the district that this should be reconsidered recognizing the benefits that portable shade provides when integrated with a grazing system and in line with the objectives of the Soil and Water Conservation Program including:

- a) Maintaining water quality as many of the current natural shady areas are typically located adjacent to creeks and drainage ditches that lead to run off of effluents causing the degradation of those waterways and streams, and
- b) Providing for the optimization of the grazing system which during the heat of summer cannot be effectively used to their intended purpose as paddocks without shade are underutilized and lead to overgrazing in paddocks that provide natural shade undermining the objective of the investment put forth by the Soil and Water Program, and
- c) That continued concentration of cattle in natural shaded areas leads to degradation of the soil therefore lacking adequate forage cover allowing then for soil erosion and further impacting water quality during heavy rainfall.

**Whereas,** portable shade with its intent of being mobile, when integrated into a grazing management system will effectively help in overcoming the adverse impacts cited above and will improve the overall management of the investment of SWCD funds

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Lawrence County SWCD Supervisors proposes that MASWCD request the Missouri Program Office and the Missouri Soil and Water Commission to reconsider the eligibility of portable shade for cost share when incorporated as a component of an existing managed grazing system recognizing the benefits that such system provides for the producers and the objectives of the Soil and Water Conservation program.

*Supporting Counties: Lawrence, Stone, Christian, Newton, McDonald, Lewis, Crawford, Pike*

*Passed – Yes - 31/No - 12*

**Resolution #2020-03**  
**Proposed by Lawrence County SWCD**

**Whereas**, developing a strong public relation and educational information program is essential to ensure ongoing public support for the Soil and Water Conservation Program, and

**Whereas**, it is the opinion of districts that this program should be led by the State Program Office to ensure consistency of information for districts throughout the state, and

**Whereas**, through these efforts producers in the state would become more aware of the programs and services offered by the Soil and Water Conservation Program and the benefits that participation can provide in ensuring the preservation of both soil and water quality in the State of Missouri, and

**Whereas**, it is currently the opinion of the districts that there is lacking a focused initiative at the State level to support a budgeted public relation and educational program depriving districts of essential support in developing and maintaining this resource for the producers of this state

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that Lawrence County SWCD Supervisors propose that the Missouri Association of Soil & Water Conservation support & encourage the Missouri Soil and Water Program Office under the direction of the Missouri Soil and Water Commission, to budget resources specifically for the purpose and intent of developing a public relations program and educational outreach initiative.

*Supporting Counties: Lawrence, Stone, Christian, Newton, McDonald, Lewis, Crawford, Pike*

*Passed – Yes - 23/No - 20*