

DATE: September 16, 2013

TO: Missouri Agricultural Education Instructors

FROM: Leon Busdieker

SUBJECT: Missouri Agricultural Skills and Knowledge Industry Recognized Credential

In 2009, the Office of College and Career Readiness implemented a plan to meet requirements of the Perkins IV Act requiring Career Education students completing a program of study to be assessed for Technical Skill Attainment. At this time, all students completing a program of study are required to take a Technical Skill Assessment. As this program has evolved and with the implementation of MSIP 5 Standards, the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation has partnered with the Missouri Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Education section to implement the Missouri Agricultural Skills and Knowledge (MOASK) Industry Recognized Credential (IRC) program. MOASK IRC accomplishes two purposes: 1) Provides for credentialing of students performing at proficient levels on Industry Recognized assessments and 2) Meets Technical Skill Assessment requirements for completers of a program of study.

According to the MSIP 5 Guidelines, an Industry Recognized Credential is a certificate awarded to a student that has completed the required education/training and demonstrated accomplishment of the intended learning outcomes recognized by industry. This industry related certificate must be renewable or stackable through continuing education, apprenticeships, or on-the-job training/work experience. The MOASK IRC meets these requirements, as it is industry related and is stackable as part of a sequence of credentials that can be accumulated over time to build up an individual's qualifications and help them move along their career pathway. Students will be able to receive stackable Industry Recognized Credentials by taking multiple assessments in one pathway or by taking assessments in multiple pathways. However, in order to meet federal Perkins TSA requirements, the MOASK IRC assessments may only be taken by concentrators "A secondary student who has earned three or more credits in a sequence in any Department-approved career education program area." Students may be tested the year they receive their third credit.

The Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources section will approve MOASK IRC sites as in the past, with host sites applying by completing the Host Site Agreement. The only approved TSA events will be those approved as MOASK IRC. Each host site will work with their local county Farm Bureau to verify the rigor of each event and that all minimum requirements were met in the assessment. Missouri Farm Bureau will collect the data from each assessment site and provide local instructors with a report outlining the number of concentrators tested and the number of concentrators scoring proficient. Teachers will verify this report and Missouri Farm Bureau will provide certificates to be distributed to proficient students. It is recommended that instructors invite Farm Bureau representatives to assist in the presentation of these certificates.