



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## **Plant Enhancement Activity – ANM03-Incorporate Native Grasses and/or Legumes into 15% or more of the forage base**



### ***Enhancement Description:***

Establish native grasses and/or incorporate legumes into 15% or more of the forage acres using adapted species and varieties, appropriate seeding rates, and timing of seeding.

**Land Use Applicability:** This enhancement is applicable to pastureland.

### **Benefits**

Enhancing existing pasture by incorporating

establishing native grasses and legumes can:

1. Improve forage quality and quantity
2. Build soil fertility (legumes fix nitrogen in the soil), increase organic matter
3. Increase plant diversity and promote wildlife habitat
4. Provide forage during seasonal slump periods
5. Extend the grazing season
6. Food source for pollinating insects

### **Criteria for establishing Native Grasses and/or incorporating Legumes into 15% or more of the forage acres**

1. A written grazing management plan that outlines specific goals and objectives.
2. Utilize adapted species, seeding rates and seeding dates according to local NRCS practice standards.
3. Prepare site to reduce competition for native grass establishment in accordance with state-specific recommendations.
4. Prepare site for incorporating legumes into existing forages, or establishing legume fields in accordance with state-specific recommendations
5. Determine species composition before and after seeding. Species composition must be 15% or more of native grasses and/or legumes.
6. If legumes are incorporated, a current-year soil test is required. Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test recommendation.
7. Apply appropriate inoculant before planting legumes.

### **Documentation Requirements for establishing Native Grasses and/or incorporating Legumes into 15% or more of the forage acres**

- A written planting specifications plan that meets the criteria identifying:
  - Plant species to be seeded



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- Seeding rates and dates
- Activities to control plant competition
- Site preparations and planting method
- Amounts of fertilizer and lime to be applied
- Map showing locations of planting

**ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT TO ANM03 – INCORPORATE NATIVE  
GRASSES OR LEGUMES INTO 15% OR MORE OF THE FORAGE BASE**

Site preparation and planting should follow the University of Tennessee publication: **Native Warm-Season Grasses in the Mid-South** or similar professional guidance (see below link). Refer to the Alabama NRCS Conservation Practice standard, Pasture and Hayland Planting (512) for additional information on seeding mixtures and rates.

<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/pbfiles/PB1746.pdf>

**ALABAMA SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR THIS ENHANCEMENT**  
**ANM03 – Incorporate Native Grasses and/or Legumes into 15% or more of the forage base**

<b>PRODUCER NAME:</b>				<b>DATE:</b>		
<b>TRACT NUMBER(S):</b>				<b>COUNTY:</b>		
<b>TOTAL PASTURE ACRES (all tracts):</b>						
Field Number (TRACT)	Field Acres	Native Grass Planting Acres	Species to be seeded	Seeding Rate (lb/ac)	Planned Seeding Method	
					Tilled	No-till

Apply Lime and Fertilizer as recommended by a soil test. No nitrogen the establishment year. For NWSG use warm season grasses such as sorghum-sudan grass or pearl millet for crop recommendations. Enter soil test results and amount of nutrient applied. Must meet at least medium levels of P205 and K20.

	FIELD NUMBER (S)	LIME (tons)	N (lbs)	P205 (lbs)	K20 (lbs)
<b>SOIL TEST RECOMMENDATION</b>			<b>0</b>		
<b>NUTRIENT APPLIED</b>					

**NOTES:**

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**The above information accurately reflects the implementation of this enhancement.**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_