

Course Name: Forage Harvest Management - Module	
Course Coordinator: State Grazing Specialist	Course Number: MI0058

Overview: This course emphasizes the full process involved in giving technical assistance to a producer to apply the Forage Harvest Management standard (511). Planning and application details will be covered so participants fully understand this conservation practice standard. An understanding of the main references will also be covered. The participant will be shown how to complete a forage harvest and management plan as part of a conservation plan. This can be given along with the Pasture and Hayland Planting Module and conservation sheet for a full day of training.

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to prepare the participant to be able to independently apply the Forage Harvest and Management standard and write a forage harvest and management plan for customers who choose this practice.

Prerequisites: The following courses or the equivalent in experience as judged by employee's supervisors

- Crops 101
- Forage ID and/or Plant ID - Grasses and Forbs
- Pasture and Hayland Planting Module

Duration: 2 hours of classroom instruction and 2 hours estimated OJT with the first forage and harvest management plan review with: supervisor, watershed agronomy or grazing specialist, experienced conservation planner in forage harvest management systems, or state agronomist or grassland/forage specialist. An optional 2 hours observing harvest of forages on nearby farms including travel time is applicable.

Target Audience: NRCS and conservation partnership employees providing conservation planning and forage harvest and management planning assistance to customers.

Expected Outcomes: The participant at the end of the course and reviewing their first forage harvest management plan with the appropriate experienced NRCS employee will be at the proficiency level 4 - Apply Independently - can perform planning forage harvest management independently unless special problems are encountered.

Resources needed: Classroom with table and chairs for a maximum of 20 participants. Overhead projector, flip chart or dry erase board with appropriate markers, laptop computer with CD drive and computer projector. An optional field experience on harvesting of forages can be done if time of year of the course being offered and arrangements of a nearby farm are achievable.

Outline for: **Forage Harvest Management - Module**

Purpose and Conditions

Selected Forage Quality Terms

General Criteria

A. Stage of Maturity - Tables 1, 2, and 3

B. Moisture Content - Table 4

C. Length of Cut - Table 4

D. Contaminants

Additional Criteria to Improve or Maintain Stand Life, Plant Vigor and Forage Species Mix

A. Stage Of Maturity and Harvest Interval - Tables 3, 4, and 5

B. Stubble Height Left - Tables 3, 4, and 5

Additional Criteria as a Nutrient Uptake Tool

Additional Criteria to Control Disease, Insect and Weed Infestations

Additional Criteria to Improve Wildlife Habitat

Additional Criteria on Harvesting, Storage and Feeding Management

Considerations

Plans and Specifications

Operation and Maintenance

References - Detailed coverage of:

A. Minimizing Losses in Hay Storage and Feeding

B. Understanding Forage Quality

SAMPLE PLAN

Optional: Observance of Forage Harvest in the Field