



# DROUGHT FORAGE HARVEST ON WRP

## Indiana WRP Drought Forage Harvest (511) Plan - Job Sheet

### PURPOSE

To allow haying for a limited time period on eligible Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) fields for livestock producers in need of forage for feed due to drought conditions and to improve the overall habitat.

**Participants must request a Compatible Use Authorization for drought forage harvesting of WRP from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) prior to harvesting and follow this plan. Participants may not graze and hay the same acreage.**

This plan is limited to the following period:

**7/16/2012** to **8/31/2012**  
 WRP Contract #: **123**  
 Farm Number: **1234**  
 Tract Number: **1000**  
 Field Number(s): **1,4,5**  
 Total Acreage: **120**  
 Max to be harvested: **60**  
 Producer: **John Brown**  
 WRP Owner: **Sara Brown**



Fifty (50) percent of each field or contiguous WRP fields shall be left for wildlife use and not harvested. Exception: Up to 100% of areas with solid Reed Canary-grass may be hayed if landowner agrees to follow up with herbicide control or flooding by 18 inches of water.

For this tract, approximately **50** acres will be used for forage production and **50** acres will be left for use by wildlife. It would be advantageous for the 50% left for wildlife to be left in blocks or a corridor at least **50** feet wide. See attached plan map for areas to be harvested and left for wildlife.

Harvest hay/haylage at the ideal moisture range for the type of storage being utilized. For optimum forage quality, rake, ted or invert swaths carefully and with some moisture if possible to reduce leaf loss. Bale at optimum moisture levels to preserve forage quality and quantity. Approximate percent moisture should be as follows:

- a) Bale field cured dry hay at 10-20% moisture
- b) Rake hay at 30-40% moisture if possible
- c) Haylage at 45-60% moisture

Ensiling grasses and legumes as haylage requires 45 to 60 percent moisture. Haylage is the most sensitive of the ensiled forages to moisture variation. **Just a few percentage points up or down can ruin your forage stored in this manner.** Low-moisture haylage often becomes too dry for good harvesting and storage.

Ineligible areas include any field not established such as cool season grasses planted last fall and warm season grasses planted in the last 3 years. CUAs will only be granted on areas planted to grasses. Areas planted to trees or areas of natural regeneration will be excluded.

**All harvesting will be completed by by September 1, 2012 and removed from the WRP field by September 10, 2012.**

### MANAGEMENT

Cut forage at a height that will promote the vigor and health of the desired species. Cutting heights will provide adequate residual leaf area; adequate numbers of tillers or buds; insulation from extreme heat or cold; and/or unsevered stem bases that store food reserves needed full, vigorous recovery. Minimum haying height for winter cover will be 12 inches for Warm Season Grasses, and 6 inches for Cool Season Grasses. Producers should insure that forage does not contain poisonous plants prior to being harvested.

Harvest at a height of no less than: **6** inches  
 Overwinter at a height of no less than: **6 to 10** inches

**I have reviewed this Conservation Plan modification and agree to follow the specifications.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Producer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NRCS District Conservationist

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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