



SQL06 - Montana Supplement – REVISED 2/22/11

Conversion of Cropped Land to Grass-Based Agriculture for Biomass or Forage Production and Wildlife Habitat – (Soil Quality Enhancement Activity)

Montana Clarification

This enhancement is to convert CROPLAND to a mixture of high biomass producing and wildlife friendly perennial species. This enhancement is not for producers currently engaged in a long term alfalfa/grass hay rotation. Range planting (550) cannot be substituted for Pasture and Hayland Planting (512). These acres may be hayed but not grazed. A long term rotation is – at a minimum – 6 years of hay and 2 years of crop.

Montana Specifications

Allowable species for high biomass production:

Pasture/Hayland species that promote wildlife conservation	
Plant Common Name	Functional Group
Tall wheatgrass	Cool season grass
Intermediate wheatgrass	Cool season grass
Pubescent wheatgrass	Cool season grass
Slender wheatgrass *	Cool season grass
Basin wildrye	Cool season grass
Beardless wildrye	Cool season grass
Meadow brome	Cool season grass
Orchardgrass	Cool season grass
Big bluegrass	Cool season grass
Switchgrass	Warm season grass
Cicer milkvetch	Legume
Alfalfa	Legume
Sainfoin	Legume
Birdsfoot trefoil	Legume
Small burnet	Forb

*NO more than 10% Slender allowed in a mix.

Cutting Management Guide for Hayland

Species	Minimum Cutting Height (inch)
Alfalfa	3
Big Bluegrass	4
Bluestem - Little, Sand	3
Bluegrass, Kentucky	2
Bromegrass, Smooth	4
Bromegrass, Meadow (Regar)	4
Canarygrass, Reed	6
Clover, Alsike	4
Clover, Ladino	4
Clover, Red	4
Clover, White	4
Fescue, Tall	4
Foxtail, Creeping	4
Foxtail, Meadow	4
Milkvetch, Cicer	4
Needlegrass, Green	4
Orchardgrass	4
Ryegrass, Perennial	4
Sainfoin	4
Sweetclover	4
Switchgrass	6
Timothy	4
Trefoil, Birdsfoot	4
Wildrye, Beardless	4
Wildrye, Russian	2
Wildrye, Altai	6
Wildrye, Basin	8
Wheatgrass, Beardless	6
Wheatgrass, Bluebunch	6
Wheatgrass, Crested	2
Wheatgrass, Hybrid	4
Wheatgrass, Intermediate	6
Wheatgrass, Pubescent	6
Wheatgrass, Siberian	2
Wheatgrass, Slender	6
Wheatgrass, Tall	6
Wheatgrass, Thickspike	4
Wheatgrass, Western	4

Flush bar should be at least seven feet in front of the cutter blades. The vertical flushing devices (chains, metal bars, etc.) should be spaced 1.5 feet apart and extend downward into the alfalfa hay.



Incompatible Enhancements

This enhancement may not be contracted with the following enhancements:

AIR03, AIR06, ANM12, ANM21, ANM22, ANM23, CCR99, PLT14, SQL08, WQL08, WQL10, WQL16, WQL17, WQL20

Eligible Land

Cropland

Applicable Amount

Acres of cropland

Example (Actual)

The applicable acres are any cropland. If a participant farms 500 acres and plans to plant grasses for forage production on 200 acres, the applicable acres would be 500 but the applied acres would be 200 acres. Planting 200 acres in Year 1, the Toolkit plan would look like the following:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
SQL06	200 ac	0	0	0	0

Documentation Requirements

1. Provide a map showing the location of the field(s) that was/were converted from cropland to grassland; list the species that were included in the planting mix for each field.
2. Provide a record of plant density by species (seeded and volunteer; number of plants/sq yd for each species present) for multiple areas in the field(s) prior to harvest each year.

3. Provide a photo showing:
 - a. Option A – A picture showing residual heights of after mowing, acres idled and cutting dates.
 - b. Option B – A picture showing the flush bar attachment on the tractor or swather, time of day hay field was mowed, and haying pattern used.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all that is required for the implementation of this CSP Enhancement Activity.

Contract participant

Date