



SQL09 Montana Supplement

Conversion of Cropped Land to Grass-Based Agriculture – (Soil Quality Enhancement Activity)

Montana Clarification

Criteria

1. Establish perennial grassland species on cropland according to the NRCS Forage and Biomass Planting (512) (e.g., Pubescent Wheatgrass, Intermediate Wheatgrass, orchard grass, Russian Wildrye, alfalfa). Or establish perennial grassland species on cropland according to the NRCS Rangeland Planting (550) (e.g., Bluebunch Wheatgrass, Green Needlegrass, Western Wheatgrass, Purple Prairie Clover, winterfat).
2. Minimize soil erosion and disturbance when establishing perennials by using techniques such as no-till planting, use of nurse crops that germinate quickly and/or the use of suitable erosion control practices.
3. Use seeding mixtures of at least 3 perennial grasses and 3 perennial forbs and/or legumes. Mixing native and introduced species for the same field is not recommended. Seed mixes should meet specific farm/ranch goals. For recommendations for adapted species and mixes for Montana contact the local NRCS office for assistance to access NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 46.
4. Use plant density observations from multiple areas in the field(s) to confirm successful establishment two years from the planting date. Use Montana Technical Note 5 (Revision 1) Evaluating Seeding Success for Pasture and Hay Planting (Code 512) and Range Planting (Code 550).

Incompatible Enhancements

Some enhancements are not compatible with other enhancements. If you have a question, contact your local NRCS office.

Eligible Land

Cropland

Applicable Amount

Acres of annually planted cropland

Documentation Requirements

Addition to national requirements:

If grazing animals will be utilizing forage in these plantings a prescribed grazing plan will be developed **that meets the requirements of the NRCS 528 Prescribed Grazing Standard and Specifications for the newly planted field as well as surrounding pastures that are part of a grazing management unit.**

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

Contract participant

Date