ABOUT NRCS: HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a USDA agency that works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals for productive lands and healthy ecosystems. Working in nearly every county in the Nation, NRCS employees understand local resource concerns and challenges to assist with conservation solutions that last. Land stewardship by private landowners is critical to the health of our Nation’s environment. Science and technology are critical to good conservation. NRCS experts from many disciplines come together to help landowners conserve natural resources in efficient, smart and sustainable ways. NRCS succeeds through partnerships, working closely with individual farmers and ranchers, landowners, local conservation districts, government agencies, Tribes, Earth Team volunteers and many other people and groups that care about the quality of America’s natural resources. More information about the NRCS is at www.nrcs.usda.gov.

ABOUT ARS: LEADING AMERICA TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE THROUGH AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s chief scientific research agency. ARS conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination to:

- Ensure high-quality, safe food, and other agricultural products
- Assess the nutritional needs of Americans
- Sustain a competitive agricultural economy
- Enhance the natural resource base and the environment, and
- Provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

More information about the ARS is at www.ars.usda.gov.

ABOUT AFGC: LEADERSHIP FOR THE FORAGE AND GRASSLAND INDUSTRY

The American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC) is an international organization made up of 22 affiliate councils in the United States and Canada with a total individual membership of about 2,500. Its primary objective is to advance the use of forage as a prime resource for feed and for natural resource conservation. Its members represent the academic community, producers, private industry, institutes and foundations. Together, they unite in a common cause to develop the forage industry and promote the profitable production and sustainable utilization of quality forage and grasslands. More information about AFGC is at www.afgc.org.
On the cover: Beef stockers grazing a mixed species pasture in a scenic area of Vermont. Photo is courtesy of NRCS.


Printed by Allen Press, Inc.
810 E. 10th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

Funding was provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, with cooperation from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, through a partnership with the American Forage and Grassland Council in support of the Conservation Effects Assessment Project.

The expressed goal of this synthesis is to inform deliberations of managers and policymakers regarding the current effectiveness and potential improvements to pastureland and hayland conservation programs. As such, this synthesis represents a scientific assessment that was reached independently of the current position or policy of the US Department of Agriculture or the United States government.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.


Print Date: December 2012

CONTRIBUTORS AND EXTERNAL REVIEWERS

Academic Coordinator
C. Jerry Nelson

NRCS Coordinator
Leonard W. Jolley

USDA-ARS Liaison
Matt A. Sanderson

PASTURELAND AND HAYLAND IN THE USA: LAND RESOURCES, CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Team Leader—Matt A. Sanderson
Members—Leonard W. Jolley and James P. Dobrowolski

FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING

Team Leader—David J. Barker
Members—Jennifer W. MacAdam, Twain J. Butler, R. Mark Sulc
NRCS Advisor to Team—Chuck Stanley

EXTERNAL REVIEWERS

Reggie Blackwell
Sid Brantly
Marty Chaney
Wayne Coblentz
Gene Fults
Rachel Gilker
Tom Griggs
Bob Hendershot
Walter Jackson
Robin Knilan
Mark Kennedy
Alan Knapp
Eileen McEllan
Ron Morrow
Kevin Ogles
Matt Sanderson
Ken Spaeth
Roger Staff
Chuck Stanley
Chris Teutsch
Mimi Williams

EXTERNAL REVIEWERS

Reggie Blackwell
Sid Brantly
Marty Chaney
Wayne Coblentz
Gene Fults
Rachel Gilker
Tom Griggs
Bob Hendershot
Walter Jackson
Robin Knilan
Mark Kennedy
Alan Knapp
Eileen McEllan
Ron Morrow
Kevin Ogles
Matt Sanderson
Ken Spaeth
Roger Staff
Chuck Stanley
Chris Teutsch
Mimi Williams

PRESCRIBED GRAZING ON PASTURELANDS

Team Leader—Lynn S. Sollenberger
Members—Carmen T. Agouridis, Eric S. Vanzant, Alan J. Franzuebbers, Lloyd B. Owens
NRCS Advisor to Team—Kevin Ogles

FORAGE HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Team Leader—C. Jerry Nelson
Members—Daren D. Redfearn, Jerry H. Cherney
NRCS Advisor to Team—Gene Fults

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ON PASTURES AND HAYLANDS

Team Leader—C. Wesley Wood
Members—Philip A. Moore, Brad C. Joern, Randall D. Jackson, Miguel L. Cabrera
NRCS Advisor to Team—Bob Hendershot

SYNTHESIS AND PERSPECTIVES

Team Leader—C. Jerry Nelson
Members—David J. Barker, Lynn E. Sollenberger, C. Wesley Wood, Matt A. Sanderson
NRCS Advisor to Team—Ken Spaeth

The expressed goal of this synthesis is to inform deliberations of managers and policymakers regarding the current effectiveness and potential improvements to pastureland and hayland conservation programs. As such, this synthesis represents a scientific assessment that was reached independently of the current position or policy of the US Department of Agriculture or the United States government.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.


Print Date: December 2012