



E512K

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Establishing native species into forage base to improve diversity for both livestock and wildlife

Conservation Practice 512(K): Forage and Biomass Planting

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERN: Plants, Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years

#### Enhancement Description

Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of perennial, herbaceous native species into pastures that can provide the structure and composition needed to enhance livestock and wildlife habitat, particularly when targeted forage supply and quality, cover, and shelter are not available in other pastures.

#### Criteria

- Select native perennial, grass/ forbs/ legume plant species and their cultivars based on climatic conditions, soil condition, landscape position and resistance to disease and insects, that benefit wildlife species of concern. If native forbs/legumes are not available, use introduced species that provide the same wildlife benefit.
- Plants will be selected that help meet livestock forage demand during times that normal farm/ranch forage production is inadequate while improving habitat for wildlife species of concern.
- Planting will take place when soil moisture is adequate for germination and



## E512K

# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

establishment.

- Federal, state or local noxious species will not be planted.
- Recommendations for planting rates, methods, depths, and dates from land grant universities (LGU), plant materials program, extension agencies, or agency field trials will be followed.
- Prepare seed bed for planting that does not restrict plant emergence or leave the site vulnerable to erosion.
- Plant nutrients and/or soil amendments for establishment purposes will be applied according to a current soil test. Legume seed will be pre-inoculated or inoculated with the proper viable strain of Rhizobia immediately before planting.



# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

## Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, select a perennial forage species or grassland mixture for establishment that benefits both livestock and wildlife.

Species	Species type (grass, legume, broadleaf)

- Prior to implementation, select planting technique, seeding rates and timing appropriate for the site and climatic conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.) Inter-seeding should not disturb critical life stages of wildlife species of concern.

Planting Date	
Planting Technique	
Seeding rates	

- If livestock are included in the system, prior to implementation a grazing plan must be developed to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.
- During implementation, keep the following documentation:
  - Records and photographs of planting preparation and any materials purchased or materials on hand used for the implementation of the enhancement.
  - Documentation of seed rate basis (Pure Live Seed) and any fertilizer or soil amendments used for the implementation of the enhancement.
- If livestock are included in the grazing system, documentation and photographs of turn in/turn out grazing records for each field.



## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- After implementation, make the forage planting and grazing records available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

NRCS will:

- As needed, provide technical assistance to meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- If livestock are included in the system, prior to implementation a grazing plan must be developed to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.
- As needed, prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance:
  - Planning site preparation and establishment specifications meeting NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Forage and Biomass Planting (512).
  - Prepare specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
  - If livestock are included in the system, develop a grazing plan to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.
- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, verify the planned perennial grassland mixture was established to specifications developed for the site.



- After implementation, make the forage planting and grazing records available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

**NRCS Documentation Review:**

E512K – Establishing native species in forage base to improve diversity livestock and wildlife	April 2021	Page   5
--	------------	----------

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

**CONSERVATION  
STEWARDSHIP  
PROGRAM**

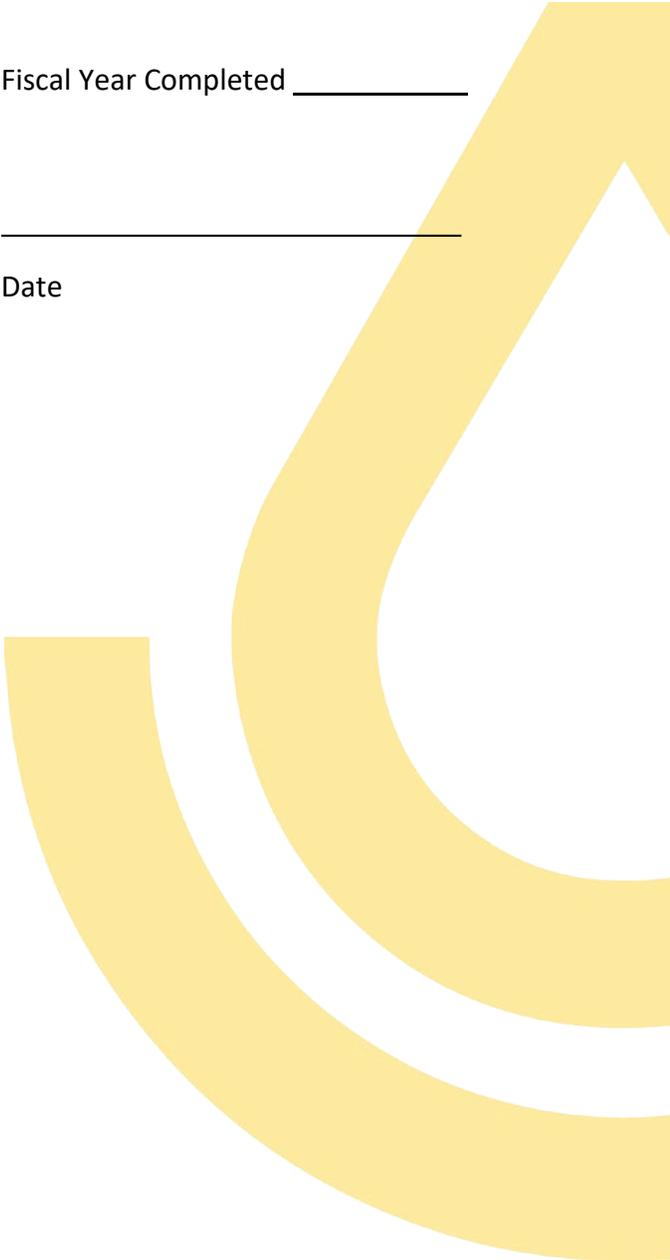
Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Applied \_\_\_\_\_

Fiscal Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCs Technical Adequacy Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





**IOWA SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION  
ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**CONSERVATION  
STEWARDSHIP  
PROGRAM**

**E512K**

Establishing native species into forage base to improve diversity for both livestock and wildlife

**Additional Criteria for Iowa**

- Plant nutrients and soil amendments for stand establishment will be based on a current soil test and follow Iowa State University Extension Publication [PM869](#), which references to use [PM1688](#) for soil test result categories and lime recommendations.
- Use Agronomy Tech Note 34 to develop a seeding plan with only native species that will be documented on IA-CPA-4 or the national enhancement documentation section.
- Switchgrass cannot be seeded at more than 20% of the mixture and is not recommended.
- Livestock Exclusion is required until plants are well established. At a minimum, livestock will be excluded for a minimum of 365 days from the date of seeding. One year after seeding, NRCS will re-evaluate if an additional year of exclusion is needed.