



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E512140Z

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Native grasses or legumes in forage base

Conservation Practice 512: Forage and Biomass Planting

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (perennial); Pasture; Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Livestock Production Limitation

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of perennial, herbaceous species 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/forb/legume plant species and their cultivars based on climatic conditions, soil condition, landscape position and resistance to disease and insects, that meet the cover demand for movement by the wildlife species of concern.
- 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.
- Seeding medium that does not restrict plant emergence will be provided, and planting will take place when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment.
- Federal, state, or local noxious species will not be planted.
- 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.



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- Plants will be selected that help meet livestock forage demand during times that normal farm/ranch forage production is inadequate. When wildlife species are of concern, plant selection will be made and maintained based on the state's approved NRCS habitat evaluation procedure.
- Forage species selected will meet the desired level of nutrition for the kind and class of the livestock to be fed. Forage species planted as mixtures will exhibit similar palatability to minimize selective grazing.

Documentation Requirements

- NRCS State approved Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) as completed and certified by an NRCS or partner wildlife biologist when applicable. Wildlife species of concern for habitat continuity will be specified on the WHEG, and total score after implementation will equal 0.75 or greater.
- Documentation of seed (Pure Live Seed) and any fertilizer or amendments purchased.
- Completed forage balance sheet for farm/ranch and grazing records.