



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E512101Z2

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Forage and biomass planting for water erosion control to improve soil health

Conservation Practice 512: Forage and Biomass Planting

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Soil Erosion

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production that can provide for reduced soil erosion, improving soil health.

Criteria

- Select perennial grass/forb/legume plant species and their cultivars based on climatic conditions, soil condition, landscape position and resistance to disease and insects, and will provide the ground cover and root mass needed to be sufficiently protect the soil from wind and/or water erosion.
- Recommendations for planting rates, methods, depths, and dates from land grant/research institutions, 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.



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- 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.
- Deep-rooted, perennial species will be selected that will contribute to maintaining or increasing underground carbon storage.
- New plantings will be monitored for water stress. Depending on the severity of drought, water stress may require reducing weeds, early harvest of any companion crops, irrigating when possible, or replanting failed stands. Plantings will be protected from grazing until an adequate stand is established and meets the species specific, local standard for beginning grazing.

Documentation Requirements

- Documentation of seed (Pure Live Seed) and any fertilizer or amendments purchased.
- Completed forage balance sheet for farm/ranch and grazing records.