

(647) Early Successional Habitat Development and Management— Disking

FY 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program Requirement Sheet

A site- and species-specific wildlife habitat management plan is preferred for all EQIP applications. If no such plan has been approved by the NRCS area biologist or NRCS partner biologist, the conservation planners must follow this requirement sheet to address limiting habitat factors identified in the TN NRCS Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG).

Eligible lands: Private agricultural land and private nonindustrial forestland. The practice purpose is to reduce native warm season grass (NWSG) density and encourage forbs in the seedbank to revegetate for wildlife cover and food.

EQIP Disking Practice Requirements:

1. Livestock will be excluded for the contract period.
2. Disking must occur outside of the primary nesting season of April 15 – August 15.
3. Recently established NWSG stands shall not be disked for thinning until after the second full growing season.
4. Disk (on the contour to the extent possible) no more than 50% of the planned treatment area where soil erosion is not a concern. Block disking may not exceed 50% of the field. Disked areas may not be re-treated the following two years. Where soil erosion is a concern, separate disked with undisturbed strips at least twice the width of the disturbed strip unless RUSLE2 indicates that soil erosion is not a resource concern.
5. Disking is restricted to slopes of less than 8 percent and must be placed as close to on contour as possible, unless RUSLE 2 indicates that soil erosion is not a resource concern. Disking in strips is strongly recommended on slopes and other areas especially prone to erosion. When strip disking is used, strips should be 20-60 feet wide, and undisked areas should be at least as wide as disked areas.
6. Do not mow disked areas between re-treatment.
7. The disked acreage should be disked until there is 30-50% soil exposure.