

**Soil Quality Enhancement Activity – SQL17 – Placement of hay feeding areas on low fertility soils**



**Enhancement Description**

This enhancement combines soil testing and remediation of low fertility grazing areas with targeted hay feeding sites. Selected sites will have the hay unrolled. Only specific grazing areas will be targeted instead of the entire farm.

**Land Use Applicability**

Pastureland

**Benefits**

Targeted hay feeding sites using the unrolled bale methodology will re-distribute and concentrated nutrients to low fertility soils. The residual hay, manure, and subsequent vegetation will serve to cover and protect the soil from erosion and provide organic matter to improve soil health. Soil disturbances, erosion and compaction will be minimized and manure distribution will be increased with unrolling hay.

**Conditions Where Enhancement Applies**

This enhancement applies to all pasture land use acres which contain specific areas needing remediation.

**Criteria**

1. Soils test analysis will be taken on the targeted fields to measure the soil nutrient status and document the need for fertility adjustments.
2. Hay feeding will be concentrated to the areas deemed to have low fertility.
3. Hay will be un-rolled to minimize soil disturbance and increase manure distribution.
4. Residual hay and soil disturbance will be monitored to prevent unhealthy soil disturbances, erosion, and compaction.
5. Discontinue hay feeding activities on these specific locations and move hay feeding activities to other locations when:
  - a. Soil disturbance becomes obvious,
  - b. Excessive hay residue is a concern, or
  - c. Weather conditions will adversely impact soil conditions and/or cause wasted hay.
6. Adjust feeding strategies to increase manure concentration but still conserve soil and water quality.
7. Apply the remediation strategy only on well drained soils or sites with rolling terrain.
8. Feeding sites must be away from environmentally sensitive areas.

**Adoption Requirements**

This enhancement is considered adopted when the above criteria has been fully implemented for the typical hay feeding season.



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2015 Ranking Period 1

### **Documentation Requirements**

1. Copy of soils test analysis documenting grazing land has less than optimum soil nutrients on the targeted field.
2. A map showing where this activity was implemented.
3. A written timeline showing hay feeding activities.
4. Photograph showing hay and manure being distributed on the designated field.

### **References**

Davis, D.K. 2008. Nutrient value of baled hay. Forage Systems Update. Volume 17, No 2. April-June.  
<http://aes.missouri.edu/fsrc/news/archives/v17n2/fsrc5.stm>

USDA-NRCS-Arkansas. 2014. PRESCRIBED GRAZING: Nutrient Management of Pastures. Conservation Practice Fact Sheet.  
[http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/AR/528\\_Prescribed\\_Grazing\\_Nutrient\\_Mgmt\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/AR/528_Prescribed_Grazing_Nutrient_Mgmt_Factsheet.pdf)