

FACT SHEET

October, 2010

PRACTICE DEFINITION

The timely cutting and removal of forages from the field as hay, green-chop or ensilage

PRACTICE PURPOSE

- Optimize yield and quality of forage at the desired levels
- Promote vigorous plant re-growth
- Manage for the desired species composition
- Use forage plant biomass as a soil nutrient uptake tool
- Control insects, diseases and weeds
- Maintain and/or improve wildlife habitat



PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to all land uses where machine harvested forage crops are grown.

Forage will be harvested at a frequency and height that optimizes the desired forage stand, plant community, and stand life. Follow State Cooperative Extension Service (CES) recommendations for forage harvest based on stage of maturity, moisture content, length of cut, stubble height and harvest interval. The following criteria must be met:

Stage of Maturity. Harvest forage at the stage of maturity that provides the desired quality and quantity without compromising plant vigor and stand longevity.

This document is not all inclusive and should not be used as guidance for implementation. The Conservation Practice Standard and Practice Specifications are the official guidance documents for implementation of this practice.