



512 – Pasture and Hay Planting Implementation Requirements

Producer:

Location:

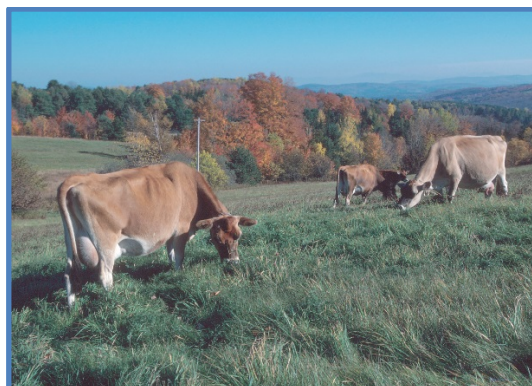
Farm Name:

Project or Contract:

County:

Tract Number:

Practice Lifespan – 5 years



Practice Purpose(s): (check all that apply)

Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health.

Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production.

Reduce soil erosion.

Improve water quality.

Improve air quality.

Improve soil health.

Other (Specify):

Description of Work:

For NRCS Use Only

Designed By:

Date

Checked By:

Date

Approved By:

Date

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GENERAL CRITERIA:

Plant species and their cultivars shall be selected based upon:

- Climatic conditions, such as annual precipitation and its distribution, growing season length, humidity levels, temperature extremes and the USDA Plant Hardiness Zones.
- Soil condition and landscape position attributes such as pH, available water holding capacity, aspect, slope, drainage class, fertility level, salinity, depth, flooding and ponding, and levels of phytotoxic elements that may be present. Utilize ecological site description pasture states and forage suitability groups if available.
- Resistance to disease and insects common to the site or location.

And:

- Follow recommendations for planting rates, methods and dates obtained from the VT NRCS 512 Specification Guidance document, the plant materials program, land grant university extension, or agency field trials such as “Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management”.
- Seeding rates will be calculated on a state approved method such as pure live seed (PLS) or percent germination.
- Plant to proper depth ensuring seed or planting material will contact soil moisture uniformly. Prepare site to provide a medium that does not restrict plant emergence.
- Planting dates shall be scheduled during periods when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment.
- All seed and planting materials shall meet state quality standards.
- Select plants that according to federal, state, or local regulations are not considered noxious species.
- Fertilizer and soil amendment recommendations shall be based on results from a current soil test. Application shall be appropriately placed and timed to be effective.
- If needed, legume seed shall be inoculated with the proper species of viable Rhizobia before planting.
- If using coated seed, recalibrate the planting equipment to deliver the same number of seed per area as would be applied with non-coated seed.
- Livestock shall be excluded until the plants are well established.

Table 1: Pasture and Hay Planting Specifications:

(PLS = Pure Live Seed)

Field	Acres	Species	Full Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	% of Mixture	Actual PLS lbs/ac of Mixture	Scheduled Planting Date

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Nutrient Application Rate Per Acre According To Current Soil Test *						
Field	Acres	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P ₂ O ₅) lbs	Potassium (K ₂ O) lbs	Lime (Tons)	Lab Number

* Fertilization will be accomplished according to current soil test recommendations

Site Preparation

Prepare a firm seedbed. Ephemeral gullies and rills present in the planned seeding/planting area will be smoothed. Apply lime and fertilizer as indicated by soil testing.

Additional requirements:

Planting Method

Plant grass and legume seed uniformly over the area using a _____ seeder or _____ drill. Establish vegetation according to the specified seeding rate. If necessary, mulch the newly seeded area with _____ tons per acre of mulch material. A small grain crop may be needed as a companion crop at the rate of _____ pounds per acre (clip or harvest before it heads out).

Additional requirements:

OPERATION / MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE:

The following O&M activities will be planned and applied as needed:

- The operator will inspect and calibrate equipment prior to use.
- Continually monitor equipment during planting to ensure proper rate, distribution, and depth of planting material is maintained.
- Growth of seedlings or sprigs shall 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. Prolonged wet conditions may cause failure of plant establishment.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING PASTURE AND HAY PLANTING:

- In areas frequented by high density of animals, establish persistent species that can tolerate close grazing and trampling.
- Where wildlife and pollinator concerns exist, consider plant selection by using an approved habitat evaluation procedure.
- For organic and transitioning-to-organic systems, all materials and methods used in the implementation of this practice should comply with the National Organic Program Rules.

Refer to the 512 Pasture and Hay Planting Specification Guide Sheet (attached).

A map(s) showing all fields planned for Pasture and Hay Planting is attached.

If you have questions about this planned **Pasture and Hay Planting** practice contact:

Name:	Tel:	Email:
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(Example of completed Table 1)

Field	Acres	Species	Full Seeding Rate (PLS lbs/ac)	% of Mixture	Actual PLS lbs/ac of Mixture	Scheduled Planting Date

For NRCS Use Only:

PRACTICE CHECKOUT AND CERTIFICATION:

Certifying official completes 'Check Out information'

Recommendation: Attach digital photograph(s) to document practice installation and illustrate practice before and after effects.

CHECK OUT INFORMATION:

Crop Year: _____

CIN # (if applicable): _____

Amount Completed: Number of Fields: _____ Total Acres: _____

* Mark the completed field locations on the conservation plan map.

Remarks:

Certification Statement:

I certify that implementation of this conservation practice is complete, meets criteria for the stated purpose(s), and meets the NRCS conservation practice standard and specifications.

This practice meets NRCS standards and specifications Yes No

Check out and Certification by: _____ Date: _____
Planner/Technical Service Provider Signature

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