



## Operation & Maintenance Plan Forage Harvest Management (Code 511)

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Landowner/Operator:

Date:

NRCS Service Center:

Conservation District:

Practice Location:

Tract/Field ID:

(Lat/Long or UTM Coord, or Sec/TS/R)

### Expected Lifespan

The minimum expected lifespan of this practice is at least 1 years.

A properly operated and maintained **Forage Harvest Management Practice** is an asset to your farm operation and your agricultural land. Implementation of Forage Harvest Management will help you to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by supporting one or more of the following purposes:

- 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.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements of the operation and maintenance program.

### Operation and Maintenance

- Before forage harvest, clear fields of debris that could damage machinery or if ingested by livestock, lead to sickness (for example, hardware disease) or death.
- Operate all forage harvesting equipment at the optimum settings and speeds to minimize loss of leaves.
- To control forage plant diseases, insects, and movement of weeds, clean harvesting equipment after harvest and before storing.
- Set shear-plate on forage chopper to the proper theoretical cut for the crop being harvested. Keep knives well sharpened. Do not use re-cutters or screens unless forage moisture levels fall below recommended levels for optimum chopping action.
- Follow all agricultural equipment manufacturer's safety measures when operating forage harvesting equipment.
- Regardless of silage/haylage storage method, ensure good compaction and an airtight seal to exclude oxygen and mold or bacterial formations.
- Dispose of the plastic wrap or bags used to store forage in an environmentally sound manner.

## **Specific Site Requirements**