

Pre-installation Conference: _____ Date: _____

Designed by: _____ Checked by: _____
Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Practice as applied meets or exceeds USDA/NRCS specifications

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Identify Purposes

Practice may be applied as part of a resource management system to accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

- Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health.
- Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production.
- Reduce soil erosion.
- Improve soil and water quality.
- Produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production.

Identify Seedbed Preparation

New Plantings or Renovation

- Remove rocks, stumps and other obstructions. Smooth land and surface irregularities that prevent surface drainage and/or interfere with safe and efficient operation of equipment.
- Tillage methods
 - Conventional – Chisel or subsoil to disrupt plowpans and other soil compaction layers. Thoroughly prepare soil to a depth of 6". Mix fertilizer and lime into the soil and smooth and firm the seedbed.
 - Conservation – Prepare the seedbed with a chisel, disk or other implement so as to leave 30% ground cover of existing residue after planting. Tillage or herbicide application should occur sufficiently early to assure a good kill of existing vegetation prior to planting. Mix fertilizer and lime into the soil during seedbed preparation.
 - No-till – Closely graze or mow existing vegetation. Use herbicides to kill existing vegetation and control weeds. Broadcast fertilizer and lime prior to planting.

Stand Improvement and Addition of Legumes

- Correct soil pH deficiencies by liming 6 months to 1 year in advance of planned planting date.
- Graze or mow existing vegetation to a one-inch stubble height for interseeding of grasses and legumes.
- Herbicides used to suppress or kill bands of existing vegetation.
- Prepare seedbed by lightly disking, ripping, or with other mechanical methods to expose sufficient mineral soil to insure adequate germination and space for seeded plants to grow. Do not penetrate the sod more than 2 – 3".
- Broadcast fertilizer at or just prior to planting.

Apply all plant nutrients according to a Nutrient Management Plan.

Identify Planting Method

- Conventional and Conservation Tillage**
Use high quality seed and plant uniformly. Cultipack soil prior to seeding. Place seed in contact with mineral soil using a cultipacker seeder, drill, rotary seeder (broadcast seeder), or other mechanical seeder. Cover lightly and firm the soil with a cultipacker.
- Sprigging**
Plant freshly dug high quality sprigs free of undesirable plants into moist soil. Plant using a sprig planter or spread uniformly over the soil surface and lightly disk. Sprig tips should extend approximately 1" above the soil surface following planting. Firm the soil with a cultipacker or other suitable equipment.
- No-till**
Use high quality seed and plant uniformly. Use a no-till drill equipped with coulters to cut through existing vegetation or crop residue, allowing seed to be placed in contact with the soil at the proper planting depth.
- Inoculation**
Inoculate legume seed with the proper strain of rhizobia immediately prior to planting. Use fresh inoculum according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Frost Seeding**
Broadcast seed on the soil surface in late winter to early spring. Frost seeding is dependent on the freezing and thawing cycles of the soil, plus late snowfall or early spring rain. Ideally, the soil surface should still be frozen. Do not frost seed onto snow. Graze pastures in a rotation to allow for the seeding to become established.
- Seedling Establishment**
Mow or graze to remove nurse crop in dough stage and control weeds.

Management

- Restrict grazing and/or limit harvest until the area is well established to the desired species. Avoid grazing young plants during wet weather, when they are easily pulled from the ground, or until they are firmly established in the soil. Do not graze or mow perennial forages closer than 3 - 4" from the soil surface during the first growing season.
- Utilize a Pest Management Plan that includes biological, chemical and cultural methods to control weeds and other pests.

Follow the manufacturer's label and instructions when applying pesticides.