

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
INTERIM SPECIFICATION**

FORAGE HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Expires September 30, 2005

CODE 511

This Interim Specification supplements the September 2003 Colorado Forage Harvest Management 511 Conservation Practice Standard.

HAYING PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS

NRCS field offices can develop plans based on minimum stubble heights based on staffing and time constraints.

Timing of Haying Operations

- Haying may not begin until July 16.
- All haying operations must be completed by October 13.

Minimum Stubble Height Haying Plans

- Minimum haying starting height will be achieved on CRP fields hayed or grazed the year prior to ensure plant vigor.
- Minimum stubble heights will be maintained for each key forage species or combination of species occurring in the field.
- Minimum stubble heights for each species will be based on the amount of live, above-ground plant material that is required to assure plant health and the desired level of erosion control.
- Stubble height is based on the average height of both grazed and ungrazed key forage species in the field.
- Stubble height and haying dates will be recorded on the haying plan or any acceptable job sheet or form provided to the client. NRCS will maintain a copy of the plan.
- Maintain adequate stubble height or ground cover to protect soil from erosion and maintain plant health.

OPERATION and MAINTAINENCE

Maintain the minimum prescribed stubble heights through the date determined by the FSA State Committee.

CRP cover shall be re-established, at CRP participant's expense, if the cover fails as a result of managed haying.