

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE  
PASTURE AND HAY PLANTING**

**512**

**512 – STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowner's desire for pasture and Hay planting in a predetermined location for the intended purpose(s). (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard and Specification 512).

The landowner must be interviewed to determine the purpose and needs for Pasture and Hay planting. Considerations will include the landowner goals and objectives, existing condition and effects of this practice on existing soil, water, air, plant, animal and human resources. A discussion of NRCS pasture and hay planting standards and specifications should also take place. The role of the landowner and the person assisting with pasture and hay planting should also be discussed. Additional pertinent questions should be asked on a site-specific basis.

**512 – STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS, SURVEYS, AND INVENTORIES**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to identify the mandatory preliminary resource inventory and operations that are required before pasture and hay planting can be planned and implemented. Resource inventories will include all data and information needed to make informed decisions in the planning and implementation of a pasture and/or hay planting and any follow-up management needs. Appropriate resource inventories could include soils, forage crops, types of forage, climate, existing plant community, fertility, pests, disease, water resources, harvesting resources, forage storage methods, and all physical features such as fencing, water wells, ditches and irrigation systems etc that might have an influence on planning of pasture and hay planting.

Adjacent land uses and resources that would be affected by pasture and hay planting should also be considered. Resource inventories required for Prescribed Grazing (528a) and/or Forage Harvest Management (511) should be included if pasture or hay are to be harvested by grazing and/or mechanical means. See Practice Standard and Specifications for Prescribed Grazing 528a. and/or 511. Identify map resources needed such as the proper USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle sheet, soils, and road maps as well as aerial photography. Also include identifying all needed utility clearances, archeological clearances. Also see Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Practice Job Sheet(s) 512, ENV-1 Environmental Assessment & Resource Inventory Checklist).

**512 – STEP 3. PRACTICE DESIGN**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to develop a pasture and/or hay planting design.

This practice will be designed in accordance with all federal, state and local laws and ordinances.

Resource inventories, local conditions and the intended use will need to be assessed for the proposed pasture and/or hay planting design. See Prescribed Grazing Standards and Specifications 528a and/or Forage Harvest Management for Pasture and/or Hay Plantings to be harvested by grazing and/or mechanical means.

A pasture and/or hay planting design will be developed with the client that meets the intended goals and objectives. All appropriate job sheets, maps and reports must be developed with landowners input, review and concurrence. See Practice Standard and Specification 512 & Job Sheets 512.

**II. SITING**

The purpose of this step is to insure that the client fully understands which fields are involved in the pasture and/or hay planting.

Care should be given to make sure the pasture and/or hay planting fields are known by all involved. Access locations for equipment, livestock and vehicles should also be known by all involved in implementing the plan.

### **III. MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT**

The purpose of this item is to insure an understanding of the materials/equipment used for pasture and hay planting. Further knowledge would include adapted plant material varieties, seed site preparation equipment, seeding equipment, nutrient and pest management equipment and materials and irrigation systems. Appropriate standards, job sheets and expectations that includes the types and number of each type of materials/equipment and/or system will need to be provided to the landowner and all those involved in the planning and implementation of pasture and/or hay planting.

### **512 – STEP 4. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to document and describe each component of the pasture and/or hay planting plan, which includes step by step instructions to be used while preparing and planting pasture and/or hay.

This will include the documentation of all components described in Pasture and Hay Planting Job Sheet 512. Additional reference material should include as needed and appropriate.

The landowner must be provided with a complete pasture and/or hay planting design and plan in the form of a Conservation Plan, Plan Map and NRCS Pasture and Hay Planting Job Sheet 512 in order to document the planting design and location. Any items not described in Job Sheet 512 that are essential for location and planting of the pasture and/or hay will be added to the Job sheet.

### **512 - STEP 5. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION, MAINTENANCE**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to assure the proper management and maintenance is completed before, during and after pasture and/or hay planting. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard and Specification 512.

This requires a familiarity with soils, forages, agronomy, pests, fertility, harvest equipment, irrigation systems, grazing animals, monitoring and grazing management in order to assure that the planting continues to meet goals and objects and the plantings are maintained and/or improve over time. A monitoring program that assesses forages, fertility and irrigation water management should be implemented as per the NRCS National Agronomy Manual. These measures should be discussed with and understood by the landowner.

### **512 – STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to determine that all work has been completed to the standards required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

All completed NRCS forms should be collected from the landowner and submitted to the appropriate persons. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Standard and Specification 512, 511, and 528a and Job Sheet 512, 511 and 528a, NM-ENV-1 Environmental Assessment & Resource Inventory Checklist).

#### **II. DOCUMENTS**

Copies of all completed job sheets and associated work sheets should be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative within 10 working days of completion of the planting. This includes the Pasture and Hay Planting Practice Requirements as outlined in Job Sheet for 512 and any other job sheets that may be needed for this practice to meet the intended goals and objectives.