

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Arkansas Conservation Practice Job Sheet
Forage and Biomass Planting (512) – Tall Fescue Establishment

Participant Name:	Date:
Program Name:	Contract/Plan:



Forage and Biomass Planting: Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.

- Forage and Biomass Planting may be applied for the following purposes:
 - 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.

General Specifications

Tract	Field	Acres	Planting Method ¹	Planting Dates ²	Seeding Rate ³ (PLS per acre)	Planting Depth

¹ Preferred method is no-till drill; ² Preferred Season is fall; ³ Higher seeding rate is required for broadcasting

General Guidance:

- ✓ All receipts and a copy of the seed tag must be kept and delivered to the NRCS field office. The receipts and seed tag(s) are required to verify that the planting was completed to specifications.
- ✓ The soil test results must be turned into the NRCS field office. Participants shall work cooperatively with NRCS or the Cooperative Extension Service on interpreting the soils test recommendations.

Broadcast on a Conventional-Tilled Seedbed

- 9-12 Months prior to Planting** – Obtain soils sample from the designated field(s). Deliver soil samples to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service for processing. Request crop code 121 – Cool Season Grasses (EST) for Hay Production or crop code 202 Cool Season Grasses (EST) for Pasture.

- 6 Months prior to Planting** – Review soil test results. Apply lime according to soil test recommendations. Make preparations to apply nutrients according to soil test recommendations. Nutrients and soil amendments will be applied according to soil test recommendations. Contact the local NRCS office if you have questions about the application of nutrients.

- 3 Months Prior to Planting** – Review the job sheet to determine how much seed is required to plant to meet specifications. Receive guidance from NRCS or the Cooperative Extension Service on the variety. Locate dealers who will provide the varieties and make any necessary arrangements. The seeding rate will be on a Pure Live Seed basis.

- 1 Month to 2 Weeks prior to Planting** – Remove excessive weeds or vegetative growth. Removal of excessive weeds or vegetative growth can be accomplished by intensive grazing, herbicides, clipping, prescribed burning or a combination of these methods.

- 1 Week to the Day of Planting** – The night time temperatures should be consistently in the 50's to suppress emergence of warm season grasses. Plow the designated area 4-6 inches deep. Disk the area 3-4 times to pulverize the soil. It is a general recommendation that phosphorus and potassium is incorporated into the soil during tillage according to soil test. Drag, roll or cultipack the designated area to smooth and firm the soil prior to planting. The ideal seedbed firmness is when an adult's foot-print is approximately one-fourth inch deep into the soil. Contact the local NRCS office to notify the staff that the seedbed preparation is completed.

- Day of Planting** – Calibrate the broadcast spreader according to Cooperative Extension Services FSA-3111, *Calibrating Drills and Broadcast Planters for Small-Seeded Forages*. Broadcast the recommended rate of seed on the tilled area. Roll the designated area before and after broadcasting the seed. Do not allow livestock to graze this area until the forage is well established.

- Day after Planting** – Notify the local NRCS field office to let them know that the seed has been planted. Make sure the NRCS field office has copies of soils test results, fertilizer/lime receipts, seed receipts, seed tags, and any other relevant documentation.

- 1 Month after Planting** – Evaluate the weed population of the planting. Weeds can be controlled with flash grazing or mowing. Do not allow other vegetative competition to over-shade the tall fescue seedlings. Be cautious on applying any herbicide to newly planted areas until the tall fescue is well established.

No-Till Drilling

- 9-12 Months prior to Planting** – Obtain soil samples from the designated field(s). Deliver soil samples to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service for processing. Request crop code 121 – Cool Season Grasses (EST) for Hay Production or crop code 202 Cool Season Grasses (EST) for Pasture.

- 6 Months prior to Planting** – Review soil test results. Apply lime according to soil test recommendations. Make preparations to apply nutrients according to soil test recommendations. Nutrients and soil amendments will be applied according to soil test recommendations. Contact the local NRCS office if you have questions about the application of nutrients.

- 3 Months Prior to Planting** – Review the job sheet to determine how much seed is required to plant to meet specifications. Receive guidance from NRCS or the Cooperative Extension Service on the variety. Locate dealers who will provide the varieties and make any necessary arrangements. The seeding rate will be on a Pure Live Seed basis.

- 2 Weeks prior to Planting** – The night time temperatures should be cooling down. Remove excessive weeds or vegetative growth. Removal of excessive weeds or vegetative growth can be accomplished by intensive grazing, herbicides, clipping, prescribed burning or a combination of these methods. Vegetation should be removed to a minimum height of 2.5 inches. If novel endophyte-infected tall fescue will be planted, herbicides will need to be applied to suppress vegetation.

- 1 Week to the Day of Planting** – The night time temperatures should be consistently in the 50's to suppress emergence of warm season grasses. Contact the local NRCS office to notify the staff that the seedbed preparation is completed.

- Day of Planting** – Calibrate the no-till drill according to Cooperative Extension Services FSA-3111, *Calibrating Drills and Broadcast Planters for Small-Seeded Forages*. No-till drill the recommended rate of seed on the prepared site. Do not allow livestock to graze this area until the forage is well established.

- Day after Planting** – Notify the local NRCS field office to let them know that the seed has been planted. Make sure the NRCS field office has copies of soils test results, fertilizer/lime receipts, seed receipts, seed tags, and any other relevant documentation.

- 1 Month after Planting** – Evaluate the weed population of the planting. Weeds can be controlled with flash grazing or mowing. Do not allow other vegetative competition to over-shade the tall fescue seedlings. Be cautious on applying any herbicide to newly planted areas until the tall fescue is well established.