

Practice: 511 - Forage Harvest Management

Scenario: #1 - Improved Forage Quality

Scenario Description: Improved cultural practices and recordkeeping result in better forage quality and better livestock performance.

Before Situation: Forage cutting heights are as close to the ground as equipment will allow resulting in very low stubble height. Plant regrowth is very slow. Forage quality tests are not regularly done. Records of forage quality components, cutting heights, moisture content, and harvest schedule are not regularly kept.

After Situation: Forage cutting heights are raised to leave at least 3-4" stubble height for cool season grasses and 6" - 8" (use a boot on the mower) for warm season grasses. Increased residual forage results in much faster plant regrowth. Forage quality tests are submitted to an accredited lab for analysis. Records of forage quality components, cutting heights, moisture content, and harvest schedule are regularly kept to track increased forage quality and improved livestock performance.

Scenario Feature Measure: Improved Relative Feed Value

Scenario Unit: Acre

Scenario Typical Size: 30

Total Scenario Cost: \$131.87

Scenario Cost/Unit: \$4.40

Cost Details

Component Name	Id	Description	Unit	Cost	Qty	Total
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Labor

Skilled Labor	230	Labor requiring a high level skill set: Includes carpenters, welders, electricians, conservation professionals involved with data collection, monitoring, and or record keeping, etc.	Hour	\$31.88	1	\$31.88
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Acquisition of Technical Knowledge

Training, Workshops	294	Educational seminar or series of meetings emphasizing interaction and exchange of information among a usually small number of participants.	Each	\$45.80	1	\$45.80
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Materials

Test, Plant Tissue Test	301	Tissue analysis for crops. Includes materials and shipping only.	Each	\$27.10	2	\$54.19
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Scenario: #3 - Perennial Crops - Delayed Mowing

Scenario Description: In perennial forage crops, delaying the harvest of the first cutting to promote the reproduction of ground nesting birds. The delayed harvest results in a decrease in overall forage quality (33% reduction assumed), making the forage crop less palatable and lower in relative feed value. The selected fields should be large enough to promote ground nesting birds. After young have fledged the field will be harvested for dry forages.

Before Situation: Perennial forage crops are produced and harvested; ground nesting birds are disturbed and/or fledgling birds are killed in the process.

After Situation: Perennial crops are harvested with a delayed mowing; forage quality is compromised, however, the survival of ground nesting birds is promoted.

Scenario Feature Measure: Increased grassland bird populations.

Scenario Unit: Acre

Scenario Typical Size: 30

Total Scenario Cost: \$155.87

Scenario Cost/Unit: \$5.20

Cost Details

Component Name	Id	Description	Unit	Cost	Qty	Total
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Labor

Skilled Labor	230	Labor requiring a high level skill set: Includes carpenters, welders, electricians, conservation professionals involved with data collection, monitoring, and or record keeping, etc.	Hour	\$31.88	1	\$31.88
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Acquisition of Technical Knowledge

Training, Workshops	294	Educational seminar or series of meetings emphasizing interaction and exchange of information among a usually small number of participants.	Each	\$45.80	1	\$45.80
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Materials

Test, Plant Tissue Test	301	Tissue analysis for crops. Includes materials and shipping only.	Each	\$27.10	2	\$54.19
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Foregone Income

FI, Grazing AUMs	2079	Grazing is the Primary Land Use	Animal Unit Month	\$16.00	1.5	\$24.00
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