

FORAGE HARVEST MANAGEMENT CODE 511

Maryland Conservation Practice Implementation Requirements and Certification

Cooperator Name	County	Planner	Date
Farm/Tract/Field(s)	Program/Contract No. (if applicable)		Amount Planned AC

Purpose	
Optimize yield and quality of forage at the desired levels	Use forage plant biomass as a soil nutrient uptake tool
Promote vigorous plant re-growth	Control insects, diseases and weeds
Manage for the desired species composition	Maintain and/or improve wildlife habitat
Description of Work	
Associated Practices (must be implemented in combination with this practice)	

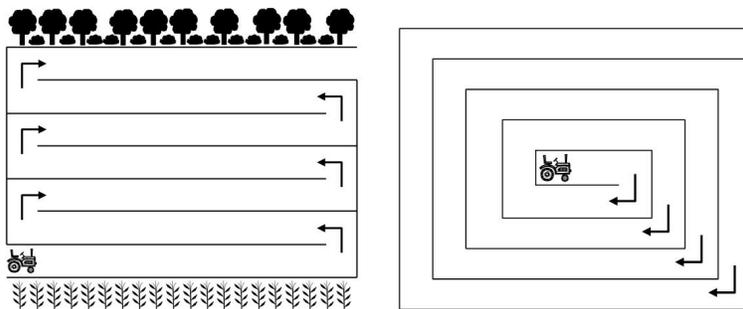
SPECIFICATIONS AND SCHEDULE						
Field(s)	Species or Mix	Growth Stage at Cut	# of Cuttings Expected	Stubble Height for WSGs	Min. Ht. at First Kill Frost	Storage Method
		1 st Cut				
		Additional Cuts				
		1 st Cut				
		Additional Cuts				
		1 st Cut				
		Additional Cuts				
		1 st Cut				
		Additional Cuts				

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

- To insure adequate root reserves, allow plants to reach the appropriate height before the first killing frost.
- Manage grazing to limit damage to the forage crop. This is especially critical during periods when fields are wet and compaction can occur.
- When the quantity and quality of the forage decreases to unacceptable levels, stand renovation may be necessary.
- Monitor weather conditions before and after cutting to optimize forage wilting or curing time, maintain forage quality, and prevent forage swaths or windrows from smothering underlying plants.
- Minimize the time cured forage is allowed to remain drying in the field. This will prevent smothering of underlying plants and subsequent weed invasion of the damaged areas.
- When storing silage, ensure good compaction and an airtight seal to exclude oxygen and mold formation.
- Control noxious weeds as required by state law.

Where implemented to provide wildlife habitat:

- Defer mowing and harvest until after the dates provided below to provide time for successful nesting and fledging. Preferably, defer mowing and harvest until after the end of the primary nesting season which runs from April 15th to August 15th.
 - August 1st for the Allegheny Plateau and Ridge and Valley physiographic provinces (Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Cos., and Frederick County west of the Blue Ridge)
 - July 15th for the Coastal Plain and Piedmont physiographic provinces (all other counties)
- To the extent possible, mow in a manner that provides escape routes for wildlife, as illustrated below.



Edge-to-edge (left) or inside-to-outside (right) mowing patterns provide escape routes for wildlife.

Additional Operations and Maintenance

CERTIFICATION (FOR AGENCY USE ONLY)	
Supporting Documentation (for file)	
Map showing practice location	Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Worksheet, if applicable
<p>Planning Certification</p> <p>This practice was planned according to NRCS standards and specifications.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Job Class: _____</p> <p>_____ Signature by individual with appropriate JAA Date</p>	<p>Implementation Certification</p> <p>This practice was applied according to NRCS standards and specifications.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Amount: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>_____ Signature by individual with appropriate JAA Date</p>
Reporting Checklist	
<p>CPA-06 Notes</p> <p>File copy of completed IR sheet</p>	<p>Report in Toolkit</p> <p>Other reporting tools (optional)</p>

COOPERATOR RECORD-KEEPING (Optional)

Cooperator Name: _____ County: _____ Farm #/Tract #: _____

Field(s)	Acres	Species or Mix	1 st Cut	2 nd Cut	3 rd Cut	4 th Cut	Height at First Kill Frost
			Date Cut	Date Cut	Date Cut	Date Cut	
			Growth Stage	Growth Stage	Growth Stage	Growth Stage	
			Storage Method	Storage Method	Storage Method	Storage Method	
			Date Cut	Date Cut	Date Cut	Date Cut	
			Growth Stage	Growth Stage	Growth Stage	Growth Stage	
			Storage Method	Storage Method	Storage Method	Storage Method	
			Date Cut	Date Cut	Date Cut	Date Cut	
			Growth Stage	Growth Stage	Growth Stage	Growth Stage	
			Storage Method	Storage Method	Storage Method	Storage Method	
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			Growth Stage	Growth Stage	Growth Stage	Growth Stage	
			Storage Method	Storage Method	Storage Method	Storage Method	