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: Acreage of forage managed

Scenario Unit: Acre

Scenario Typical Size: 30

Scenario Cost: $75.81 **Scenario Cost/Unit:** $2.53

Cost Details (by category):

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price ($/unit)	Quantity	Cost
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	$23.53	1	$23.53
Materials						
Test, Plant Tissue Test	301	Tissue analysis for crops. Includes materials and shipping only.	Each	$26.14	2	$52.28