

Forage Harvest Management

North Carolina Practice Job Sheet 511

Prepared for: _____

Prepared by: _____

Farm: _____ Tract: _____ Date: _____



DEFINITION

The timely cutting and removal of forages from the field as hay, green-chop or ensilage.

PURPOSE

The purpose of forage harvest management may be to:

- Optimize the economic yield of forage at the desired quality and quantity.
- Promote vigorous plant regrowth.
- Manage for desired species composition.
- Use forage plant biomass as a soil nutrient uptake tool.
- Control insects, diseases and weeds.
- Maintain and/or improve wildlife habitat.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Forage management operations will comply with all local, state, and federal laws and ordinances.

Evaluate regrowth or reoccurrence of target species after sufficient time has passed to monitor the situation and gather reliable data to determine success and/or need for additional treatment.

Following initial application, some regrowth, resprouting, or reoccurrence of brush should be

expected. Spot treatment of individual plants or areas needing retreatment should be done as needed.

Additional Operation and Maintenance requirements specific to this Plan:

Forage Harvest Management for Crops

Farm #	Field #	Acres	Plant Species	Number of Cuttings	Growth Stage at Harvest	Minimum height at 1 st frost killing

Forage Harvest Management for Wildlife

Farm #	Field #	Acres	Wildlife Concern	Plant Species	Minimum height at 1 st frost killing *(6 in)	Harvest Date Mid Sep – Mid Apr

*Recommend height at killing frost is 6 inches to ensure adequate cover for nesting birds.

- See Integrated Pest Management Plan for information about pest control.
- See Nutrient Management Plan for fertilization recommendations.

Refer to the conservation plan map for the location of Forage Harvest Management for Wildlife.