

Plant Enhancement Activity – ANM03-Incorporate Native Grasses and/or Legumes into 15% or more of the forage base



Enhancement Description:

Establish native grasses and/or incorporate legumes into 15% or more of the forage acres using adapted species and varieties, appropriate seeding rates, and timing of seeding.

Land Use Applicability: This enhancement is applicable to pastureland.

Benefits

Enhancing existing pasture by incorporating

establishing native grasses and legumes can:

1. Improve forage quality and quantity
2. Build soil fertility (legumes fix nitrogen in the soil), increase organic matter
3. Increase plant diversity and promote wildlife habitat
4. Provide forage during seasonal slump periods
5. Extend the grazing season
6. Food source for pollinating insects

Criteria for establishing Native Grasses and/or incorporating Legumes into 15% or more of the forage acres

1. A written grazing management plan that outlines specific goals and objectives.
2. Utilize adapted species, seeding rates and seeding dates according to local NRCS practice standards.
3. Prepare site to reduce competition for native grass establishment in accordance with state-specific recommendations.
4. Prepare site for incorporating legumes into existing forages, or establishing legume fields in accordance with state-specific recommendations
5. Determine species composition before and after seeding. Species composition must be 15% or more of native grasses and/or legumes.
6. If legumes are incorporated, a current-year soil test is required. Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test recommendation.
7. Apply appropriate inoculant before planting legumes.

Documentation Requirements for establishing Native Grasses and/or incorporating Legumes into 15% or more of the forage acres

- A written planting specifications plan that meets the criteria identifying:
 - Plant species to be seeded



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- Seeding rates and dates
- Activities to control plant competition
- Site preparations and planting method
- Amounts of fertilizer and lime to be applied
- Map showing locations of planting



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Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM03 – Incorporate Native Grasses and/or Legumes into 15% or more of the forage base

State Criteria

Acceptable methods of determining species composition before and after seeding include: percent canopy cover by species, percent basal area by species, percent weight by species, and other commonly used methods within the pasture/range management discipline. This assessment should be conducted on a representative area within each pasture being enhanced.

Select acceptable native grass and/or legume species from the “wildlife friendly” plant list (List A) in the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). Document recommended site preparation, planting method, seed mixture, seeding rates and other pertinent information on the Grass Seed Job Sheet (NE-CPA-8). Grazing management plan must include basic information such as goal/objective for the pasture(s), livestock type and class, stocking rate, timing of grazing event including rotation, proper forage balance, and method to determine proper utilization.

In addition, complete the table below:

To be completed by NRCS and Producer during planning				To be completed by Producer during certification process		
Tract	Field	Field Acres	Acres of Pasture Seeded (Planned)	Acres of Pasture Seeded (Applied)	Total Percentage of Native Grass/Legume Prior to Enhancement	Species of Native Grass/Legume Seeded
100	2	55.0	55.0	55.0	Approx. 5% Switchgrass	Seeded Western wheatgrass and red clover @ 25% rate

I certify that the incorporated native grasses and/or legumes meet these specifications including the following documentation as applicable:

1. Written documentation of the activity performed – completed table above.
2. Completed NE-CPA-8 Grass Seeding Job Sheet and associated seed tags, and bills as required.
3. Species composition documentation and grazing management plan.
4. Map with interseeded pasture areas clearly identified (highlighted, outlined, etc.).

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____