

FORAGE HARVEST MANAGEMENT (511) CONSERVATION PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION WORKSHEET

OPERATING UNIT: _____ LOCATION: _____
 FARM No.: _____ TRACT: _____ FIELD(s): _____ CONTRACT NO. | ITEM No.: _____ | _____
 NRCS TECHNICIAN: _____ JOB APPROVAL CLASS: _____
 DATE: _____ TOTAL AREA HARVESTED: _____ ACRES

PURPOSE: This practice may be applied as part of a Conservation Management System to support one or more of the following [check as appropriate]:

- Optimize the economic yield of forage at the desired quality and quantity
- Promote vigorous plant regrowth
- Maintain stand life for the desired time period
- Control insects, diseases, and weeds
- Maintain and/or improve wildlife habitat
- Use forage plant biomass as a nutrient uptake tool

FORAGES

Field	Acres	Forage Suitability Group	Forage Species Harvested	Cultivar/Variety

FORAGE HARVEST

Field	Type of Harvest*	Plant Stage to Begin Harvest	Moisture Content at Harvest	Harvest Interval or Harvest Date(s)	Number of Harvests	Production/Tons/Acre (air-dry)	Minimum Stubble Height	
							After Harvest	At End of Growing Season

*Hay [H] Green Chop [GC] Silage [S]

CULTURAL PRACTICES

Cropping System/Rotation: _____

Fertilizers and/or Soils Amendments Applied:

Kind	Amount (Lbs/Acre)	Timing of Application(s)

Table I. Guidelines for Forage Harvest (Pages 5&6 of 511 Spec)

Approximate growth stage for harvest, minimum cutting height, and minimum leaf length at end of the growing season for key forage species in Nevada.

FORAGE PLANT NAME	CUTTING PERIOD	PLANT GROWTH STAGE	MINIMUM CUTTING HEIGHT (inches)	MINIMUM PLANT HEIGHT AT END OF GROWING SEASON (inches)
GRASS				
Altai Wildrye	1 st 2 nd	Early-Head to Full-Head 8-inch to 10-inch height	3	4
Basin Wildrye	1 st 2 nd	Early-Head to Full-Head 8-inch to 10-inch height	5	8
Bermudagrass	1 st 2 nd	Boot to Mid-Head 12-inch to 15-inch height	3	5
Big Bluestem	1 st	Boot to Mid-Head	3	8
Creeping Meadow Foxtail	1 st 2 nd	Early-Head to Full-Head 8-inch to 10-inch height	3	5
Creeping Wildrye	1 st 2 nd	Early-Head to Full-Head 8-inch to 10-inch height	3	4
Crested/Desert Wheatgrass	1 st ; 2 nd	Boot to Early-Head	3	3
Eastern Gamagrass	1 st	Boot to Mid-Head	3	8
Intermediate/Pubescent Wheatgrass	1 st 2 nd	Early-Head to Full-Head 8-inch to 10-inch height	4/3	6
Italian Ryegrass	1 st	Mid-Head to Flowering	3	–
Kentucky Bluegrass	1 st ; 2 nd	Boot to Early-Head	3	3
Meadow Bromegrass (<i>Regar</i>)	1 st ; 2 nd	Boot to Early-Head	3	4
Nevada Bluegrass	1 st ; 2 nd	Boot to Pre-Head	3	8
Orchardgrass	1 st 2 nd	Boot to Early-Head 10-inch to 12-inch height	3	6
Reed Canarygrass	1 st 2 nd	Early-Boot 12-inch to 15-inch height or as basal sprouts appear	3	4
Russian Wildrye	1 st ; 2 nd	Boot to Early-Head	3	4
Siberian Wheatgrass	1 st ; 2 nd	Boot to Early-Head	3	3
Slender Wheatgrass	1 st ; 2 nd	Boot to Early-Head	5	6
Smooth Bromegrass	1 st 2 nd	Boot to Early-Head 8-inch to 10-inch height	4	6
Sudangrass*	All	Early-Head to Full-Head	6	–
Switchgrass	1 st	Boot to Mid-Head	3	10
Tall Fescue	1 st ; 2 nd	Boot to Pre-Head	3	6
Tall Wheatgrass	1 st ; 2 nd	Boot to Early-Head	5	8
Timothy	1 st 2 nd	Full-Head to Flowering 12-inch to 15-inch height	3	6

*Sudangrass regrowth should not be grazed following cutting, within 2 weeks following a frost, or during drought conditions to avoid Prussic acid (HCN) poisoning.

Boot: seed head of grass plants remain in sheath of floral culms (prior to emergence)

Early-Head: tip of grass seed head emerging from boot-sheath on not more than 10 percent of culms (floral stems)

Mid-Head: about 50 percent of grass plant seed heads have emerged from boot-sheath, or are emerging

Full-Head: grass plant seed heads fully emerged from boot-sheath but prior to flowering

Flowering: grass plant seed heads fully formed, anthers evident, seeds with milky juice

Table I. Guidelines for Forage Harvest

Approximate growth stage for harvest, minimum cutting height, and minimum plant height at end of the growing season for key forage species in Nevada.

FORAGE PLANT NAME	CUTTING PERIOD	PLANT GROWTH STAGE	MINIMUM CUTTING HEIGHT (inches)	MINIMUM PLANT HEIGHT AT END OF GROWING SEASON (inches)
LEGUMES				
Alfalfa	All	Early-Bud to 1/10 th Bloom	3	4
Alsike Clover	1 st 2 nd on	Late-Bud to Early-Bloom 10-inch to 12-inch height	3	6
Birdsfoot Trefoil	1 st 2 nd on	Early-Bloom to Mid-Bloom After 7 to 8 weeks regrowth	3	5
Cicer Milkvetch	1 st 2 nd on	Early-Bloom to Mid-Bloom After 6 to 7 weeks regrowth	3	5
Ladino Clover	1 st 2 nd on	Late-Bud to Mid-Bloom 10-inch to 12-inch height	2	6
Red Clover	1 st 2 nd on	Late-Bud to Mid-Bloom 10-inch to 12-inch height	3	6
Sanfoin	All	Mid-Bloom	4	6
Strawberry Clover	1 st 2 nd on	Late-Bud to Mid-Bloom 10-inch to 12-inch height	2	6
Sweetclover**	1 st 2 nd on	Early-Bud to Early-Bloom After 6 to 7 weeks regrowth	4 to 6	5
White Dutch Clover	1 st 2 nd on	Late-Bud to Mid-Bloom 10-inch to 12-inch height	3	4
OTHER				
Small Grains	All	Late-Milk to Soft-Dough	3	–
Grass-Legume Mix (see below for exceptions)	All	Base on Legume	–	–
Grass- Legume ¹ Mix ¹ Birdsfoot Trefoil, or ¹ White Clover, or ¹ Ladino Clover	All	Base on Grass	–	–

**Sweetclover hay having a moisture content over 50 percent can readily spoil, become toxic, and cause hemorrhagic disease (*hypoprothrombinemia*) in cattle.

Early-Bud: *no flower color evident on 80 percent of plants*

Late-Bud: *flower color evident on 80 percent of plants*

Early-Bloom: *plants have 10 percent of flowers exposed (1/10th bloom)*

Mid-Bloom: *plants have 35 to 50 percent of flowers exposed*

Late-Bloom: *plants with all flowers exposed*

Flowering: *plants with all flowers fully formed (full-bloom)*