



MANAGED HARVESTING CRP Job Sheet

Ohio - Natural Resources Conservation Service

July 2012

Description

In order for CRP fields established to herbaceous cover to continue to meet the practice purposes, management of the cover may be needed during the life of the contract. Managed harvesting of hay or biomass is a permitted use that may be used to achieve this objective in some cases. Participants requesting permission to carry out managed harvesting on CRP must harvest the vegetation according to a plan which:

- Maintains the vegetative cover
- Minimizes soil erosion
- Protects water quality
- Protects wildlife habitat

This practice may be used on CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, and CP10.

This job sheet is a modification to the conservation plan originally developed for establishment, maintenance and management of your CRP fields. Managed harvesting may be used in conjunction with other management activities in some cases. If other management activities are also planned for this area, separate job sheets for those actions will be provided.

Managed Harvesting Requirements

In addition to the technical specifications for carrying out managed harvesting found on the following pages of this job sheet, there are also CRP program requirements that must be followed. If you have questions about the requirements, you should contact the county office of the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Before carrying out managed harvesting, you must request permission from FSA by completing a **Request to Participate in Haying and Grazing of CRP Acreage** (form CRP-117).

You must comply with the **Terms and Conditions for Haying (Including for Biomass) and Routine Grazing of CRP Acreage**.

You must report your acreage actually harvested to FSA after harvesting is completed (form CRP-118).

Managed harvesting is permitted no more frequently than once out of every three years.

You may not harvest and graze the same acreage.

Technical Specifications

The following are specifications for Managed Harvesting on CRP acreage:

- Harvesting must be done in a way that meets the practice purpose and achieves the identified objective including wildlife needs.
- Acreage is eligible 12 months after the cover is fully established. Typically this would be two years after planting introduced grasses and three years after planting native grasses.
- Harvesting is limited to one cutting per year.
- Harvesting will be performed according to the cutting height, schedule and fertility management provided in this job sheet.
- Managed harvesting operations may be performed between July 16 and November 12.
- Hay shall be removed from the field within 10 days of harvest but no later than November 12.
- Managed harvesting shall not be performed in the following areas:
 - Areas where haying will potentially cause a negative impact on existing cover or wildlife habitat.
 - Areas planted to trees and/or shrubs.
 - Within 120 feet of a stream or permanent water body.

Considerations

- Consider spot spraying or mowing areas where noxious weeds, such as Canada thistle or johnsongrass exist. This will reduce the potential for unintentional establishment of these species by haying.
- Participants should be wary of tile blowholes, groundhog holes, fallen tree limbs, and other hazards that may have developed since they were last in the field.
- Harvesting in low, wet areas currently dominated by wetland vegetation should be avoided because these areas often add additional plant diversity to the site.

Harvesting Management

Objective of Managed Harvest:

Height of Cuttings		
Species Type	Minimum Height to Begin Cutting for Hay	Minimum Cutting Height
Cool Season Grasses and Legumes	8-10 inch height	4 inches
Warm Season Grasses	12-18 inch height	8 inches

Fertility Management and Maintenance*

- 1. For Low Fertility Soils/Fields (Phosphorus Bray P1 < 30 lbs/ac, and Exchangeable K < 200 lbs/ac).**
 - Apply Nitrogen at 40 lbs/ac (Maximum of 80 lbs/ac) for each ton of hay removed, unless more than 35% of the stand consists of Legumes.
 - Apply Phosphate (P₂O₅) at 13 lbs/ac for each ton of hay removed.
 - Apply Potash (K₂O) at 50 lbs/ac for each ton of hay removed.

- 2. For Moderate to High Fertility Soils/Fields (Phosphorus Bray P1 > 30 lbs/ac, and Exchangeable K > 200 lbs/ac).**
 - No Fertility Required. Can apply the amounts shown in item "1" above.

*As determined by soil test less than 5 years old. If a soil test less than 5 years old is not available, one will be required.

Harvesting Schedule

CRP Field Number	Targeted Plant or Desired Stand Condition	Harvesting Dates	Other Requirements

I understand and concur with this Managed Harvesting Plan and will harvest the CRP acreage according to this plan.	
Participant	Date
This Job Sheet is considered an addendum to the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO). No modification of the CPO will be necessary.	
NRCS	Date