

## PASTURE AND HAYLAND INTERPRETATIONS

### GENERAL

The land capability and yield estimates for pasture and hayland are given for each map unit in the survey.

### PASTURE AND HAYLAND SUITABILITY GROUPINGS

Soils are placed in pasture and hayland groups according to their suitability for the production of forage. The soils in each group are enough alike to be suited to the same grasses or legumes, to have similar limitations and hazards, to require similar management, and to have similar productivity and other responses to management.

### YIELD ESTIMATES

The average yields per acre that can be expected of the principal pasture or hayland crops, under a high level of management are generated from the Soil Data Mart and produced in a national report "Non-irrigated Yields by Mapunit Component". With this report, up to 5 crops can be selected, of which 2, are normally grass-legume hay (tons/acre) and Kentucky Bluegrass (Animal Unit Months or AUM). An AUM is the amount of forage or feed required to feed one 1000 pound animal unit for 30 days. In any given year, yields may be higher or lower than those indicated in the tables because of variations in rainfall or other climatic factors. The yields are based mainly on the experience and records of farmers, conservationists, and extension agents. Available

yield data from nearby counties and results of field trials and demonstrations are also considered. Under good management, proper grazing is essential for the production of high quality forage, stand survival, and erosion control. Proper grazing helps plants maintain sufficient and generally vigorous top growth during the growing season. Brush control is essential in many areas, and weed control generally is needed. Rotational grazing, soil amendments and renovation are also important management practices.

### REFERENCES

- (1) West Virginia Grassland Handbook; located in NRCS Field Offices.
- (2) Soil Data Mart  
<http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Survey.aspx?State=WV>
- (3) Web Soil Survey  
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>