



5b. Conservation Crop Rotation – Forages

Purpose

1. Encourage agriculture producers to establish a soil conserving forage crop in their crop rotation
2. Reduce sheet, rill, and wind erosion
3. Reduce water quality degradation due to excess nutrients
4. Increase cropping system diversity

Applicability

Applies to cropland acres in the 14-county program area. Existing cropland acres where forage crops are established is not eligible for payment. Acres receiving a payment under any other county, state or federal program for (CSP, EQIP, WL Buffer, etc.) are not eligible.

Specifications:

1. Perennial forages must be established in the rotation
2. Seeding rates for forages shall follow NRCS Appendix A seeding table or OSU Agronomy Guide, 15th ed.
3. Manure and/or fertilizer applications, following the approved VNMP, are permitted between March 15 and October 15
4. Practice must be maintained a minimum of two years from the date of practice installation.
5. Residual forage height must be a minimum of four inches height by October 15 each year
6. Residual forage must be maintained during the non-growing season
7. Grazing according to a Grazing Management Plan between March 15 and October 15 is permitted
8. Producer may apply for a minimum of two years and no more than three years of funding for this practice

Technical Responsibilities

Producer Responsibilities

1. Provide VNMP to SWCD
2. Provide acres and field maps of forage established
3. Provide seed tags (including: % purity, % germ., % weed seed , Ohio noxious weed content) for forages

SWCD Responsibilities

1. Receive application from the producer and complete agreement
2. Determine eligibility, excluding any existing acres where a forage crop is already established, document plan on BMP Worksheet
3. Enter all required information into Beehive
4. Verify overwintering forage crop is established and maintained, annually for the life of the practice
5. Process payment to producer

Participant Payments

Participants will receive \$35/ac payment annually, for up to three years, when verification of all program requirements are met . Funding for 2022 and 2023 is contingent on future funding of the program.



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| Plant Species | Pure Live Seeding Rate (lb/ac) | | | | | Seeding depth (in) ¹ | Seeding Dates ² | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Pure Stand | ¾ | ½ | ⅓ | ¼ | | Northern | Southern |
| Cool Season Growth³ | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Legumes | | | | | | | | |
| Fescue, Tall^{5,6} | 15 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 4 | ¼ in | 3-15 to 5-1 or 8-1 to 9-15 | 3-1 to 4-20 or 8-1 to 9-15 |
| Festulolium | 25 | 19 | 13 | 8 | 6 | ¼ in | 3-15 to 5-1 or 8-1 to 9-15 | 3-1 to 4-20 or 8-1 to 9-15 |
| Garrison Creeping Foxtail | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | ¼ in | 3-15 to 5-1 or 8-1 to 9-15 | 3-1 to 4-20 or 8-1 to 9-15 |
| Kentucky Bluegrass | 10 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 3 | ¼ in | 3-15 to 5-1 or 8-1 to 9-15 | 3-1 to 4-20 or 8-1 to 9-15 |
| Meadow Fescue | 16 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 4 | ¼ in | 3-15 to 5-1 or 8-1 to 9-15 | 3-1 to 4-20 or 8-1 to 9-15 |
| Orchardgrass | 10 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 3 | ¼ in | 3-15 to 5-1 or 8-1 to 9-15 | 3-1 to 4-20 or 8-1 to 9-15 |
| Perennial Ryegrass | 24 | 18 | 12 | 8 | 6 | ¼ in | 3-15 to 5-1 or 8-1 to 9-15 | 3-1 to 4-20 or 8-1 to 9-15 |
| Reed Canarygrass^{5,6} | 10 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 3 | ¼ in | 3-15 to 5-1 | 3-1 to 4-20 |
| Smooth Bromegrass | 16 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 4 | ¼ in | 3-15 to 5-1 or 8-1 to 9-25 | 3-1 to 4-20 or 8-1 to 9-25 |
| Timothy | 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | ¼ in | 3-15 to 5-1 or 8-1 to 9-15 | 3-1 to 4-20 or 8-1 to 9-15 |
| Forage Chicory | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | ¼ in | 4-1 to 5-1 to 8-1 to 8-20 | 3-15 to 4-20 or 8-1 to 8-30 |
| Legumes | | | | | | | | |
| Alfalfa | 15 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 4 | ¼ in | 4-1 to 5-1 or 8-1 to 8-15 | 3-20 to 4-25 or 8-1 to 8-30 |
| Alsike Clover | 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | ¼ in | 2-1 to 5-1 or 7-20 to 8-30 | 2-1 to 4-25 or 8-1 to 9-15 |
| Birdsfoot trefoil | 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | ¼ in | 4-1 to 5-1 | 3-20 to 4-25 |
| Kura clover | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | ¼ in | 4-1 to 5-1 | 3-20 to 4-25 |
| Red Clover | 11 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | ¼ in | 2-1 to 5-1 or 7-20 to 8-30 | 2-1 to 4-25 or 8-1 to 9-15 |
| White Clover, Ladino | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ¼ in | 2-1 to 5-1 or 7-20 to 8-30 | 2-1 to 4-25 or 8-1 to 9-15 |
| White Clover, Dutch | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ¼ in | 2-1 to 5-1 or 7-20 to 8-30 | 2-1 to 4-25 or 8-1 to 9-15 |
| Warm Season Growth⁴ | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Legumes | | | | | | | | |
| Big Bluestem | 12 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | ¼ in | 4-1 to 6-1 | 4-1 to 6-1 |
| Little Bluestem | 10 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 3 | ¼ in | 4-1 to 6-1 | 4-1 to 6-1 |
| Caucasian bluestem | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ¼ in | 4-1 to 6-1 | 4-1 to 6-1 |
| Eastern Gamagrass | 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | ½ in | 4-1 to 6-1 | 4-1 to 6-1 |
| Indiangrass | 12 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | ¼ in | 4-1 to 6-1 | 4-1 to 6-1 |
| Switchgrass | 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | ¼ in | 4-1 to 6-1 | 4-1 to 6-1 |
| Legumes | | | | | | | | |
| Lespedeza, sericea | 20 | 15 | 10 | 7 | 5 | ¼ in | 4-1 to 6-1 | 4-1 to 6-1 |

1. Planting depth is critical for successful establishment. Many failures result from planting too deeply.
2. Northern Ohio = Generally North of I70 - Southern Ohio = South of I70
3. For cool season species dormant seeding can be planned between Dec 1 to Mar 14; interceding clovers into existing grass stands are recommended from Feb to early Mar.
4. For warm season species dormant seeding can be planned between Nov 1 to Mar 14.
5. Invasive without proper management.
6. Consider planting low alkaloid varieties or endophyte free or endophyte friendly varieties.
7. Do not plant until after the Hessian fly free date: Varies from Sept 22 in Northern Ohio to Oct 5 in Southern Ohio. See the Ohio Agronomy Guide for specific date.