

Native Forage Grasses Utilized for Pasture – Grazing Management Enhancement #6

DESCRIPTION – This enhancement improves forage plant diversity within the grazing system by utilizing native forage grasses. The enhancement provides grazing forages for the summer slump period while also providing some preferred wildlife habitat.

Enhancement Requirements

The CSP Participant will maintain a grazing management system that utilizes a range of 5 to 25 percent of the grazing system acreage in native forage grass species. These native species can include a mixture of any of the following species: Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Side Oats Grama, Virginia Wild Rye, Buffalograss, Lovegrass, Mannagrass, Eastern Gamagrass, Crabgrass (planted) and Dropseed. Though not recommended, pure monocultures of Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, Indiangrass and Eastern Gamagrass are permitted.

Livestock will be managed to allow for adequate rest between grazing periods and the CSP Participant will ensure that native species are not over grazed. Note: Most tall grass species should not be grazed below 8 inches.

Adequate time for re-growth shall be allowed to provide enough time for winter carbohydrate storage in the roots and as practical or desired for winter wildlife cover.



Performance Requirements

The CSP Participant will certify this activity annually by signing an annual payment certification letter and submitting it to the NRCS office servicing the contract.

Payment for this enhancement will be per acre per year for contract acres of native forage grasses planned for this enhancement. The activity and payment will commence at the end of the first grazing season or with the first year contract payment if it is already in place.

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