

Pasture and Hay Planting (512) Requirements

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) 2009

Eligible lands (no acreage limitation):

Cropland conversion is eligible but NOT as a component of an HELC compliance plan. RUSLE2 reports must clearly document the before and after soil loss, and a copy placed in the case file, and the conservation plan signed by the producer must clearly indicate what the new system includes and match the RUSLE2 report.

The only exception is when the pasture and hay planting will bring the field to a higher level of erosion control by at least 25% beyond the erosion level of the existing HELC compliance plan. (Example: HELC compliance plan calls for 1 year of low residue producing crops followed by five years of grass. This pasture and hay planting is ineligible. If, however, the producer is willing to convert to any other cropping system that brings soil erosion levels at least 25% lower than required in the HELC compliance plan, then it is eligible).

Pasture is eligible, but the Pasture Condition Score before application of the system must be less than 35 points. If less than 50 percent of the existing grass species are desirable, establish in a grass legume mix. All pasture plantings require a 5 paddock system. (NWSG is exempt from Pasture Condition Scoring, no harvest or grazing for 2 years from date of establishment.)

Hayland conversion is only eligible for establishment of NWSG.

Based on soil, forage management, and production needs select one of the following seeding mixes:

Cool Season Grass/Legume Mix		
Species	Fall	Spring
Tall Fescue	18	21
White clover	2	2
Red clover	4	4
An. lespedeza (optional)	-	8
Orchardgrass	18	10
White clover	2	2
Red clover	4	4
Alfalfa	20	20
Orchardgrass	5	6
Alfalfa	20	20
Orchardgrass	3	3
Timothy	2	2
Reed Canarygrass	12	14
Alsike clover	4	4
Orchardgrass	18	21
Red Clover	7	7
Tall Fescue	18	21
White Clover	2	2
Cool Season Mix for Shady Areas		
Species	Fall	Spring
Orchardgrass	6	7
Kentucky Bluegrass		
Virginia Wildrye	4	5
White Clover	8	9

Annual Lespedeza	2	2
	-	10
Warm Season Grass- Native Single Species		
Species	Fall	Spring
Big Bluestem	-	8
Eastern Gamagrass	10 nonstratified	10 stratified, cold chilled
Indiangrass	-	8
Little Bluestem	-	8
Switchgrass	-	8
Warm Season Native Mix		
Species	Fall	Spring
Big Bluestem	-	4
Indiangrass	-	4
Big Bluestem	-	3
Indiangrass	-	3
Little Bluestem	-	3
Eastern gamagrass	-	5
Switchgrass	-	4
Warm Season Grass- Introduced Single Species		
Species	Fall	Spring
Bermudagrass	-	9
Bermudagrass sprigs or cuttings	-	24 bushels or 30 cu.ft.

No additional cost share will be paid for Nutrient Management or Prescribed Grazing.

Producer requirements for payment:

1. **Soil test required and must be from UT or a certified lab approved by The North American Proficiency Testing Program (Soil Science Society of America).** Areas of contrasting soils, problem spots or portions of fields where yields are significantly different should be sampled separately, provided the area can be fertilized separately. Examples: bottomland and upland. See University of Tennessee publication PB 1061 ([UT PB1061](#)) for soil sampling information.
2. **Apply lime** as required by soil test.
3. **Apply fertilizer** for establishment by soil test recommendations. A medium/high fertility level is the desired target.

For NWSG, if pH is 5.0 or higher apply no lime. If lower apply 2 tons per acre, no nitrogen at planting, apply P2O5 and K2O as recommended in soil sample and all other requirements must be met. No harvest or grazing for 2 years from date of establishment.

Additional requirements for pasture:

4. **Develop a conservation plan with a grazing component** for the land with NRCS assistance.
5. **Implement a rotational grazing plan with a minimum of :**
 - A. **Five paddocks**
 - B. **Minimum grazing height of:** Graze no more than 20 percent of the acreage to less than the minimum grazing height. Confine and feed livestock as needed to protect from overgrazing. Adjust stocking rate, management or inputs as needed to manage grazing heights.
 - 2" for bermudagrass, ryegrass
 - 3" for cool season grasses (e.g. tall fescue, orchardgrass, cereal grains)
 - 6" for tall upright grasses (e.g. native grass, millet, sorghums)
 - C. **Balance forage.** Completion of a livestock and forage balance is required. Adjust livestock numbers, fertilizer rates, or purchased feed in order to meet livestock forage needs.
 - D. **Control weeds** in the pasture by clipping, spraying, high density grazing, mixed species grazing and/or wiping as needed. Complete a pest management plan as a part of the conservation plan.
6. **Payments** - If a payment is made on Pasture Planting with cool season grasses, the Pasture Condition Score at the end of the first year must be greater than 35 points or the producer will be subject to repayment (see CPM 440, Part 512, Subpart G for information).