



Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Security Program Enhancement Job Sheets

Grazing Management Enhancements

Minnesota, 2005

Manage Pastures to Promote Species Diversification and Improve Forage Quality

Definition

Adding additional functional groups to the forage species composition in a pasture system. The four functional groups are 1.) cool season grasses 2.) warm season grasses 3.) legumes, and 4.) other grazable broadleaf plants.

Purpose

The purpose is to maintain a consistent forage supply through the season, to fix nitrogen in the soil, to improve the quality of the forage mix, and to maximize forage site adaptability.

Where Used

This is used in a Prescribed Grazing system.

Operation and Maintenance

Warm season grasses should be planted in paddocks separate from cool season grasses so that each can be managed for the benefit of the primary forage type. Legumes are nearly always seeded with cool season grasses, but may be seeded in separate paddocks. Other grazable broadleaf plants (brassicas, forage chicory, etc.) are normally seeded with a mixture of grasses. The variety of functional groups must be available within the pasture system.

The result of this enhancement is to have at least 3 functional groups represented in the pasture system.

Payment Rate

A payment per acre of pasture.

Documentation Required

The Plant Diversity criteria from the Pasture Condition Scoresheet (May 2001) must be a score of 5.

Signature: _____ Date: _____