



EQIP Participant

EQIP Contract Number

Purpose: To promote the timely machine harvest of forages as hay, green chop or ensilage in order to improve or maintain stand life, plant vigor, and forage species composition.

- Forage harvest height for the managed species will not be shorter than 3 inches sod forming grasses (such as Bermudagrass), or shorter than 4 to 8 inches on bunch type grasses (such as Klein or Buffelgrass). Heights discussed in the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528) will be used.
- Harvest interval will as close as feasible to the prescribed timing for harvest of the quality hay that is needed to meet the client's goals.
- Last cutting of the season will not be made more than 4 weeks prior to fall freeze date specified in the contract.
- The harvest height and timing of annual crops will be conducted to provide the maximum in forage quality while leaving enough residues to provide for erosion control to the soil tolerance level (T) and meet soil condition objectives.
- Consideration of companion practices such as Cropping Sequence and Cover Crops should be given to insure erosion standards and soil condition requirements are achieved.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM
2010 Practice Implementation Sheet
Forage Harvest Management (511) – Organic Initiative

NRCS will:

- Assist participants with the development of realistic yield goals
- Assist participants with determining an approximate harvest interval for the targeted forages.
- Utilize the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE2) and Wind Erosion Equation (WEQ), as appropriate where annual crops are grown to insure that soil loss is below the tolerance (T) value and that soil condition objectives are maintained.

Participant will:

- Provide a signed “self certification” letter stating the producer’s intent to become a certified organic operation.
- For certified producers, a copy of their current Organic System Plan (OSP) must be provided.
- Ensure that the requirements of the National Organic Program (NOP) will be followed for implantation of this practice.
- Determine the yield goal for the type of hay produced.
- Provide information about planned harvest dates and methods.
- Harvest at the proper stage of maturity for the quality and quantity of forage desired.
- Harvest at a frequency and height to maintain healthy plants, lessen the incidence of disease, insect or weed infestations.
- Insure that sufficient forage growth and residues are maintained on the soil surface to achieve soil erosion and condition objectives.
- **Remain in frequent contact with employees in the NRCS Field Office to ensure contract compliance and that the planned objectives are being met.**
- **Provide NRCS with cutting dates and yields at the end of the haying season.**

*****Annual implementation will be considered complete, and payment made, when the final hay harvest has been made for the growing season and production records are turned in.**

I have read the Forage Harvest Management Payment Fact Sheet and my questions concerning this practice have been answered. I understand that a failure to follow the specifications may constitute a contract violation and may jeopardize any and all payments.

Participant Signature

Date