**alliance practice worksheet**

virginia

Pasture and hay planting (512)

*The conditions and specifications below are adapted from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Producers who are installing these practices under the Alliance will use the conditions and implementation guides below but are exempt from NRCS verification and certification. Completing the Purposes and Practice Specifications on this document is sufficient to self-verify practice installation and completion.*

# Farm Info

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Producer Name |  |
| County (Farm Location) |  |
| FSA Farm Number |  |
| FSA Field Number(s) |  |
| FSA Tract Number(s) |  |
| Practice Status:*If a practice has not yet been implemented, select Planned**If a practice has been implemented, select Applied* | [ ]  Planned | [ ]  Applied |
| Planned Date of IMPLEMENTATION: | Date Practice was APPLIED: |

# PRACTICE: PASTURE AND HAY PLANTING (512)

**DEFINITION**: Establishing adapted and compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of perennial herbaceous plants suitable for pasture or hay production.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PASTURE AND HAY PLANTING (512):**

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/32633/512_VA_CPS_Pasture_and_Hay_Planting_20>

**EXPECTATIONS:**

This practice applies to all lands suitable for the one-time establishment of perennial species for forage production that will likely persist for 5 years. This practice does not apply to the establishment of annually planted and mechanically harvested food, fiber, or oilseed crops planted on designated cropland.

# GENERAL CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO ALL PURPOSES

* Select plant species and their cultivars based on —
	+ Climatic conditions, such as annual precipitation and its distribution, growing season length, temperature extremes, and the USDA Plant Hardiness Zones.
	+ Soil condition and landscape position attributes such as pH, available water holding capacity, aspect, slope, drainage class, fertility level, salinity, depth, flooding and ponding, and levels of phytotoxic elements that may be present. Utilize ecological site description pasture states and forage suitability groups if available.
	+ Intended use, level of management, realistic yield estimates, stage of vegetative growth for planned harvest, and compatibility with other species.
	+ Resistance to disease and insects common to the site or location.
* Follow recommendations for planting rates, methods, and dates obtained from the [NRCS Plant Materials Program](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plant-materials), NRCS State guidance, land grant university extension, and applicable published research documents.
* Calculate seeding rates to be consistent with State and local criteria.
* Plant at a depth appropriate for the seed size or plant material, while assuring uniform contact with soil.
* Implement site preparation and seedbed preparation methods that avoid restricting plant emergence.
* Plant when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment.
* Utilize seed and planting materials that will meet State quality standards.
* Do not plant Federal, State, or local noxious species.
* Apply all plant nutrients and soil amendments for establishment purposes according to a current soil test taken within 3 years of the proposed planting date. Nutrient application rates, methods, and dates are obtained from the NRCS Plant Materials Program, NRCS State guidance, land grant university extension, and applicable published research documents.
* When planting legumes, use pre-inoculated seed, inoculum coated seed, or inoculate with the proper viable strain of rhizobia immediately before planting.
* Exclude livestock until the plants are well established. Ensure the plants have reached the full start grazing heights or the recommended hay cutting heights (late elongation phase or later) before the first grazing or cutting begins. There may be conditions during the growing season that require the plants to reach maturity before any haying or grazing takes place to avoid the risk of killing the new plants.

# PRODUCER PURPOSE(S)

*Check all that apply.*

[ ]  Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and health

[ ]  Improve air quality

[ ]  Improve soil health

# PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS

**FIELD NUMBER(S) AND ACRES TO BE PLANTED:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**SPECIES, RATES (LBS/AC), PLANTING DEPTH, AND RANGE OF PLANTING DATE**

*Include companion species if used:*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Describe site preparation and timing (include tillage, burndown herbicide application, mowing, intensive grazing or other methods used to reduce surface residue and prepare site for successful establishment):

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**SEED/PLANT SOURCE:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**SEED ANALYSIS (TAG):**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**METHOD OF ESTABLISHMENT:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [ ]  Broadcast | [ ]  Drill | [ ]  Frost-seed |

**SEED COATING DETAILS (IF APPLICABLE):**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**FERTILIZER / LIME RECOMMENDATION (PER SOIL TEST):**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**IF LEGUME, WAS IT PRE-INOCULATED OR INOCULATED JUST BEFORE PLANTING?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**TYPE OF INOCULANT USED:** See list in Southern Forages 5th Edition, A. 22

|  |
| --- |
|  |

* **FOR GRASS PLANTINGS, PLAN TO PREVENT ACCESS BY LIVESTOCK TO THE PLANTING AREA UNTIL FORAGE HAS FULLY ESTABLISHED.**

# Recommended Operation & Maintenance (O&M)

The operation and maintenance plan will include, as a minimum, the following requirements:

* Inspect and calibrate equipment prior to use
* Continually monitor equipment during planting to ensure proper rate, distribution, and depth of planting material is maintained
* Monitor new plantings for water stress
	+ Depending on the severity of drought, water stress may require reducing weeds, early harvest of any companion crops, irrigating when possible, or replanting failed stands.
	+ Monitor new plantings for prolonged wet conditions, which may cause failure of the plant establishment.

|  |
| --- |
| Notes: |

# PRODUCER SELF-CERTIFICATION

By signing below, I certify that I have reviewed all required documentation, and the information outlined above meet all criteria and requirements as defined in the Natural Resources Conservation Service **PASTURE AND HAY PLANTING (512)** standard and specifications for the identified acres or animal units.

Further, I agree that:

[ ]  I have not received a payment for this conservation practice on these fields and acres from another USDA Conservation Program or another USDA Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities grant partner.

[ ]  I will retain all practice documentation to support this certification for up to 12 months following practice adoption and will provide this documentation to the Alliance if selected for a spot check. *(Up to 10% of enrolled Alliance participants will be randomly selected for spot checks).*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Producer Name:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |