DSP-02 Permanent Vegetative Cover Enhancement

Purpose

1. Reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.
2. Improve the productive cover of existing pastureland with the demonstration of no-till, inter-seeding of legumes by the use of no-till drills; to protect the soil and prevent the pollution of air, land or water from agricultural uses.

Applicability

1. Applies to pastureland and hay land only where non-woody, permanent vegetative cover is in poor or very poor condition, with less than thirty percent (30%) introduced legumes, to be improved to good condition; or to fescue pastureland in better than poor condition with less than thirty percent (30%) introduced legumes and where fescue-endophyte fungus infestation levels are greater than thirty percent (30%) and less than seventy percent (70%). The argument has been made that during certain times of the year, a particular fescue stand will show lower levels of endophyte infestation than what is actually present. The board, with the help of University Extension, should make every effort to inform the cooperator of the proper method and timing of taking the endophyte test. The purpose of the endophyte test is to determine the level of infestation. The test should not be taken just to qualify for cost-share.
2. In the case of fescue eligibility, the percent legume in the fescue pasture must be less than thirty percent (30%). Lespedeza is excluded from the measurement. The fescue-endophyte infestation level must be greater than thirty percent (30%) and less than seventy percent (70%) as determined by a proper endophyte test. Refer to NRCS Technical Note No. 17.
3. For purposes of this practice, poor pasture condition shall include "poor" and "very poor," with numeric values of 20 or less as determined by the use of the JS-Agron 24.

Erosion Requirements

Practice is eligible for cost-share based sheet and rill erosion. Pre-installation erosion rates must be less than or equal to tolerable soil loss.

Sheet & Rill Erosion Checks: PRE-INSTALL < OR = T

Specifications

The completed practice must meet the NRCS Standards and Specifications for Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), and Vegetation Establishment, Herbaceous Seeding (723) contained in the Field Office Technical Guide.

Policies

1. Haying is permitted to manage and maintain the legume when grazing alone does not control grass and weed growth.

2. ***Cost-share is authorized for:***

   a. Limestone and fertilizer. Assistance is limited to the minimum requirements based on legume establishment recommendations, as determined by a soil test. Cost-share for limestone may be approved for the amount needed up to a maximum of 1,500 pounds effective neutralizing material (ENM). Any amount over 1,500 pounds of ENM is the cooperator's responsibility. For those tests which have an ENM requirement of less than 600 pounds per acre, the cooperator has the option of applying the requirement.

   b. Interseed Legumes. Permanent vegetative cover based on the DSP-02 Interseed Legumes component.

   c. Reseeding, under the conditions listed in Section V, subsection E, for a maximum of 80 acres.

3. ***Cost-share is not authorized for:***

   a. Measures which would constitute complete re-establishment of existing cover.

   b. Nitrogen.

   c. Nutrient application based on crop production goals rather than establishment recommendations.

   d. Nutrient build-up. Fertilizer application is to be consistent with one year's nutrient requirements for a four or eight year nutrient buildup plan.

   e. Chemicals.

   f. Broadcast or aerial sowing of legume seed.

   g. Woody or rocky fields where a no-till drill would not perform adequately.

   h. Fields where woody vegetation has been cleared and no improvements or maintenance of soil cover has since been performed.

   i. Land already established in permanent vegetative cover which is under the maintenance agreement of any program.

   j. Fields with pre-install erosion rates above "T."

   k. Harvest of grass or legume seed.

Maximum State Cost-Share

1. Assistance can not exceed 160 acres per cooperator for all farms owned by that cooperator. If the land changes ownership, the new owner would be eligible to receive cost-share for the practice provided the land qualifies and the new owner has not previously met the cost-share maximum for the practice. It is the board's responsibility to see that the commission's intent that no more than 160 acres of DSP-02 is demonstrated per cooperator.

2. Assistance is limited to 75% of the county average cost, not to exceed the state average cost.

3. Utilize the Practice Limits Detail report in MoSWIMS to ensure compliance with applicable maximums.

Map Requirements
A map that displays the completed practice must be scanned and attached as a document type "Map" in MoSWIMS prior to contract payment submission.

Technical Responsibilities
Technical staff has the responsibility for determining the need for the practice, for design of the practice based upon the minimum extent necessary, and to certify that the completed practice meets NRCS standards and specifications within commission policy.

Acres Served
Acreage seeded.

Extent Installed
Acres.

Maintenance Life
5 years.