

**Plant Enhancement Activity – ANM03-Incorporate Native Grasses and/or Legumes into 15% or more of the forage base**

**New Jersey Addendum**



**Enhancement Description**

Establish native grasses and/or incorporate legumes into 15% or more of the forage acres using adapted species and varieties, appropriate seeding rates, and timing of seeding.

**Land Use Applicability**

This enhancement is applicable to pastureland.

**Benefits**

Enhancing existing pasture by incorporating native grasses and legumes can:

1. Improve forage quality and quantity
2. Build soil fertility (legumes fix nitrogen in the soil), increase organic matter
3. Increase plant diversity and promote wildlife habitat
4. Provide forage during seasonal slump periods
5. Extend the grazing season
6. Food source for pollinating insects

**Criteria for Incorporating Native Grasses and/or Legumes into 15% or more of the forage base**

1. A written grazing management plan that outlines specific goals and objectives.
2. Utilize adapted species, seeding rates and seeding dates according to local NRCS practice standards.

**\* In New Jersey, adapted species, seeding rates and seeding dates can be found in:**

**Early Successional Habitat Management (647)  
 Conservation Practice Job Sheet  
 Establishment of Warm Season Grasses**

3. Prepare site to reduce competition for native grass establishment in accordance with state-specific recommendations.
4. Prepare site for incorporating legumes into existing forages, or establishing legume fields in accordance with state-specific recommendations
5. Determine species composition before and after seeding. Species composition must be 15% or more of native grasses and/or legumes.
6. If legumes are incorporated, a current-year soil test is required. Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test recommendation.
7. Apply appropriate inoculants before planting legumes.

**Documentation Requirements for Incorporating Native Grasses and/or Legumes into 15% or more of the forage acres**

- A written planting specifications plan that meets the criteria identifying:
- Plant species to be seeded
- Seeding rates and dates
- Activities to control plant competition
- Site preparations and planting method
- Amounts of fertilizer and lime to be applied
- Map showing locations of planting