

**CONSERVATION FARM PLAN PRACTICES
Record of Decisions**

I, _____, intend to maintain my land in a planned program of soil management and soil conservation practices as per the Virginia Land Use Assessment Law, which is intended to:

- 1) Reduce or prevent soil erosion and improve water quality by use of best management practices such as terracing, cover cropping, stripcropping, no-till planting, sod waterways, diversions, and water impoundments.
- 2) Maintain fertility by the application of soil nutrients (organic and inorganic) needed to produce average yields of agricultural crops or as recommended by soil tests.
- 3) Control brush, woody growth, and noxious weeds on row crops, hay, and pasture by the use of herbicides, biological controls, cultivation, mowing, or other normal cultural practices.

This plan describes my intentions to maintain the fields contained in tax map parcel number(s) _____, as outlined on the attached plan map.

Total acreage: _____.

I (We) submit the attached conservation plan to the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District for their approval. I (We) understand that this planned program of soil management and soil conservation practices is in compliance with the Virginia Land Use Assessment Law.

Cooperator (Landowner)

_____ Date: _____

Approved by Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District

_____ Date: _____

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Fields _____ will be maintained in perennial grasses and/or legumes for use as pasture and/or hayland. The goal in grazing pastures is to utilize what is produced at a normal stocking rate without injuring the pasture sod.

Fields _____ will be limed and fertilized according to soil test results. Contact the VA. Tech Cooperative Extension Service for information on current soil testing procedures.

Pastures and hayland are normally fertilized every three years. Lime may be applied any time during the year but applications of fertilizer should be made in early spring or fall to benefit the growth of cool season grasses and legumes.

*Agronomy Note: High quality pastures have 30-40% of the stand composed of clover. A rule of thumb is that maintaining clover in the mixture will result in 50 lbs. more gain per animal during the growing season. No nitrogen fertilizer is required for grass-clover mixtures.

When necessary fields _____ will be re-established by following these guidelines:

Optimum Seeding Dates/Rates (Agronomy Handbook, VA. Tech publication)

- 1) Spring Seeding February 15 – April 15
- 2) Fall Seeding September 1 – October 1

<u>Forage Species</u>	<u># per acre alone</u>	<u>#/acre in mixtures</u>
Orchardgrass	8-12 unhulled	3-6
Timothy	8-10	2-8
Bluegrass		4-5
Tall Fescue	12-14	
Per. Ryegrass		10
Alfalfa	15-25	
Red Clover	8-10	2-6
Ladine Clover		1-2
White Clover		1-2
Lespedeza Korean	15-25	10
Lespedeza Sericia	30-40 unhulled	15-20 scarified

Seeding Methods:

- A) The conventional method of plowing, discing, and reseeding should only be used on flat or gently sloping fields.
- B) The no-till method can be used on all fields with the exception of fields too steep for machinery.
- C) The frost seeding method allows all fields especially steep slopes to be overseeded before March 1st while the ground is still freezing and thawing.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL IS MANDATORY BY VIRGINIA STATE LAW All fields will be properly managed to control noxious weeds such as thistles and johnsongrass. Eradicate noxious weeds before seed forms by digging, mowing or by the use of chemicals.

Livestock should not be fenced to streams or waterways. Where possible, limit access to streams to help improve water quality. The State Water Control Board regulates state waters and streams for non-point source pollution.

