



# FY26 Agricultural Enhancement Program

## Bale Grazing Application

Application Period: April 14, 2025–May 30, 2025

Priority

First

Second

Office Use Only:

Date

Time

Applicant Information		Farm Information	
Name:		MONONGAHELA CONSERVATION DISTRICT	
Address:		Location/County: Monongalia Marion Preston	
Telephone:		Farm Name:	
Email:		Farm:	
Date:		Tract:	
		Field Names/Numbers:	
What is your preferred method to receive written notification? <b>Email/Letter</b>		Is the land associated with this application part of a farming operation? <b>Yes/No</b>	
Do you own or lease the land associated with this application? <b>Own/Lease</b>		Do you have a financial interest in a farming entity with a Monongahela Conservation District Supervisor or local WVCA Employee? <b>Yes/No</b>	
Are the fields associated with this application part of another financial incentive program for bale grazing? <b>Yes/No</b>		Have you attended a conservation related event or workshop within the past 12 months? <b>Yes/No</b>	
Best Management Practice			
BMP	Limits	Cost-Share Rate	Materials Requested
Bale Grazing	Hay/Pasture Min. pH of <u>5.6</u> required. (Temporary Fence, Posts, Chargers, and Hay Rings)	50% (cost of supplies) <b>DNE: \$1,000.00</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hay Rings <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Fencing Supplies

### Definition:

Bale Grazing is a method of winter feeding in which you set up winter feed (*typically round bales*) out ahead of winter feeding when the soil is dry or frozen. During the winter-feeding season livestock will be controlled to have access only to the portion of feed they will require on a bi-weekly or more frequent basis.

### Purpose:

Bale Grazing provides an alternative to traditional winter-feeding practices. Bale Grazing helps reduce soil erosion and compaction on a feeding area and field entrances. Bale Grazing also puts nutrients back in the field both from the hay left behind and livestock manure/urine deposition.

### Policies for Program:

- Applicant must be a District Cooperator. (*"Conservation Agreement" forms are available upon request*)
- Program is available to landowner and/or farm operator (*lessee*).
- Applicant is ineligible for a practice reimbursement if he/she starts project before District approval.
- No duplication of federal or state cost-share shall be allowed.

- Property must be used as a farming operation.
- No more than two Ag. Enhancement Program applications will be accepted each year.
- Application approvals will be made based upon availability of funds and a ranking process.

#### **Policies for Practice:**

- Soil fertility on planned bale grazing fields must be below High or Optimum nutrient levels on the most current soil test result.
- Soil pH must be 5.6 or greater.
- Fields under contract must not create an additional resource concern by winter feeding.
  - Bale grazing proximity to water source (*stream, pond, swamp*) must be at least 35 feet. Livestock must be excluded from those areas.
  - For the practice of bale grazing, slope of the planned fields will not exceed 25%.
  - Soil series with a subclass of *w* (*wetness*) should be avoided.

#### **Practice Specifications:**

- State Conservation Committee approved standards and specifications will be followed.
- Livestock access to hay bales will be controlled using temporary electric fence and hay rings.
- Approved materials are temporary fence wire, temporary fence posts, fence chargers, and hay rings.
- If approved, *Bale Grazing* area must be ready for use by livestock no later than 12/01/2025.

#### **Reimbursement Process:**

- A payment will be approved as: 1. Receipts are received; 2. Verification form is signed; 3. District approves the payment.
- All receipts and forms are due to the Monongahela Conservation District Office by December 1, 2025, otherwise payments may be delayed or even denied.
- Requests for deadline extension may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Application must include the following:**

1. Conservation Agreement (*if applicable*)
2. Signed application.
3. Farm map with individual fields and areas identified where the practice is proposed.
4. A current (*sampled in the past 3 years*) soil test result from an accredited laboratory for each field.
5. Lease agreement, Producer Application Form, or USDA-FSA Annual Farm Report (*if applicable*).

By signing this I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions stated in this document.

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Application and all supporting documents must be received by May 30, 2025

Monongahela Conservation District

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