



FY25 Agricultural Enhancement Program Bale Grazing Application

Office Use Only:	
Date	
Time	

Applicant Information
Name:
Address:
Telephone:
Email:
Date:
What is your preferred method to receive written notification? Email/Letter
Do you own or lease the land associated with this application? Own/Lease
Are the fields associated with this application part of another financial incentive program for bale grazing? Yes/No

Farm Information
MONONGAHELA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Location/County: Monongalia Marion Preston
Farm Name (Optional):
Farm:
Tract:
Field Names/Numbers:
Is the land associated with this application part of a farming operation? Yes/No
Do you have a financial interest in a farming entity with a Monongahela Conservation District Supervisor or local WVCA Employee? Yes/No
Have you attended a conservation related event or workshop within the past 12 months? Yes/No

Best Management Practice			
BMP	Limits	Cost-Share Rate	Materials Requested
Bale Grazing	Hay/Pasture Min. pH of <u>5.6</u> required. <i>(Temporary Fence, Posts, Chargers, and Hay Rings)</i>	50% <i>(cost of supplies)</i> <u>DNE:\$1,000.00</u>	<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 12/02/2024.

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 2, 2024, 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 supporting documents must be received by May 31, 2024:

Monongahela Conservation District
 201 Scott Avenue
 Morgantown, WV 26508
 Email: mcd@wvca.us