



# Small Scale Solutions for your Farm

## Forage Planting

### Do You Have Problems with:

- More weeds than desirable forage
- Forage that livestock will not eat
- Thin or failing hay stands or poor yields
- Lack of sufficient legumes

Forage planting can solve these problems by establishing new and improved annual and perennial forages.

### Purposes and Benefits of Forage Planting

- Forage planting is the establishment of quality forage species.
- Species selection can be tailored to the type of livestock on your operation.
- Incorporating legumes in some situations can boost forage quality.
- Forage quality and quantity is improved.
- Increase in density and cover can reduce erosion.
- Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and health.
- Can improve water and air quality.
- Proper use of this practice can assist you reach a balance between your animal needs and forage availability.

### Associated Costs

The cost to plant forages depends on if the stand is perennial or annual and if you are starting with pasture that needs to be renovated, cropland converted and enhanced by adding forage to the base, or quick supplemental feed. Main costs associated include site preparation, fertilizer, seed/sprigs, and pesticides if needed.



Adding desirable and compatible forages with a no-till drill to failing stands with no competition.



Managing your grass resources will give the best return.





## Technical and Financial Help Is Available

Whether you measure your farm in terms of feet or acres, your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can help you develop a Conservation Plan to conserve, maintain, and restore the natural resources on your land and improve the long-term health of your operation.

There is no charge for our assistance. Simply contact your local office to set up an appointment. You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance. Your NRCS office will explain any programs that are available so you can make the best decision for your operation. All NRCS programs and services are voluntary.

## For More Information

Visit the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) or visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator) to find your local NRCS office. You can also check with your local USDA Service Center, then make an appointment to determine next steps for your conservation goals.

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NRCS conservationist assisting small scale farmer with developing a customized conservation plan.

