

PART II

ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

POLICIES AND APPROVED CONSERVATION PRACTICES



ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

IN COOPERATION WITH

ALABAMA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

ALABAMA'S 67 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

(APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION ON AUGUST 18, 2009)

<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>		
NRCS CODES		SECTION/SUBSECTION
	I.	GENERAL
	II.	APPROVED AACDCP PROGRAM ELEMENTS
		A. SOIL EROSION ELEMENTS
512 - 612		ASE1 Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment
393		ASE2 Buffer Strip Cropping Systems
585 - 586		ASE3 Stripcropping Systems
600		ASE4 Terrace Systems
362		ASE5 Diversions
340		ASE8 Cropland Protective Cover
342		ASE11 Permanent Vegetative Cover on Critical Areas
329		ASE15 Conservation Tillage
620 - 638		ASE17 Sediment Retention, Erosion or Water Control Structures
412		ASE19 Sod Waterways
		ASE20 Improvement of Permanent Vegetative Cover Damaged by Flood
340		ASE21 Establishment of Temporary Vegetative Cover on Cropland Damaged by Flood
		ASE22 Improvement of Permanent Vegetative Cover Damaged by Drought
340		ASE23 Establishment of Temporary Vegetative Cover on Cropland in Drought Areas
		B. WATER QUALITY ELEMENTS
313		AWQ1 Animal Waste Control Facilities
614 -642 - 590		AWQ2 Animal Waste Distribution
584		AWQ3 Stream Protection
316		AWQ5 Small Animal Incinerator
313		AWQ6 Manure Dry Stack Facility
317		AWQ7 Dead Poultry Composting
		AWQ8 Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement
521		AWQ9 Lagoon Renovation
590		AWQ10 Wastewater Irrigation
378		AWQ11 Water Impoundment Reservoirs
360		AWQ13 Lagoon Closure
702		AWQ14 Agrichemical Handling Facility
703		AWQ15 Portable Agrichemical Mixing Station
528		AWQ16 Prescribed Grazing (Rotational Grazing)
316		AWQ17 Animal Mortality Freezers
313		AWQ18 Temporary Storage of Semi-Solid Poultry Manure

		AWQ19 AG Fuel Containment Facility
		C. FORESTRY IMPROVEMENT ELEMENTS
612		AFI1 Forest Tree Plantations
490		AFI2 Site Preparation and Forest Tree Plantations
466		AFI3 Forest Tree Stand Improvement
490		AFI4 Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration
	III.	APPROVED CONSERVATION PRACTICES
		A. General
		B. Seed, Fertilizer and Lime Recommendations
		C. Approved Conservation Practices
	IV.	EXHIBIT 1 - SEED, FERTILIZER AND LIME RECOMMENDATIONS AND COST-SHARE RATES

**ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION PROGRAM**

POLICIES AND APPROVED CONSERVATION PRACTICES

I. GENERAL

- A. The Commission herein establishes the complete list and description of program elements, program policies, and conservation practices approved for use by the Conservation Districts. Any exceptions from these approved elements, policies and practices shall be approved by the Commission.

- B. Allocation of funds among Conservation Districts.
 - 1. The Commission has decided to allocate all appropriated funds equally among the Conservation Districts.
 - 2. The maximum cost-share grant that shall be made to any applicant is **\$5,000**.
 - 3. An applicant may receive cost-sharing from sources in addition to AACDCP provided the combined total cost-share funds received do not exceed 75% of the cost of the conservation practice(s) being installed.
 - 4. Conservation Districts may establish local cost-share rates, but not to exceed 75% of the actual cost of the practice.

- C. Each Conservation District may select any of these approved program elements in any priority order for inclusion in the county program.

- E. Extension for Completing Practice
 - 1. Individual not be granted more than one 60-day extension for completing a new practice. (60 days is from the date of the original completion date listed on the Application Form.) In cases where the Board of Supervisors determine that more than a 60-day extension is necessary to complete a practice, due to flood, drought, or other natural causes, and is not the fault of the applicant, exceptions to the 60-day one time extension may be approved by the District Board of Supervisors, through a waiver, on a case-by-case basis.

2. 30 days be set (after March 15th) for practice to be completed and bills turned in for carry over applicants (April 15).

II. APPROVED AACDCP PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- A. For purposes of these program policies, the following program element numbering system is used.
 1. ASE means Alabama Soil Erosion Element.
 2. AWQ means Alabama Water Quality Element.
 3. AFI means Alabama Forestry Improvement Element.
 4. ASP means Alabama Special Practice Element.
- B. The following are program elements categorized by program purpose for which applicants may request cost-share grants.

- A. SOIL EROSION ELEMENTS: These practices must solve an erosion problem, as defined in the NRCS Technical Guide, to be eligible for cost-share grants. These practices may, where there is no erosion problem, qualify as a water quality practice, if the installation will contribute to water quality improvement.

ASE1 - PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER ESTABLISHMENT

1. Purpose. To protect the soil and reduce the pollution of water or land from agricultural or silvicultural non-point sources.
2. Applicability. To farmland subject to wind or water erosion to be established in permanent vegetative cover or to improve existing cover.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing may be authorized for:
 - (1) Perennial grasses (seeds or sprigs) or perennial legumes or mixture of grasses and legumes as shown on Exhibit 1.
 - (2) Fertilizer and lime as required by soil test.^{1/} Collected and analyzed within 12 months prior to date of application. Interpretations will be for vegetative cover to be planted.
 - (3) Herbicides as prescribed by the designated technician.
 - (4) **Seedbed Preparation**.
 - b. Tree planting if needed for conversion of marginal cropland.
 - c. Cost-sharing is limited to the minerals and seeds or sprigs and **seedbed preparation** needed to establish adequate cover to control erosion by developing adequate cover or reinforcing existing deteriorating stands on fields subject to erosion that have less than a 50 percent stand of desirable species of plants.
 - d. Cost-sharing is not authorized for:
 - (1) The removal of trees.
 - (2) Fencing.
 - (3) Clearing of rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded.

- e. Cost-sharing is not authorized for areas where other program funds are being received.
 - f. If grazed, livestock shall be managed to prevent overgrazing by stocking rates or rotational grazing.
 - g. Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife when determinations are to seed varieties and other practice specifications are made.
 - h. The vegetative cover must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum lifespan of 4 years following the calendar year in which the cover was established. Cost-shares must be refunded if the farmer destroys the cover during its lifespan.
4. Specifications.
- a. The area to be seeded shall be prepared according to a plan prepared by the designated technician.
 - b. All seedings must contain at least one adapted perennial grass and/or legume. Refer to Exhibit 1 for seeding dates and seeding rates.

^{1/}*For practice ASEI, nitrogen will be limited to 60 pounds per acre. See Exhibit 1, Fertilizer Recommendations, Page 8.*

ASE2 - BUFFER STRIPCROPPING SYSTEMS

1. Purpose. To establish a buffer stripcropping system to protect Soil from water erosion and to reduce the pollution of water or land from agricultural non-point sources.
2. Applicability. To cropland subject to erosion or soil movement which constitutes a pollution hazard.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is not authorized for repeating this practice with the same person on the same acreage.
 - b. Cost-sharing is limited to establishment of the system including the following supporting practices as needed:
 - Diversion
 - Field Border
 - Grassed Waterway or Outlet
 - Land Smoothing
 - Mulching
 - Obstruction Removal
 - Terrace
 - Underground Outlet
 - Water and Sediment Control Basin
 - c. Cost-shares of seed, fertilizer, and lime will be limited to areas established to perennials.
 - d. Cost-sharing is not authorized for repeating any approved measures under this practice with the same person on the same acreage.
 - e. Cultural operations must be performed on the contour.
 - f. The system shall be maintained for a period of five years following the calendar year of installation.
4. Specifications. All work must be performed in accordance with a plan that meets the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

ASE3 - STRIPCROPPING SYSTEMS

1. Purpose. To establish a contour or field stripcropping system to protect soil from wind or water erosion and to reduce the pollution of water or land from agricultural non-point sources.
2. Applicability. To cropland subject to erosion or soil movement which constitutes a pollution hazard.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is limited to establishment of the system and the necessary removal of such obstacles as fences, stone walls, or hedgerows where applicable.
 - b. Cost-shares for seed, fertilizer, and lime will be limited to areas established to perennial plants.
 - c. Cost-sharing is not authorized for repeating this practice with the same person on the same acreage.
 - d. Cost-sharing is not authorized for repeating any approved measures under this practice with the same persons on the same acreage.
 - e. On acreage devoted to row crops:
 - (1) The crop stubble or residue must be left on the land during the winter, or
 - (2) A winter cover crop must be established.
 - (3) Adequate protective tillage operations must be performed.
 - f. For contour stripcropping systems, cultural operations must be performed on the contour.
 - g. The system shall be maintained for a specified number of years following the calendar year of installation.
4. Specifications. All work must be performed in accordance with a plan that meets the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

ASE4 - TERRACE SYSTEMS

1. Purpose. To provide control of erosion on cropland and reduce pollution of water or land from agricultural non-point sources.
2. Applicability. To cropland subject to erosion from water run-off.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized for:
 - (1) Terrace construction and installation of any of the following supporting practices as needed:
 - Critical Area Planting
 - Diversion
 - Field Border
 - Filter Strip
 - Grassed Waterway
 - Land Smoothing
 - Mulching
 - Obstruction Removal
 - Underground Outlet
 - Water and Sediment Control Basin
 - (2) Converting the present system to a new system ONLY if the present system is not serving its intended conservation purpose. Cost-sharing may not be authorized to maintain systems or if the sole purpose is that of converting because of a change in cropping patterns or equipment used by the farmer.
 - b. A protective outlet or waterway which is installed solely as an outlet for the terrace system and serves no other conservation purpose should be cost-shared as a component of this practice. A protective outlet or waterway which, by itself, solves a conservation problem, but also serves as an outlet for a terrace system, should be cost-shared under practices ASE17 or ASE19.
 - c. Cost-sharing is limited to applicants who farm on the contour.
 - d. The system shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation.

4. Specifications. All work must be performed in accordance with a plan that meets the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

ASE5 - DIVERSIONS

1. Purpose. To conserve water, prevent erosion, and reduce pollution of water or land from agricultural non-point sources:
2. Applicability. To farmland subject to erosion from excess surface or subsurface water runoff where the problem can be corrected by such diversion facilities.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized for construction of diversions and any of the following supporting practices as needed:
 - Critical Area Planting
 - Dike
 - Field Border
 - Filter Strip
 - Grassed Waterway or Outlet
 - Land Smoothing
 - Mulching
 - Obstruction Removal
 - Underground Outlet
 - Water and Sediment Control Basin
 - b. When the area being treated is cropland, cost-sharing is limited to applicants who farm on the contour.
 - c. A protective outlet, waterway, or disposal area which is installed solely as an outlet for a diversion system and serves no other conservation purpose should be cost-shared as a component of this practice. A protective outlet or waterway which, by itself, solves a conservation problem, but also serves as an outlet for a diversion system, should be cost-shared under practices ASE17 or ASE19.
 - d. Cost-sharing is not authorized for ditches or dikes designed to impound water for later use, or which will be a part of a regular irrigation system.
 - e. The system shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation.
4. Specifications. All work must be performed in accordance with a plan that meets the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

ASE8 - CROPLAND PROTECTIVE COVER

1. Purpose. To establish vegetative cover for protection from erosion and to reduce the pollution of water or land from agricultural non-point sources.
2. Applicability. To CROPLAND cropped in the current year that does not have enough residue to protect the land from severe erosion or pending the establishment of enduring protective vegetative cover.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is limited to seed only essential for establishing the cover and green manure practice.
 - b. A good stand and good growth must be obtained and must be maintained on the land for a period specified in the Conservation Districts program.
 - c. Pasturing consistent with good management may be permitted, but none of the growth may be harvested for hay or seed (the State committee may authorize harvesting of the growth for hay or silage in areas where it determines that a serious shortage of hay or silage exists due to adverse weather conditions and the growth harvested is required for use on farms in the area). Pasturing will be permitted only during periods specified by the Conservation District. Grazing which defeats the purpose of this program element shall not be allowed.
 - d. Volunteer stands shall not qualify for cost-share funds.
4. Specifications.
 - a. Seed will be limited to species adapted to the area. See Exhibit I for eligible seed varieties, seeding rates and dates.
 - b. The land shall be adequately prepared in advance of planting time to form a firm seedbed unless the seeding follows a crop that does not require seedbed preparation such as soybeans, etc.

ASE11 - PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER ON CRITICAL AREAS

1. Purpose. To reduce erosion and the pollution of land or water from sediment of agricultural or silvicultural origin.
2. Applicability. To critical areas (such as gullies, ditches, banks, access roads, field borders, and similar problem areas) on farms which are susceptible to erosion and where runoff carrying substantial amounts of sediment constitutes a significant pollution hazard or where both exists.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized:
 - (1) For establishing critical area plantings and any of the following supporting practices as needed:
 - Diversions
 - Land Smoothing
 - Mulching
 - Obstruction Removal
 - Underground Outlet
 - Water and Sediment Control Basin
 - Fencing (not to exceed \$300)
 - (2) Only if the practices will significantly reduce erosion and maintain or improve the quality of water in a stream, lake, pond, or other water source.
 - (3) For practices performed on public roadsides only where such practices are essential to solve a farm-based pollution or conservation problem.
 - b. If grazed, livestock shall be managed to prevent overgrazing by stocking rates, rotational grazing or fencing.
 - c. Consideration should be given to wildlife and enhancing the appearance of the area when establishing the protective measures.
 - d. The acreage shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation.
 - e. If temporary fencing is required, any fence (including electric) that will serve the purpose of restricting livestock

until permanent vegetation is well established will be acceptable if approved by the designated technician.

4. Specifications. Practice must be performed in accordance with a plan that complies with the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

ASE15 - CONSERVATION TILLAGE

1. Purpose. To demonstrate no-tillage, strip-tillage, mulch tillage, or ridge-tillage farming with residue management to:
 - a. Protect soil from wind and water erosion.
 - b. Reduce pollution from animal waste, sediment, and chemically contaminated runoff from agricultural non-point sources.
 - c. Conserve energy.
2. Applicability. To cropland for reduction of erosion, sediment, and pollution while being devoted to the production of crops.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized for:
 - (1) Planting directly into adequate crop residue, annual cover crops, chemically killed perennial sods, and stubble residue of small grain crops.
 - (2) The necessary herbicides.
 - b. Cost-sharing is not authorized where the farmer has already adopted a satisfactory conservation tillage system of farming.
 - c. The land involved must be protected by crop residue or temporary cover from harvest until after the next crop is planted. At least 50% of the soil surface must be covered with residue immediately after planting.
 - d. Light cultivation that does not bury residues is permitted to control weeds when herbicides fail to perform.
 - e. All tillage operations must be performed as nearly as practicable on the contour.
 - f. Chemicals used in performing this practice must be EPA and State registered and must be applied strictly in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other State policies and requirements.

- g. Cost-sharing for this practice may be approved for no more than 3 years with the same person.
- 4. Specifications. Crops, excluding the small grain and forage crops planted by broadcast method, shall be limited to those crops for which a labeled chemical is available for treatment. A contact herbicide and pre-emergence will be required in most cases.

ASE17 - SEDIMENT RETENTION, EROSION OR WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES

1. Purpose. To reduce erosion and the pollution of land or water from agricultural or silvicultural non-point sources.
2. Applicability. To specific problem areas on farms where runoff or substantial amounts of sediment or runoff containing pesticides or fertilizers constitute a significant pollution hazard.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized:
 - (1) For installation of grade stabilization structures, sediment basins, water and sediment control basins and any of the following supporting practices as needed:
 - Critical Area Planting
 - Diversion
 - Grassed Waterway or Outlet
 - Land Clearing
 - Land Smoothing
 - Lined Waterway or Outlet
 - Mulching
 - Obstruction Removal
 - Underground Outlet
 - (2) For installing sediment retention structures on public roadsides only where such structures are essential to solve a farm-based pollution or conservation problem.
 - (3) Only if the measures will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving soil or water quality.
 - b. Cost-sharing is not authorized for irrigation structures which are a part of a distribution system for irrigation water.
 - c. If grazed, livestock shall be managed to prevent overgrazing by stocking rates, rotational grazing, or fencing.
 - d. Consideration must be given to the needs of wildlife when establishing the protective measures.
 - e. The structure shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation.

4. Specifications. Practice must be performed in accordance with a plan that complies with the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

ASE19 - SOD WATERWAYS

1. Purpose. To reduce erosion and the pollution of water or land from agricultural non-point sources.
2. Applicability. To farmland needing permanent sod waterways to safely convey excess surface runoff water in a manner that will reduce erosion.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized for site preparation and establishing permanent vegetative cover and any other supporting practices, including mulching, subsurface drain, and underground outlet, as needed.
 - b. The cover may consist of sod-forming grasses, legumes, mixtures of grasses and legumes, or other types of vegetative cover that will provide the needed protection from erosion.
 - c. Close-sown small grains, or annuals, may be used for temporary protection if followed by eligible permanent vegetative cover established by seeding or natural regeneration.
 - d. If grazed, livestock shall be managed to prevent overgrazing by stocking rates, rotational grazing, or fencing.
 - e. The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation.
4. Specifications. Practice must be performed in accordance with a plan that complies with the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

ASE20 - IMPROVEMENT OF PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER DAMAGED BY FLOOD

1. Purpose. To improve vegetative cover on pastureland damaged by flood, provide soil and watershed protection, reduce water, air, or land pollution from agricultural non-point sources.
2. Applicability. To pastureland where permanent cover was damaged by flood.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is limited to the application of fertilizer and lime as required by a soil test, except nitrogen will be limited to 60 lbs./ac., for establishment of permanent cover or necessary to establish temporary cover.
 - b. Eligible fields will be determined as those having visible evidence of damage due to flooding, including deposition of silt, sands, and other sediment and/or scour erosion due to flooding.
 - c. If two-thirds (2/3) of a field show evidence of silt or sand deposition or damage from scour erosion or a combination of both, the entire field will be eligible for cost-sharing. If less than two-thirds (2/3) of a field has been damaged, cost-share assistance is limited to that damaged portion.
 - d. Reestablishment of permanent vegetative cover will be required on pastureland where less than a 50 percent stand of desirable plants remain.
 - e. Cost-sharing is authorized for:
 - (1) The removal of trees and/or other debris deposited by flooding.
 - (2) Grading, shaping, filling, and releveling of deposited material and scoured or gullied areas.
 - (3) Where stands must be reestablished, cost-sharing is authorized for seedbed preparation.
 - f. Grazing shall be controlled by stocking rates or rotation so as to prevent overgrazing and maintain cover for adequate erosion control.

- g. Temporary cover is authorized on pastureland to prevent erosion with an approved grazing plan developed by the designated technician.
- h. Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife when determinations as to seed varieties and other practice specifications are made.

4. Specifications.

- a. Seeding is to be accomplished according to a vegetative plan developed by the designated technician. Seed must be placed in contact with mineral soil. Seeding rates may be adjusted consistent with existing cover.

ASE21 - ESTABLISHMENT OF TEMPORARY VEGETATIVE COVER ON CROPLAND DAMAGED BY FLOOD

1. Purpose. To establish temporary vegetative cover on cropland, provide supplemental forage crops, provide soil and watershed protection, and reduce water, air, or land pollution from agricultural non-point sources in areas damaged by flood.
2. Applicability. To cropland cropped in the current year that does not have sufficient residue to protect the land from severe erosion.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is limited to the application of fertilizer as required by a soil test, except nitrogen will be limited to 60 lbs./ac., for establishment of temporary cover.
 - b. Eligible fields will be determined as those having visible evidence of damage due to flooding, including deposition of silt, sands, and other sediment and/or scour erosion due to flooding.
 - c. If two-thirds (2/3) of a field show evidence of silt or sand deposition or damage from scour erosion or a combination of both, the entire field will be eligible for cost-sharing. If less than two-thirds (2/3) of a field has been damaged, cost-share assistance is limited to that damaged portion.
 - d. Cost-sharing is authorized for:
 - (1) The removal of trees and/or debris deposited by flooding.
 - (2) Grading, shaping, filling, and releveling of deposited material and scoured or gullied areas.
 - (3) Cost-sharing is authorized for seedbed preparation.
 - (4) Supporting practices to prevent future damage may include terraces, diversions, grassed waterway, and underground outlets.
 - e. Grazing shall be controlled by stocking rates or rotation so as to prevent overgrazing and maintain cover for adequate erosion control.

- f. Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife when determinations as to seed varieties and other practice specifications are made.

4. Specifications.

- a. Seeding is to be accomplished according to a vegetative plan developed by the designated technician. Seed must be placed in contact with mineral soil. Seeding rates may be adjusted consistent with existing cover.

ASE22 - IMPROVEMENT OF PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER DAMAGED BY DROUGHT

1. Purpose. To improve vegetative cover on pastureland or hayland damaged by drought, provide soil and watershed protection, reduce water, air, or land pollution from agricultural non-point sources.
2. Applicability. To pastureland or hayland where permanent cover was damaged by drought.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is limited to the application of fertilizer and lime as required by a soil test, except nitrogen will be limited to 60 lbs./ac., for establishment of permanent cover or to establish temporary cover.
 - b. Fields eligible will be determined by soil map units having an erosion index greater than or equal to "5". (Erosion index defined as USLE factors $RKLS/T \geq 5$).
 - c. At least 66.6 percent of the fields must have map units with an erosion index of 5 or greater for the field to be eligible. Fields with less than 66.6 percent of the field having map units with an erosion index of 5 or greater will be limited to those map units with an erosion index of 5 or greater.
 - d. Reestablishment of permanent vegetative cover will be required on pastureland where less than a 50 percent stand of desirable plants remain.
 - e. Temporary cover is authorized with an approved grazing plan developed by the designated technician.
 - f. Cost-sharing is not authorized for:
 - (1) The removal of trees.
 - (2) Fencing.
 - (3) Clearing of rocks, brush, or other obstructions from the area to be seeded.
 - (4) For normal maintenance measures such as annual top dressing with fertilizers or other mineral elements.

- g. Cost-sharing is not authorized for areas where other program funds are being received.
 - h. Grazing shall be controlled by stocking rates or rotation so as to prevent overgrazing and maintain cover for adequate erosion control.
 - i. Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife when determinations as to seed varieties and other practice specifications are made.
4. Specifications.
- a. Seeding is to be accomplished according to a vegetative plan developed by the designated technician. Seed must be placed in contact with mineral soil. Seeding rates may be adjusted consistent with existing cover.

ASE23 - ESTABLISHMENT OF TEMPORARY VEGETATIVE COVER ON CROPLAND IN DROUGHT AREAS

1. Purpose. To establish temporary vegetative cover cropland, provide soil and watershed protection, reduce water, air, or land pollution from agricultural non-point sources in drought areas.
2. Applicability. To cropland cropped in the current year that does not have sufficient residue to protect the land from severe erosion.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is limited to the application of fertilizer and lime as required by a soil test, except nitrogen will be limited to 60 lbs./ac., for establishment of temporary cover.
 - b. Fields eligible will be determined by soil map units having an erosion index greater than or equal to "5". (Erosion index defined as USLE factors $RKLS/T \geq 5$).
 - c. At least 66.6 percent of the fields must have map units with an erosion index of 5 or greater for the field to be eligible. Fields with less than 66.6 percent of the field having map units with an erosion index of 5 or greater will be limited to those map units with an erosion index of 5 or greater.
 - d. Cost-sharing is not authorized for:
 - (1) The removal of trees.
 - (2) Fencing.
 - (3) Clearing of rocks, brush, or other obstructions from the area to be seeded.
 - e. Cost-sharing is not authorized for areas where other program funds are being received.
 - f. Grazing shall be controlled by stocking rates or rotation so as to prevent overgrazing and maintain cover for erosion control.
 - g. Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife when determinations as to seed varieties and other practice specifications are made.

4. Specifications.

- a. Seeding is to be accomplished according to a vegetative plan developed by the designated technician. Seed must be placed in contact with mineral soil. Seeding rates may be adjusted consistent with existing cover.

B. WATER QUALITY FACILITIES

AWQ1 - ANIMAL WASTE CONTROL FACILITIES

1. Purpose. To reduce the pollution of water or land by animal wastes.
2. Applicability. To areas on farmland where animal wastes from the farm constitute a significant pollution hazard.
3. Policies.
 - a. This practice is designed as a part of a waste management system to provide facilities for the storage and handling of livestock and poultry waste and the control of surface runoff water to permit the recycling of animal waste onto the land in a way that will abate pollution which would otherwise result from livestock or poultry operations.
 - b. Cost-sharing is limited to solving the pollution problems where the livestock or poultry operation is part of a total farming operation.
 - c. Cost-sharing is authorized for installation of waste storage ponds, waste storage structures, and waste treatment lagoons and any of the following supporting practices as needed:
 - Critical Area Planting
 - Diversion
 - Fencing
 - Pond Sealing
 - Obstruction Removal
 - Underground Outlet
 - d. Cost-sharing is authorized only if storage, treatment, disposal, and diversion facilities will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving the soil or water quality.
 - e. Cost-sharing is not authorized for:
 - (1) For measures primarily for the prevention or abatement of air pollution unless the measures also have soil and water conserving benefits.

- (2) For portable pumps; pumping equipment or other portable equipment; for buildings or modifications of buildings; or for spreading animal wastes on the land.
 - (3) For that portion of animal waste structures installed under or attached to buildings which serves as part of the building or of its foundation.
 - (4) For animal waste facilities that do not meet local or state regulations.
 - (5) For installation primarily for the operator's convenience.
- f. The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation.

4. Specifications.

- a. Practice must be performed in accordance with a plan that complies with the standards and specifications of the designated technician.
- b. The plan must meet the requirements of the State Health Department and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

AWQ2 - ANIMAL WASTE DISTRIBUTION ON GRAZING LANDS

1. Purpose. To control pollution of water from animal waste through distribution of watering sources and to reduce erosion caused by overgrazing.
2. Applicability. To locations where grazing is concentrated causing water pollution from animal waste or sediment, or establishment of water for new areas being converted from cropland.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized for installation of spring developments, ponds and wells. Cost-share is authorized for installation of pipelines, windmills, solar pumps, and troughs as a part of a new stock water system. Pipelines and troughs may be cost-shared as a stand-alone item when an existing water source is used. Cost-share is also authorized for the renovation of existing ponds that no longer serve the purpose for which they were constructed. Cost-share is authorized for heavy use treatment, for permanent locations of watering troughs, hay rings, feeding troughs or mineral boxes. Cost-sharing is authorized for any of the following supporting practices as needed.
 - Critical Area Planting
 - Fencing
 - Land Clearing
 - Mulching
 - Pipeline
 - Pond Sealing
 - Trough or Tank
 - b. Wells must be provided with pumping equipment (except for artesian wells) and adequate storage facilities. Cost-sharing is not authorized for dry wells.
 - c. Cost-sharing is not authorized under this practice for any installation which is:
 - (1) Primarily for recreation, wildlife, dry lot feeding, corrals, or barns.
 - (2) To make it possible to graze crop residues, field borders, or temporary or supplemental pasture crops.

- (3) For land on which the cover will be used for hay or silage or green chopped feed.
 - (4) For the purpose of providing water for the farm or ranch headquarters.
 - d. Consideration may be given to the needs of wildlife and enhancing the appearance of the area, when installing watering facilities.
 - e. Livestock shall be managed to prevent overgrazing by stocking rates or rotational grazing.
 - f. The system shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation.
- 4. Specifications.
 - a. Wells.
 - (1) Wells must have a casing of not less than 2 inches in diameter installed through all material subject to sloughing or caving.
 - (2) Wells must be dug in accordance with applicable State laws.
 - (3) A well log must be on file in the Conservation District office before payment is approved.
 - (4) The farmer must submit an itemized statement of the cost of drilling, casing, and water storage facilities.
 - b. Springs, Seeps, Dugouts, Pits, Pond Construction and Pond Renovation. Practice must be carried out according to a plan prepared by the designated technician.

AWQ3 - STREAM PROTECTION

1. Purpose. To improve water quality and reduce erosion from agricultural non-point sources.
2. Applicability. To specific problem areas on small streams or lakes located on or adjacent to farmland where the bank is subject to damage from livestock or where sediment or runoff containing pesticides or fertilizer constitute a significant pollution hazard.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized:
 - (1) For streambanks protection with critical area planting and any of the following supporting practices as needed:
 - Diversion
 - Fencing
 - Grade Stabilization Structure
 - Land Clearing
 - Land Smoothing
 - Mulching
 - Stream Channel Stabilization
 - Underground Outlet
 - (2) To install livestock crossings that will retard sedimentation and pollution. The installation of livestock crossings is limited to small streams. Where required, permits must be obtained by the applicant from authorities before the practice will be approved.
 - b. Wildlife and environmental consideration must be given when designing the practice.
 - c. The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation.
4. Specifications. The practice must be performed in accordance with a plan that meets the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

AWQ5 - SMALL ANIMAL INCINERATOR

1. Purpose. To control pollution of water by providing a suitable disposal method for dead poultry and swine.
2. Applicability. Installation of incinerators on farms where poultry and/or swine are raised and other adequate disposal methods do not exist. All state and local laws, rules, and regulations governing the disposal of dead animals will be strictly enforced. Individuals will be responsible for securing all necessary permits, approvals, and registration of units.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized for the installation of poultry and swine incinerator, including power and gas hook-up.
 - b. Cost-sharing is authorized only where an approved disposal plan for the site exists.
 - c. Environmental consideration will be given when locating incinerators in areas adjacent to inhabited dwellings.
 - d. This practice shall be maintained a minimum of five years following the calendar year of installation.
 - e. Cost-sharing is limited to those incinerator units which are listed as approved by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management for burning small animals (Type 4 waste).
 - f. Individuals must furnish the Soil and Water Conservation District with evidence of proper registration of unit from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM Form 52) prior to receiving payment from the District.
4. Specifications. The practice must be performed in accordance with a plan that meets the standards and specifications of the designated technician. Certification must be furnished that the unit has been installed according to manufacturer's recommendation. Incinerator unit must be installed on a concrete slab.

Electrical hook-up to be installed as per standard industry practices but in no case less than the minimum requirements of the most

recent edition of the National Electrical Code. Installation must be performed by a qualified licensed Electrician. All electrical wiring shall be in conduit. Wherever installation could be classified as a hazardous location, specific conformance to Article 500 of the National Electrical Code will be met.

Gas hook-up must be installed by a qualified state licensed Liquefied Petroleum Contractor to meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code 58 & 54 and all other state, national, and local codes and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and certified in writing. Other fuel sources must meet all state and local codes for transmission of flammable or volatile fuels.

AWQ6 - MANURE DRY STACK FACILITY

1. Purpose. To reduce the pollution of water or contamination of land by animal wastes.
2. Applicability. To livestock and poultry growers requiring temporary covered storage of animal wastes to facilitate proper nutrient utilization and to prevent the leaching of pollutants that would occur from manure stacked in the open.
3. Policies.
 - a. This practice is a component of an overall waste management system.
 - b. The grower or producer must have an approved waste management plan. The plan must identify fields used for spreading wastes and must specify application rates by field and crop, timing of applications, and buffer requirements between spreading areas and streams, wells, neighbors, and public access areas. If some or all of the manure is used for animal refeeding, the amounts used for refeeding must be specified in the plan and the amounts used for land application may be adjusted accordingly.
 - c. The dry stack structure may be part of a design which includes dead poultry composting as an ancillary function. Cost-sharing for the dry stack portion of the structure will be based on the square footage of the overall structure used for manure storage.
 - d. Maximum storage volume for the structure will be based on 180 days accumulation of waste. Lesser storage volumes are recommended if workable within guidelines of the waste management plan.
 - e. Installation of this practice must help prevent an actual or potential water quality problem associated with surface or ground water.
 - f. Cost-sharing is authorized under this practice for associated measures required to ensure proper utilization of this structure and may include:

Critical Area Planting
Diversion

Fencing
Grading and Shaping
Obstruction Removal

- g. Cost-share is not authorized:
 - (1) For farms that do not have adequate land for spreading or utilizing the waste according to the waste management plan. Land from neighboring farmers may be used and cost-sharing for the structure provided if the neighboring farmers provide statements indicating that the producer can spread wastes on their land. Acres and cropping systems must be indicated. These statements will be included in the waste management plan.
 - (2) For poultry facilities that do not have an approved method of disposing of dead birds associated with normal daily mortality.
 - (3) For animal waste facilities that do not meet local or state regulations.
- h. The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.
- i. If, after installation of all the waste management facility(s) as specified in the approved waste management plan, the grower or producer stores manure outdoors during the maintenance period rather than in the structure, he will be required to reimburse all cost-share monies provided for the structure and for any dead bird composting facilities, if such facilities are an ancillary part of the dry stack structure.
- j. When not at maximum storage capacity, the structure may be utilized temporarily for alternative farm purposes, provided, however, no manure is being stored outdoors, and the alternate use does not alter or adversely affect the primary purpose of the structure as a dry stack facility.

4. Specifications.

- a. Practice must be installed in accordance with an approved engineering design or other standards and specifications designated by the technician.

- b. The plan must meet any requirements of the State Health Department and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

AWQ7 - DEAD POULTRY COMPOSTING

1. Purpose. To reduce pollution of surface and ground water from dead poultry generated at poultry facilities through normal daily mortality.
2. Applicability. To poultry growers requiring an environmentally safe method of dead bird disposal.
3. Policies.
 - a. This practice is an alternative to poultry disposal pits, incineration and delivery of carcasses to rendering plants.
 - b. The composting structure for dead poultry must be designed to process the daily mortality from all poultry facilities on the farm, except any that might be processed under an existing approved method of disposal.
 - c. The composter will not be designed to process the poultry from other farms.
 - d. The practice will not be used to process a mass die-off of birds resulting from a catastrophic event such as collapse of buildings, freezing or disease outbreak.
 - e. The composting unit will be sized and installed according to NRCS criteria.
 - f. A composting unit may be attached to or be integrated into the design of a manure dry stack structure. Cost-sharing for the integrated composting/dry stack structure will be based on the square footage of the composting unit. Common walls will be charged to either the compositor or the dry stack but not to both.
 - g. The compost generated by this practice will be applied to the land at recommended agronomic rates.
 - h. Installation of this practice must help prevent an actual or potential water quality problem associated with surface or ground water.
 - i. Cost-sharing for this practice includes all structural elements plus any permanently installed water supply lines and

spigots. No more than 150 feet of water line from the composting unit to the source will be cost-shared.

- j. Cost-sharing is authorized under this practice for associated measures required to ensure proper utilization of the structure and may include.

- Critical Area Planting
- Diversion
- Fencing
- Grading and Shaping
- Obstruction Removal

- k. Cost-sharing is not authorized:

- (1) For pumps used to deliver water to the composting unit and any equipment used for loading, moving or spreading the compost or any elements of the compost.
- (2) For poultry facilities that continue to use unapproved methods for disposing of dead poultry, including feeding carcasses to swine and dumping in unapproved pits.
- (3) For facilities that do not have adequate land for spreading the compost and manure.
- (4) For animal operations that do not meet local or state regulations.

- l. The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

- m. If during the life of the practice the owner is found to use unacceptable methods of dead bird disposal, all cost-share monies provided for the structure shall be reimbursed.

4. Specifications.

- a. Practice must be installed in accordance with an approved engineering design and other associated standards as designated by the technician.
- b. The plan must meet any requirements of the State Health Department and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

AWQ8 - PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER IMPROVEMENT

1. Purpose. To control pollution of water from agricultural non-point sources.
2. Applicability. To farmland with permanent vegetative cover that needs improvement or protection to reduce erosion and sediment runoff.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is limited to the application of fertilizer and lime as required by soil test, except nitrogen will be limited to 60 lbs./ac., and seeding of a perennial grass and/or legumes as shown in Exhibit 1 on fields that have experienced a 25 percent stand deterioration of improved perennial species. Cost-sharing of herbicides is allowed if recommended by the designated technician.
 - b. Cost-sharing is not authorized for:
 1. Normal maintenance measures, such as top dressing fertilizers or other mineral elements.
 2. Areas where the pasture or rangeland has been over-grazed, unless the producer is making satisfactory progress toward establishing a satisfactory grazing program.
 - c. If grazed, livestock shall be managed to prevent overgrazing by stocking rates or rotational grazing.
 - d. Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife when determinations as to seed varieties and other practice specifications are made.
 - e. The vegetative cover that has been improved or protected must be maintained for a minimum lifespan of 3 years after the calendar year in which the last improvement measures were performed.
 - f. Cost-sharing is not authorized for repeating any approved measures under this practice with the same person on the same acreage more than once every 3 calendar years.

4. Specifications.
 - a. Practice must be performed in accordance with a plan that complies with the standards and specifications of the designated technician.
 - b. All seedlings must contain at least one perennial grass and/or legume. Refer to Exhibit 1 for seeding dates and rates.

AWQ9 - LAGOON RENOVATION

1. Purpose. To restore the required treatment volume in lagoons having a long-term buildup of sludge and floating matter and to do this in a manner that protects surface and ground water.
2. Applicability. To livestock and poultry producers with animal waste lagoons needing renovation.
3. Policies.
 - a. The livestock or poultry producer must have a waste utilization plan developed to ensure proper disposal of the sludge and wastewater which will be removed during renovation. The plan will show fields where waste will be spread and will follow guidance in NRCS Interim Standard on Lagoon Renovation.
 - b. A wastewater irrigation system will be developed in conjunction with the lagoon renovation plan and included in the waste utilization plan.
 - c. Use of this practice must help prevent an actual or potential water quality problem associated with surface or ground waters.
 - d. Waste water and sludge will be removed by the most economical technically sound method, usually pumping. Dredging is only applicable to the removal of material that cannot be pumped, as determined by the designated technician.
 - e. Material that is dredged must be stockpiled and drained prior to spreading (see NRCS Lagoon Renovation Standard for guidelines). A sample of the materials will be analyzed, and spreading will be based on laboratory results.
 - f. Cost-sharing is authorized for:
 1. Agitation, pumping, irrigation, dredging, hauling and spreading operations in accordance with the approved plan.
 2. Laboratory analysis of wastewater or dredge material required to prepare the waste utilization plan.

3. Soil samples on field(s) which will receive wastes.
 4. Preparing a pad for stockpiling dredged material.
 5. Wastewater irrigation equipment (see AWQ10).
- g. Cost-sharing will be authorized for renovation only twice each 10 years. The second renovation will not be eligible for cost-sharing in less than five years after the first renovation.
 - h. The owner will be required to reimburse all cost-share monies associated with this practice if, within ten years after this practice is applied, the lagoon is found to be overflowing or the owner is cited by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management for having an overflowing lagoon.
4. Specifications.

Guidelines established in NRCS Interim Standard for Lagoon Renovation must be followed in applying this practice.

AWQ10 - WASTEWATER IRRIGATION

1. Purpose. To provide a means of applying wastewater from animal waste treatment lagoons and waste storage ponds in an efficient and environmentally safe manner.
2. Applicability. To livestock and poultry producers with animal waste treatment lagoons or waste storage ponds or those having waste management plans which include a requirement for wastewater irrigation.
3. Policies.
 - a. The livestock or poultry producer must have a waste management plan which specifies land area required when using wastewater irrigation. The plan will show fields to be utilized, recommended application rates, crops, and nutrient requirements for each field.
 - b. Use of this practice must help prevent an actual or potential water quality problem associated with surface or ground water.
 - c. This practice is a permanent practice used for routine maintenance of the lagoon or storage pond to prevent overflow and to properly utilize nutrients.
 - d. The equipment used in this practice will be fixed in place and used specifically for managing the lagoon or storage pond wastes.
 - e. Clean water may be added or diverted into the lagoon (i.e. roof runoff, surface runoff, well water, etc.) as a source of dilution water to enhance irrigation. It must be diverted away from the lagoon or storage pond toward the end of the growing season, no later than November 1. This option must be addressed in the waste management plan if used.
 - f. A permanent marker shall be placed at the maximum operating level. The liquid level shall not be allowed to be higher than the maximum operating level.
 - g. The most practical, economical and technically sound system will be utilized for this practice.

- h. Cost-sharing is authorized for:
 - 1. Pump and permanent set pumping facilities; electrical connections (conversion to 3 phase power is not included); wire from the nearest facility to the pump; pipes from the lagoon or storage pond to the pump; foot valves, pipeline vents and backflow valves, as needed; buried pipe lines leading to the fields, buried pipe-lines within the fields (includes pipes, trenching, back-fill); thrust blocks; risers, nozzles and associated appurtenances specified by the designated technician.
 - 2. Laboratory analysis for wastewater samples needed for the wastewater utilization plan preparation.
 - 3. Laboratory analysis of soil samples from the fields receiving wastewater.
 - 4. Materials and labor to install a permanent marker at maximum operating level.
- i. The practice will be maintained for at least 10 years. Any replacement parts needed to ensure efficient and continued operation during the maintenance life of the system will be the responsibility of the owner (producer).
- j. The owner will be required to reimburse all cost-share monies associated with this practice if, within ten years after this practice is applied, the lagoon is found to be overflowing or the owner is cited by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management for having an overflowing lagoon.
- k. Cost-sharing is not authorized for portable equipment.

4. Specifications.

Standard NRCS engineering practices will be followed in applying this practice.

Electrical hook-up to be installed as per standard industry practices but in no case less than the minimum requirements of the most recent edition of the National Electrical Code. Installation must be performed by a qualified licensed electrician and certified in writing to meet all manufacturers' recommendations and National Electrical Code. All electrical wiring shall be in conduit. Wherever installation

could be classified as a hazardous location, specific conformance to Article 500 of the National Electrical Code will be met.

Gas hook-up must be installed by a qualified state licensed Liquefied Petroleum Contractor to meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code 58 & 54 and all other state, national, and local codes and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and certified in writing. Other fuel sources must meet all state and local codes for transmission of flammable or volatile fuels.

AWQ11 - WATER IMPOUNDMENT RESERVOIRS

1. Purpose. To reduce pollution of water and to provide other multiple benefits, where possible, including conservation of water for agricultural or wildlife uses, recreation and erosion control.
2. Applicability. Any earthfill pond constructed within the State of Alabama with a watershed of ≥ 2 Ac. will provide downstream water quality benefits.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized for installing or repairing ponds and any of the following supporting practices as needed:
 - Critical Area Planting
 - Fencing
 - Land Clearing
 - Mulching
 - Pipeline
 - Pond Sealing
 - Trough or Tank
 - b. Cost-sharing is authorized only for structures that reduce downstream water pollution, but may also provide water for:
 - (1) Agricultural uses, including livestock water, irrigation, or fire protection
 - (2) Wildlife
 - (3) A combination of these uses
 - c. Cost-sharing may be authorized for installing livestock water-in facilities in the vicinity of reservoirs if needed for sound management.
 - d. Cost-sharing is not authorized for any reservoir in the farm headquarters area which would be used primarily for:
 - (1) Household water
 - (2) The commercial production of fish or other wildlife

- e. Cost-sharing is not authorized for pipelines or troughs to furnish water to farm buildings.
 - f. Structures which provide multiple benefits in addition to downstream water pollution prevention will be encouraged.
4. Specifications. This practice must be performed in accordance with a plan that complies with the Standards & Specifications of the designated technician.

AWQ13 - LAGOON CLOSURE

1. Purpose. To eliminate potential environmental problems associated with a lagoon which is no longer in service. Closure will be done in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts while effectively utilizing the stored nutrients.
2. Applicability. To livestock and poultry producers and/or owners of land with animal waste lagoons which are an environmental threat, are no longer of service, or which are otherwise in need of closing.
3. Policies.
 - a. Closure of lagoons can be either of two basic methods; by converting the lagoon into a farm pond, or by totally eliminating the lagoon with a combination of earthfill and excavation.
 - b. The producer or owner of the lagoon must have a waste utilization plan developed or must have an existing animal waste plan to ensure proper disposal of the sludge and wastewater which will be removed during closure. The plan will show fields where waste will be spread and will follow guidance in NRCS interim standard on Lagoon Renovation. The plan will also address water quality requirements for use as a farm pond or earthfill requirements if the lagoon is totally eliminated, as well as any vegetation requirements.
 - c. A wastewater irrigation system or other NRCS approved means will be utilized to distribute the waste uniformly to the receiving fields.
 - d. Use of this practice must help prevent an actual or potential water quality problem associated with surface or ground waters.
 - e. Wastewater and sludge will be removed by the most economical and technically sound method, usually agitation and pumping. Dredging will only be applicable to the removal of material that cannot be agitated and pumped, as determined by the designated technician.
 - f. Material that is dredged must be stockpiled and drained prior to spreading (see NRCS Lagoon Renovation standard for guidelines). A sample of the material will be analyzed for

nutrient content. Spreading will be based on the results of the laboratory test. When liquid wastewater or slurry is pumped for irrigation, a nitrogen test kit can be utilized and spreading of the liquid or slurry can be based on the test kit results.

- g. Cost-sharing is authorized for:
 - 1. Agitation, pumping, irrigation, dredging, hauling and spreading operations, earthfill, excavation, and vegetation in accordance with the approved plan.
 - 2. Laboratory analysis of wastewater or dredged material required to prepare the waste utilization plan.
 - 3. Soil samples on field(s) which receive wastes.
 - 4. Preparing a pad for stockpiling dredged material.
- h. Cost-sharing will be authorized for closure only once for a lagoon. Cost-share will not be authorized for a lagoon that was constructed with cost-share monies less than ten years prior to closure or has been renovated with cost-share monies within the last five years.
- i. The owner will be required to reimburse all cost-share monies associated with this practice if, within ten years after this practice is applied, the lagoon is again put into service.

4. Specification.

Guidelines established in NRCS Interim Standard for Lagoon Renovation must be followed in applying this practice.

AWQ14 - AGRICHEMICAL HANDLING FACILITY

1. Purpose. To eliminate potential environmental problems associated with the storage, handling, filling of tanks, and mixing of chemicals (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilizers, etc.) used in orchards, vineyards, silvicultural operations, nurseries, row crops, and other agricultural operations.
2. Applicability. To agricultural or silvicultural producers who customarily store, handle, and mix agrichemicals.
3. Policies.
 - a. The facility will be of a permanent type with a roofed structure in combination with a concrete slab designed to contain potential spills or over-fills of agrichemical application equipment.
 - b. Limited to one facility per farm operation.
 - c. Receipts will be required for reimbursement.
 - d. An Operation and Maintenance (O & M) Plan and an Emergency Response Plan for the facility will be required. The O & M plan must include the recycling or proper disposal of containers.
 - e. The design of the facility and Operation and Maintenance Plan will follow guidelines established by NRCS Interim Standard for Agrichemical Handling Facility.
 - f. Cost-sharing is authorized for:
 1. Earth grade work for foundation preparation.
 2. Items and materials incorporated into the construction of the facility.
 3. Electrical and plumbing.
 4. Miscellaneous items incorporated into the facility for safety, including fencing if needed.
 - g. The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

4. Specification.

Guidelines established in NRCS Interim Standard for Agrichemical Handling Facility must be followed in applying this practice.

AWQ15 - PORTABLE AGRICHEMICAL MIXING STATION

1. Purpose. To reduce pollution potential to surface water, ground-water, and soil by providing a portable mixing station to safely mix and load chemicals (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.), rinse chemical containers, and retain incidental spillage.
2. Applicability. To agricultural or silvicultural producers who customarily handle and mix chemicals, and where a permanent mixing facility is absent or impractical for the particular site or operation.
3. Policies.
 - a. The facility will be of a portable type and be structurally sound and of durable materials commensurate with the anticipated use.
 - b. Limited to one facility per farm operation.
 - c. Receipts will be required for reimbursement.
 - d. An Operation and Maintenance (O & M) Plan and an Emergency Response Plan for the station will be required. The O & M plan must include the recycling of containers.
 - e. The design of the station and Operation and Maintenance Plan will follow guidelines established by NRCS Interim Standard for Portable Agrichemical Mixing Station.
 - f. Cost-sharing is authorized for the portable unit complete with all hoses, nozzles, valves, etc., for the safe mixing of chemicals and rinsing of the chemical containers.
 - g. The practice shall be maintained a minimum of 5 years.
4. Specification.

Guidelines established in NRCS Interim Standard for Portable Agrichemical Mixing Station must be followed in applying this practice.

AWQ16 - PRESCRIBED GRAZING (ROTATIONAL GRAZING)

1. Purpose. To reduce surface runoff and improve riparian conditions, thus reducing surface water pollution by encouraging cattle producers to establish a rotational grazing system.
2. Applicability. To livestock producers who are willing to develop and follow a rotational grazing system.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized for the establishment of interior fences, as necessary to initiate a rotational grazing system.
 - b. Cost-sharing will be limited to 60% of the cost of the interior fencing, to include wire, post, and other related items necessary to install the fence. The type of fence to be installed will be determined by the designated NRCS technician.
 - c. Producer receiving cost-share will develop a conservation plan which includes a rotational grazing system, with assistance from the designated technician, and grazing management will be initiated according to this plan. Fencing for rotational grazing will be installed according to this plan.
 - d. This practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 5 years following the year of installation, which shall include maintaining the fences and following the rotational grazing system as defined in the conservation plan or revised conservation plan, if approved by the local conservation district.
4. Specifications. Practice must be performed in accordance with a conservation plan that complies with the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

AWQ17 - ANIMAL MORTALITY FREEZERS

1. Purpose. To control pollution of water by providing on-farm mortality storage.

2. Applicability. To animal feeding operations where temporary storage of normal animal mortality is necessary for rendering of dead animals, and where no other adequate methods exist for disposal. All state and local laws, rules, and regulations governing the disposal of dead animals will be strictly enforced. Individuals will be responsible for securing all necessary permits, approvals, and registration of freezer units.

2. Policies.
 - a. Evidence of a rendering contract for at least one year must be furnished to the Soil & Water Conservation District.
 - b. Individuals who have established a satisfactory method of disposal of dead animals will not be eligible for cost-share.
 - c. Individuals who have received state cost-share funds for a compostor or incinerator shall not be eligible for cost-share/ incentive payment under this practice until 10 years after the cost-share payment was received.
 - d. Cost-share for this practice may be approved for only one year with the same person.
 - e. Freezing capacity and temperature is to be adequate to handle normal mortality based on the rendering schedule.
 - f. Back-up electrical generators must be readily available or the rendering contract must provide for emergency pickup.

3. Specifications.

Certification must be furnished that the freezer unit(s) have been installed according to the manufacturer's, renderer's, or integrator's specifications. Freezers must be installed on a concrete slab with easy access by rendering trucks.

Electrical hook-up is to be installed as per standard industry practices but in no case less than the minimum requirements of the

most recent edition of the National Electrical Code. A qualified licensed Electrical Technician must certify electrical installation. All above ground electrical wiring shall be in conduit.

AWQ18 - TEMPORARY STORAGE OF SEMI-SOLID POULTRY MANURE

1. Purpose. To control pollution of water by providing on-farm storage for semi-solid poultry manure.
2. Applicability. To poultry animal feeding operations (layer/breeder hen operations) where temporary storage of high moisture content poultry manure is necessary because clean-out must be done at a time when the manure cannot be readily land applied due to winter months, weather, soil conditions, or farm-management requirements. To high moisture poultry manure that will not stack in a pile 5 to 7 feet high without seeping or creeping at the edges, and no other adequate method exists for storage of the manure. The practice is not applicable to layer manure that is already stackable when removed from the house. All state and local laws, rules, and regulations governing storage of manure will be strictly followed.
3. Policies.
 - a. The layer/breeder operation must have an approved nutrient management plan to ensure the proper utilization of the stored manure.
 - b. Use of this practice must help prevent an actual or potential water quality problem associated with surface and/or ground waters.
 - c. High moisture content layer manure must be stored using one of two alternatives:
 - (1) By thoroughly and uniformly mixing fresh or new sawdust (not sawdust already in the house) with the manure to make the waste "stackable". The mixed product will be temporarily field stored just like broiler litter.
 - (2) By constructing a small earthen berm to contain the manure.
 - d. The stacked pile will be covered with opaque plastic with a minimum thickness of 6 ml, and the plastic

shall be placed and secured in such a manner that rain will not wet the manure or wind uncover the pile.

- e. Cost-sharing is authorized for:
 - (1) Sawdust to mix with the manure.
 - (2) Construction of an earthen pad, berm, and diversions.
 - (3) 6 ml plastic.
 - (4) Seeding and mulching the disturbed areas.
 - (5) An area at the entrance to the bermed storage area protected by heavy use treatment applied according to NRCS conservation practice standard, Code 561.
- f. Storage areas will be vegetated, mulched, or otherwise protected during periods when manure is not stored.
- g. Cost-share will be authorized for temporary storage of semi-solid poultry manure only once for each layer operation.
- h. The owner will be required to reimburse all cost-share monies associated with this practice if, within ten years after this practice is applied, the storage area is destroyed or otherwise made unusable.

4. Specifications.

Manure will be stored at a location consistent with the appropriate NRCS conservation practice standard.

Soil and foundation conditions underneath the storage area will be consistent with the appropriate NRCS conservation practice standard.

Manure in the storage area will remain covered until it is removed for usage.

Wind damage to the plastic will be promptly repaired.

AWQ19 – AGRICULTURAL FUEL CONTAINMENT FACILITY

1. Purpose. To prevent contamination of soil, water, and other resources by leakage or spillage from above-ground agricultural fuel storage tanks.
2. Applicability. To agricultural operations which store fuel above ground in tanks and either are required by the State or desire to have secondary containment. Fuel storage sites are required to have secondary containment when the cumulative storage capacity of fuels (not LP gas) or chemicals in containers of 55 gallons or larger, is 1,320 gallons or more.
3. Policies.
 - a. The farm operation must have an approved conservation plan, comprehensive nutrient management plan, or waste management system plan.
 - b. The fuel containment facility will be an integral part of a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan.
 - c. Use of this practice must help prevent an actual or potential water quality problem associated with surface and/or ground waters.
 - d. Design & O&M Plans shall be according to NRCS Standards. Containment facilities can be earthen systems made of compacted clay, bentonite or soil dispersant treated and compacted soils; synthetic liner; impervious concrete or concrete block; or double-wall tanks.
 - e. Facilities are to be designed by an NRCS engineer or a registered professional engineer.
 - f. High traffic areas adjacent to the facility shall be protected to prevent erosion with appropriate vegetation or heavy use area protection.
 - g. Cost-sharing is authorized for:
 1. Compacted earth fill and/or site prep grade work.
 2. Bentonite or soil dispersant.

3. Synthetic liners.
 4. Concrete and steel reinforcement.
 5. Concrete block construction.
 6. Double wall tank.
 7. Piping appurtenances.
 8. Incidental seeding and mulching.
 9. Heavy use area protection.
 10. Roof structure if it is a design requirement.
- h. This practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the year of installation.

4. Specifications.

The containment facility must be located at least 50 feet from any other building, or at least 100 feet from any water body, stream, or other water conveyance structure, at least 150 feet from an up-gradient well, and at least 300 feet from a down gradient well.

Containment facilities must store at least 110% of the volume of the largest tank within the containment structure.

Tanks shall be elevated at least 12 inches to facilitate leak detection.

Facilities shall be located or designed so that vehicles operating near the tank can not accidentally hit and puncture the tank.

Fuel storage locations are to be marked with appropriate signs (Fuel Storage Area and No Smoking).

The structure and associated appurtenances shall meet NRCS standards.

C. FORESTRY IMPROVEMENT ELEMENTS

AFI1 - FOREST TREE PLANTATIONS

1. Purpose. To establish a stand of trees or shrubs for soil protection, forestry purposes, and to preserve and improve the environment.
2. Applicability. To farm and forest land suitable for growing shrubs or tree species which will provide multi-purpose forest benefits. Where shrubs are used, preference should be given to varieties beneficial to wildlife.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized for the establishment of a plantation which will provide multi-purpose forest benefits. Where shrubs are used, preference should be given to varieties beneficial to wildlife.
 - b. Cost-sharing is authorized for post-planting, herbicide treatment for weed control, following the recommendations of the designated technician. Such work must be done within one year of planting.
 - c. Cost-sharing is authorized for subsoiling farm or forest land where essential to permit planting desirable tree species and improve survivability. Technical assistance must be utilized to determine suitability of the land.
 - d. Cost-sharing for site preparation is limited to mowing or prescribed burning, where recommended by the designated technician.
 - e. Cost-sharing is not authorized for fencing, site preparation, or roads.
 - f. Cost-sharing is not authorized for planting orchard trees, for plantings for ornamental purposes, or for Christmas tree production.
 - g. Planting must be protected from destructive fire and destructive grazing. Cost-sharing is authorized for perimeter fire breaks.

- h. Chemicals used in performing this practice must be Federally, State, and locally registered and must be strictly applied in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
 - i. Consideration must be given to preserving and improving the environment.
 - j. This practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation.
4. Specifications. Planting must be done between December 1 to March 31. Practice must be done in accordance with a plan that complies with the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

AFI2 - SITE PREPARATION AND FOREST TREE PLANTATIONS

1. Purpose. To restore unproductive forest sites and establish a stand of trees for soil protection, wood production, and to preserve and improve the environment.
2. Applicability. To farm and forest land suitable for growing tree species which will provide multiple purpose forest benefits.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized for the establishment of a plantation which will provide both forest products and improved protection from wind or water erosion.
 - b. Cost-sharing is authorized for clearing land occupied largely by scrubby brush of no economic value (including prescribed burning), only where essential to permit planting desirable tree species. Technical assistance must be utilized to determine suitability of the land for clearing and the measures necessary to prevent erosion.
 - c. Cost-sharing is authorized for subsoiling farm or forest land where essential to permit planting desirable tree species and improve survivability. Technical assistance must be utilized to determine suitability of the land.
 - d. Cost-sharing is authorized for post-planting, herbicide treatment for weed control, following the recommendations of the designated technician. Such work must be done within one year of planting.
 - e. Cost-sharing is not authorized for fencing or roads.
 - f. Cost-sharing is not authorized for planting orchard trees, for plantings for ornamental purposes, or for Christmas tree production.
 - g. Planting must be protected from destructive fire and destructive grazing. Cost-sharing is authorized for perimeter fire breaks.
 - h. Chemicals used in performing this practice must be Federally, State, and locally registered and must be strictly applied in accordance with authorized registered uses,

directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.

- i. Consideration must be given to preserving and improving the environment.
 - j. This practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation.
4. Specifications. Planting must be done between December 1 to March 31. Practice must be performed in accordance with a plan that complies with the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

AFI3 - FOREST TREE STAND IMPROVEMENT

1. Purpose. To enhance the environment by improving or protecting a stand of desirable trees intended for timber production, wildlife, and soil protection.
2. Applicability. To stands of forest trees where quality can be improved through timber stand improvement.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized for:
 - (1) Cull tree deadening and/or removal.
 - (2) Releasing desirable seedlings and young trees.
 - (3) *Pruning*
 - (4) Initial prescribed burning to achieve these objectives.
 - (5) Firebreaks, as needed.
 - b. Cost-sharing is not authorized for:
 - (1) Correcting existing erosion problems with forestry practices.
 - (2) Fencing or roads.
 - (3) Timber stand improvement in stands where the undesirable stems can be removed by commercial sales, such as fuelwood or pulpwood.
 - c. Chemicals used in performing this practice be Federally, State, and locally registered and must be applied strictly according to authorized uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
 - d. The area must be protected from destructive fire and, if seedlings are present, from destructive grazing.
 - e. Improvement measures should be carried out in a way that preserves or improves the quality of the environment, especially wildlife habitat and the appearance of the area.

- f. This practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 5 years following the calendar year of installation or establishment.
- 4. Specifications. Practice must be performed in accordance with a plan that complies with the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

AFI4 - SITE PREPARATION FOR NATURAL REGENERATION

1. Purpose. To establish a stand of trees for soil protection, forestry purposes, and to preserve and improve the environment.
2. Applicability. To farm and forest land for growing tree species that will provide multi-purpose forest benefits.
3. Policies.
 - a. Cost-sharing is authorized for site preparation for natural reseeding or sprouting (including prescribed burning) if all of the following apply:
 - (1) Sufficient desirable seed trees are present to permit natural seeding, or have sufficient advanced regeneration, or a mix of desirable species that will sprout and restock the area.
 - (2) Brush, dense litter, or other minerals is broken up and removed to expose the forest soil to permit reseeding, and all standing undesired trees severed.
 - (3) On pine sites, seed trees will be left until the area is restocked.
 - b. Cost-sharing is not authorized for:
 - (1) Site preparation for the natural regeneration of ornamental or Christmas trees.
 - (2) Correcting existing erosion with forestry practices.
 - (3) Fencing or roads.
 - c. Planting must be protected from destructive fire and destructive grazing. cost-sharing is authorized for perimeter fire breaks.
 - d. Chemicals used in performing this practice must be Federally, State, and locally registered and must be strictly applied according to authorized uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
 - e. Consideration must be given to preserving and improving the environment.

- f. The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation or establishment.
- 4. Specifications. Practice must be performed in accordance with a plan that complies with the standards and specifications of the designated technician.

III. APPROVED CONSERVATION PRACTICES

- A. General. The list of conservation practices approved for the AACDCP shall be those as listed in this section. The standards and specifications adopted by the Commission for these practices are the standards and specifications of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Alabama Forestry Commission. Copies of these standards and specifications shall be kept in each Conservation District.
- B. Seed, Fertilizer, and Lime Recommendations. The seed, fertilizer and lime recommendations are shown in Exhibit 1. Application of 80-120 percent of the recommendations for seed, fertilizer, and lime shall be considered as meeting the minimum specification requirements; however, payments shall not be made on amounts in excess of 100% of recommendations.
- C. Approved Conservation Practices.

<u>Erosion Control Practices</u> ^{1/}	<u>Units of Measure</u>	<u>Maintenance Requirements Years</u>	<u>Maximum Cost-Share Percent</u> ^{2/}
Conservation Tillage System (No-tillage, Strip Tillage, or Mulch Tillage)	Ac.	1	40.00 ^{3/}
Cover and Green Manure Crop	Ac.	1	75 ^{6/}
Critical Area Planting	Ac.	10	75
Dike	Ft.	<u>4/</u>	75
Diversion	Ft.	10	75
Fencing	Ft.	<u>4/</u>	75
Field Border	Ft.	<u>4/</u>	75
Filter Strip	Ac.	<u>4/</u>	75
Grade Stabilization Structure	No.	10	75
Grasses and Legumes in Rotation	Ac.	3-6 ^{5/}	75
Grassed Waterway or Outlet	Ac.	10	75
Land Reconstruction Abandoned Mined Land	Ac.	5	75
Land Clearing	Ac.	<u>4/</u>	75
Land Smoothing	Ac.	<u>4/</u>	75
Lined Waterway or Outlet	Ac.	10	75
Mulching	60	<u>4/</u>	75
Obstruction Removal	Ac.	<u>4/</u>	75
Pasture/Hayland/Planting	Ac.	5	75

<u>Erosion Control Practices^{1/}</u>	<u>Units of Measure</u>	<u>Maintenance Requirements Years</u>	<u>Maximum Cost-Share Percent^{2/}</u>
Pipeline	Ft.	10	75
Pond Sealing	No.	^{4/}	75
Sediment Basin	No.	10	75
Stream Channel Stabilization	Ft.	10	75
Stripcropping Systems	Ac.	1-6 ^{5/}	75 ^{7/}
Stripcropping Systems (Buffer)	Ac.	5	75 ^{7/}
Terraces	Ac.	10	75
Tree Planting w/o Site Preparation	Ac.	10	75
Trough or Tank	No.	^{4/}	75
Underground Outlet	Ft.	^{4/}	75
Water and Sediment Control Basin	No.	10	75
Subsurface Drain	Ft.	^{4/}	75
<u>Water Quality Practices^{1/}</u>			
Agrichemical Handling Facility	No.	10	75
Animal Mortality Freezer	No.	6	75
Composter	No.	10	75
Critical Area Planting	Ac.	10	75
Diversion	Ft.	10	75
Fencing	Ft.	^{4/}	75
Grade Stabilization Structure	No.	10	75
Lagoon Closure	No.	10	75
Lagoon Renovation	No.	10	75
Land Clearing	Ac.	^{4/}	75
Land Smoothing	Ac.	^{4/}	75
Manure Dry Stack	No.	10	75
Mulching	Ac.	^{4/}	75
Pipeline	Ft.	10	75
Pond	No.	10	75
Pond Renovation	No.	10	75
Pond Sealing	No.	^{4/}	75
Portable Agrichemical Mixing Station	No.	5	75
Prescribed Grazing (Rotational Grazing)	Ac.	5	75
Small Animal Incinerator	No.	5	75

<u>Water Quality Practices</u> ^{1/}	<u>Units of Measure</u>	<u>Maintenance Requirements Years</u>	<u>Maximum Cost-Share Percent</u> ^{2/}
Ag Fuel Containment Facility	No.	10	75
Spring Development	No.	10	75
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	No.	10	75
Stream channel Stabilization	Ft.	10	75
Trough or Tank	No.	<u>4/</u>	75
Temp. Storage of Semi-Solid Poultry Manure	No.	10	75
Underground Outlet	Ft.	<u>4/</u>	75
Waste Storage Pond	No.	10	75
Waste Storage Structure	No.	10	75
Waste Treatment Lagoon	No.	10	75
Waste Water Irrigation	No.	10	75
Well	No.	10	75
<u>Forestry Improvement Practices</u> ^{1/}			
Tree Planting w/o Site Preparation	Ac.	10	75
Tree Planting with Site Preparation	Ac.	10	75
Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration	Ac.	10	75
cull Tree Removal	Ac.	5	75
Pine Plantation Release	Ac.	5	75

^{1/} Applicants for cost-share grants need to identify the program element (See Section II) when submitting an application. All cost-share practices essential to installing the program element should be included on the application if they have been determined. For example, land smoothing may be needed to help prepare a site for a critical area planting and fencing may be needed to protect vegetation from livestock.

^{2/} Based on actual cost of seed, fertilizer and lime as shown in Exhibit 1. All components, including inoculants and minor elements as required by soil test or called for by a vegetative plan, shall be paid at 75% of the actual cost, except cost-share on nitrogen is limited to 60#/Ac.

^{3/} Flat rate per acre cost-share rate is used for this practice.

^{4/} Practice used only to support the installation of other practices. Maintenance period will be the same as the basic practice which is being supported. For example, land smoothing may be used to prepare a field for terraces. Both the terraces and the land smoothing will have a lifespan of 10 years.

^{5/} Since rotation periods vary by soils, the Commission herein allows the designated technician to determine the maintenance period of these practices.

^{6/} Seed only.

^{7/} In addition to cost-sharing on establishment of the permanent cover, an additional \$7.20 per acre may be paid for establishing the system.

IV. Seed, Fertilizer, And Lime Recommendations

EXHIBIT 1 (entire exhibit new)

SEED, FERTILIZER, AND LIME RECOMMENDATIONS

EXHIBIT 1
Seed, Fertilizer, and Lime Recommendations

This table lists the recommended varieties mixture, areas adapted, seeding rates, seeding dates, and average costs approved for use in Alabama.

PERENNIAL GRASS SEED	1/ Area	1/ Planting Dates	2/ Per Acre Seeding, Sprigging or Broadcast Rate
Bahiagrass Conventional Seedbed Prep and Planting or No-Till Drilled	3/ N C S	3/1 – 6/15 3/1 - 7/1 2/1 - 11/1	20 lb.
Tifton 9 Bahia Conventional Seedbed Prep and Planting or No-Till Drilled	3/ N C S	3/1 – 6/15 3/1 - 7/1 2/1 - 11/1	20 lb.
Common Bermuda grass (hulled seed only) Conventional Seedbed Prep and Planting or No-Till Drilled	N C S	4/1 - 7/15 3/15 - 7/15 3/1 - 7/15	5 lb.
Dallisgrass Conventional Seedbed Prep and Planting or No-till drilled	N C S	3/15 - 7/1 3/1 - 7/1 2/1 - 7/1	10 lb. (PLS)
Tall Fescue Conventional Seedbed Prep and Planting or No-Till Drilled South Alabama plantings are limited to subclass W soils	4/ N N/C 5/ S	3/1 - 4/15 9/1 - 11/1 9/15 - 11/15	25 lb.

PERENNIAL LEGUME SEED	1/ Area	1/ Planting Dates	2/ Per Acre Seeding Rate
Tall Fescue and Orchardgrass Mix Conventional Seedbed Prep and Planting or No-Till Drilled	N	8/15-11/1	Fescue -17 lbs Orchardgrass 10 lbs.
Hybrid Bermudagrass-Sprigged	N C S	4/1 - 7/15 3/15 - 7/15 3/1 - 7/15	Minimum 30 Bu./ac. /9
Hybrid Bermudagrass Broadcast	N C S	4/1 - 7/15 3/15 - 7/15 3/1 - 7/15	Minimum 45 Bu./ac. /9
Johnsongrass Seedbed Prep., Planting	N,C	4/1 - 7/31	30 lb.
Orchardgrass Conventional Seedbed Prep and Planting or No-Till Drilled	N	8/15 - 11/1	15 lb.
Orchardgrass and Dallisgrass Mix Conventional Seedbed Prep and Planting or No-Till Drilled	N	8/15 - 11/1	Orchardgrass 10 lb. Dallisgrass 7 lb.
Alfalfa: Alfa Graze, Armour, Apollo Cimarron Classic, Pioneer 532, Raidor, and Southern Special Apollo, Cimarron, Florida 77, and Southern Special	N C S	8/15 - 10/1 9/1 - 10/1 10/1 - 11/15	30 lb.
Lespedeza Sericea (all varieties)	N C S	6/15 - 7/15 3/15 - 4/15 2/15-4/1	30 lb.
White Clover Overseeded 8/	N,C N,C S	2/1 - 4/1 9/1 - 11/1 9/15 - 4/1	3 lb.
Red Clover 8/	N,C,S N,C	9/15 - 11/15 2/1 - 4/1	8 lbs/ac.

PERENNIAL GRASSES/ LEGUME MIXTURES	1/ Area	1/ Planting Dates	2/ Per Acre Seeding Rate
Orchardgrass and White Clover Mix Conventional Seedbed Prep and Planting or No-Till Drilled	N	9/1 - 11/1	Orchardgrass 15 lb. White Clover 3 lb.
Tall Fescue and White Clover Mix Conventional Seedbed Prep and Planting or No-Till Drilled South AL planting limited to subclass W soils	4/ N N C 5/ S	3/1 - 4/15 9/1 - 11/1 9/1 - 11/1 9/15 - 11/15	Fescue 25 lb. White Clover 3 lb.
Tall Fescue, Orchardgrass, and White Clover Mix	N	9/1 - 11/1	Fescue 17 lb Orchardgrass 10 lb White Clover 3 lb
NATIVE PERENNIAL GRASS SEED	1/ Area	1/ Planting Dates	2/ Per Acre Seeding Rate
Eastern Gamagrass	N C S	4/1 - 7/1 3/15 - 7/15 3/1 - 7/15	10 lbs. PLS
Switchgrass	N C S	4/1 - 7/1 3/15 - 7/15 3/1 - 7/15	5 lbs. PLS
Big Bluestem Switchgrass Mixture	N C S	4/1 - 7/1 3/15 - 7/15 3/1 - 7/15	2 lbs. BB PLS 4 lbs. SW Mix PLS
Indiangrass Switchgrass Mixture	N C S	4/1 - 7/1 3/15 - 7/15 3/1 - 7/15	2 lbs. Ind PLS 4 lbs. SW PLS
Big Bluestem Indiangrass Switchgrass Mixture	N C S	4/1 - 7/1 3/15 - 7/15 3/1 - 7/15	4 lbs. BB PLS 4 lbs. Ind PLS 2 lbs. SW PLS
Big Bluestem Indiangrass Little Bluestem Mixture	N C S	4/1 - 7/1 3/15 - 7/15 3/1 - 7/15	4 lb. BB PLS 4 lb Ind PLS 4 lb LB PLS

Critical Area Seeding

This table lists the approved varieties, mixtures, and average cost information for critical area plantings.

Critical Area Planting	1/ Area	1/ Planting Dates	2/Per Acre Seeding, Sprigging, or Broadcast Rate
Bahiagrass 7/	3/ C S	3/1 - 7/1 2/1 - 11/1	40 lb
Tifton 9 Bahia 7/	3/ C S	3/1 - 7/1 2/1 - 11/1	40 lb
Common Bermuda -	N C S	4/1 - 7/15 3/15 - 7/15 3/1 - 7/15	10 lb
Fescue – Broadcast	4/ N N, C 5/ S	4/1 - 7/15 3/15 - 7/15 3/1 - 7/15	Broadcast 50 lb
Tall Fescue and Common Bermuda Mix	4/ N N, C 5/ S	4/1 - 7/15 3/15 - 7/15 3/1 - 7/15	Fescue 33 lb Bermuda 7 lb
Tall Fescue and White Clover Mix	4/ N N,C 5/ S	3/1 - 4/15 9/1 - 11/1 9/15 - 11/15	Fescue 50 lb White Clover 3 lb
Bahia and Bermuda Mix 7/	3/ C, S	3/1 - 7/1	Bahia 27 lb Bermuda 7 lb
Tall Fescue and Orchardgrass Mix	N	9/1 - 11/1	Fescue 33 lb Orchardgrass 20 lb
Sericea	N N C S	6/15 - 7/15 or 3/15 - 5/15 3/1 - 5/1 2/15 - 5/1	Broadcast 60 lb
Sericea and Bermuda Mix	N N C S	6/15 - 7/15 or 3/15 - 5/15 3/1 - 5/1 2/15 - 5/1	Sericea 60 lb Bermuda 10 lb
Orchardgrass	N	8/15 - 11/1	30 lb

EXHIBIT 1



Geographical subdivisions for area seeding dates. Contiguous counties may use seeding dates for contiguous area, if approved by the designated technician. These determinations will be made on a case by case basis.

Critical Areas Average Costs for Fertilizer and Limestone

For critical areas, use the following application rates and codes.

IF the area to be seeded is ...	AND the type of seeding is ...	THEN the rate of application is ...
all areas OTHER than alkaline soils or other areas that do not require lime	Grasses seeded alone except Fall-seeded Bahia	By soil test or 60 lbs Nitrogen./ac. and 100 lbs. each of P2O5, & K20; & 2T Lime
	Grass/legume mixture except Tall Fescue/Clover or Orchardgrass/Clover	40 lbs./ac. Nitrogen; 100 lbs./ac. P2O5 & K20; & 2T Lime
	Tall Fescue/Clover or Orchardgrass/Clover	40 lbs./ac. Nitrogen; 100 lbs./ac. P2O5 & K20; & 3T Lime
	Legumes seeded alone or Fall-seeded Bahia	100 lbs./ac. P2O5 & K20; & 2T Lime

* See average cost list Exhibit 1 under (EQIP) for rates and estimated cost by species.

Footnotes

1/ N - North C - Central S - South

2/ PLS - Pure Live Seed, **When coated see are used, adjust rate to reflect correct amount of pure live see without the coating.**

3/ Bahiagrass plantings in north Alabama are limited to counties contiguous to central Alabama, plus St. Clair, Calhoun, and Cleburne.

4/ Spring Fescue plantings in north Alabama are limited to critical areas only.

5/ Fescue seeding in south Alabama is limited to subclass w soils.

7/ Bahiagrass is not authorized for alkaline Black Belt soils or other alkaline soils for critical areas.

8/ Clovers: Adjust seeding rate to account for seed that may be pre-inoculated. Refer to Exhibit 2 for minimum seed specifications. Ex. White Clover, 76% PLS, means at 3 lbs./ac. Seeding rate, there are (0.76 x 3 lbs./ac.) 2.28 lbs. of PLS.

9/ For Hybrid Bermudagrass sprigged bu/ac need to be in rows less than 24 in. wide and broadcast bu/ac need to be in rows wider than 24 in.

NOTE: Conservation Districts may grant up to 30 days extension on planting dates if climatic conditions are such that a sufficient stand and cover could be expected if planted during the extension period. They may also accelerate seeding rates up to 100% for critical areas or other similar situations.

. FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS

Unless the soil test requirement is waived, the amount shown to be needed by the soil test must be applied. EXCEPTION:

- A. For practice ASE1, nitrogen will be limited to 60 pounds per acre. In case of establishment, nitrogen shall be applied irrespective of the type of cover to be seeded except Bahiagrass seeded alone in the fall, Sericea Lespedeza and Alfalfa do not require nitrogen.
- B. For practices where the soil test requirement is waived, use the following per acre:
 - 1. For grass seeded alone, use 60 lbs. nitrogen, 100 lbs. P₂O₅, 100 lbs. K₂O.
 - 2. For grass and legume mixture, use 40 lbs. nitrogen, 100 lbs. P₂O₅, 100 lbs. K₂O.
 - 3. For legumes alone, use 20 lbs. nitrogen, 100 lbs. P₂O₅, K₂O.
- C. Chicken litter may be used in lieu of commercial fertilizer. Application rates will be as specified by NRCS to meet the soil test requirements.

3. LIME RECOMMENDATIONS

Where the soil test is waived, use two tons per acre. EXCEPTION:

- (1) If the cover is tall fescue and clover, use three tons per acre, or
- (2) No lime is required in the Black Belt where lime is not needed or other areas that have been limed during the preceding three years.
- (3) Districts are allowed the option of cost-sharing on a higher bagged lime rate where situations arise that this circumstance would apply. Each district sets the cost-share rate for bagged lime according to the rate in their county.
- 4. Cost-share shall be paid at 75% of the actual cost. However, no cost-share will be paid for seed in excess of recommended seeding rates, or for fertilizers or lime in excess of soil test requirements, unless the soil test requirement is waived. If a soil test is waived, cost-share shall be paid at 75% of the actual cost and based on application rates as shown in Paragraphs 2. & 3. above.

Should bills be presented for cost-share payment that appear excessive, the Soil and Water Conservation District may refuse to make payment based on these bills, and instead make payment of 75% of average cost based on local prevailing prices.

EXHIBIT 1

Minimum Specifications for Seed

Seed	% Germination	% Purity	% Pure Live Seed
Alfalfa	85	95	80.75
Arrowleaf Clover	80	95	76.00
Bahiagrass	85	90	76.50
Ball Clover	80	95	76.00
Bermudagrass, Common (hulled)	80	95	76.00
Bermudagrass, Cheyenne	80	95	76.00
Bluegrass	80	85	68.00
Chufa	70	95	66.50
Cowpeas (reseeding)	75	95	71.25
Crimson Clover (reseeding)	80	95	76.00
Crimson Clover, Common	80	95	76.00
Dallisgrass			25.00
Fescue, Tall (Fungus-free)	80	95	76.00
Fescue, Tall (Fungus Friendly)	80	95	76.00
Johnsongrass	60	85	50.00
Lespedeza, Common, Kobe, Korean and Sericea	80	95	76.00
Orchardgrass	80	90	72.00
Red Clover	80	95	66.50
Ryegrass	85	95	80.75
White Clover	80	95	76.00
Rye	75	95	71.00