



# Agricultural Enhancement Program Bale Grazing Application

| Applicant Information  |
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| <b>Name:</b>   |
| <b>Mailing Address:</b>  |
| <b>Telephone:</b>  |
| <b>Email Address:</b>  |
| <b>Application Date:</b>                                       |
| <b>Are you a WVCA/WFCD employee?</b><br>YES/NO                 |
| <b>Are you a family member of a WVCA/WFCD employee?</b> YES/NO |
| <b>Do you operate land with a WVCA/WFCD employee?</b> YES/NO   |

| Farm Information   |
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| <b>MONONGAHELA CONSERVATION DISTRICT</b>                           |
| <b>County:</b>   |
| <b>Farm Name:</b>  |
| <b>Farm #:</b>   |
| <b>Tract #:</b>  |
| <b>Field # or #'s:</b>   |
| <b>Are you a Conservation District Supervisor?</b><br>YES/NO       |
| <b>Are you a family member of a District Supervisor?</b><br>YES/NO |
| <b>Do you operate land with a District Supervisor?</b><br>YES/NO   |

### Best Management Practice

*Please complete the following information for the Best Management Practice you would like to apply for:*

| BMP                 | Limits   | Cost-Share Rate                       | Amount Requested |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Bale Grazing</b> | Hay/Pasture<br>Min. pH of <u>5.6</u> required.<br><i>(Temporary Fence, Posts, Chargers, and Hay Rings)</i> | 50% (cost of supplies) up to \$750.00 | \$ _____         |

### Program Eligibility

**Definition:**

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

**Purpose:**

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

**Policies for Program:**

- Applicant must be a District Cooperator. (*a form is available upon request*)
- Applicant is ineligible for a practice reimbursement if he/she starts project before District approval.
- No duplication of federal or state cost-share shall be allowed.
- When an applicant has cancelled an AgEP Agreement for two fiscal years, he/she will not be eligible to participate for the next two immediate fiscal years.
- Government land is ineligible.
- Property must be used as a farming operation to be eligible for the program: having the potential for producing at least \$1000 of farm products annually.
- In combination with other practices applicant **cannot** exceed **\$7,000.00** of assistance per fiscal year (*July 2021-June 2022*).
- Application approvals will be made based upon availability of funds and a ranking process.

**Policies for Practice:**

- Soil fertility on planned bale grazing fields must be below High or Optimum nutrient levels on the most current soil test.
- Soil pH must be 5.6 or greater.
- Fields under contract must not create an additional resource concern by winter feeding.
  - Bale grazing proximity to water source (*stream, pond, swamp*) must be at least 35 feet. Livestock must be excluded from those areas.
  - For the practice of bale grazing, slope of the planned field will not exceed 25%.
  - Soil series with a subclass of *w (wetness)* should be avoided.
- If the field for which the practice is being requested is under contract for financial assistance for purchase of hay, fence, or hay equipment under another program, that field is ineligible for this program.
- In order to be presented for payment approval, invoice(s) shall clearly state what costs were incurred.

**Practice Specifications:**

- Livestock access to winter feeding bales will be controlled using temporary electric fence and hay rings.
- Approved materials that qualify for reimbursement are Temporary Fence Wire, Temporary Posts, Fence Chargers, and Hay Rings.

**Payment Rates and Limits:**

- Cost share is available to landowner and/or farm operator (*lessee*).
- The maximum for reimbursement is 50% for the purchase of supplies up to \$750.00.
- The *Bale Grazing* area must be **set-up** and **functioning** by **December 3, 2021**.

**Reimbursement Process:**

- The payment will be approved as: 1. Receipts are received; 2. Cooperator completes a W-9 form; 3. Site visit is done; 4. Verification form is signed; 5. District approves the payment.
- All receipts and forms are due to the Monongahela Conservation District Office by **December 3, 2021** otherwise payments may be delayed or even denied.
- **No contract extensions will be granted for any reason.**

**Application due May 28, 2021 and must include the following:**

- Cooperator Agreement (*if applicable*)
- Practice Application Form
- Farm map with individual fields and areas identified where the *Bale Grazing* is proposed.
- A current soil test result for each field. The test is current if it has been taken within three (3) years. (*Current soil test must come from an accredited laboratory*)
- Lease agreement when applicable which is at least the length of the practice life (*1 year*).
- Application deadline may be extended upon Monongahela Conservation District approval.

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

**Applicants Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

| OFFICE USE ONLY: |  |
|------------------|--|
| Date Received:   |  |
| Time Received:   |  |

| <b>OFFICE USE ONLY:</b> |  |
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