

## Conservation Practice Standard Overview

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### Forest Harvest Management (511)

Forest harvest management includes timely cutting and removal of forages and biomass from the field as hay, greenchop, or insilage.

#### Practice Information

Forage is harvested at a frequency and height that optimizes the desired forage stand, plant community, and stand life.

When harvesting for feed, health considerations for specific plant and animal species must be considered. Depending on the plant material, drought conditions may increase nitrate levels in forages to the point of possible toxicity while prussic acid poisoning may be an issue with frosted material.

In conjunction with harvest options, storage and feeding options may be needed that will retain acceptable forage quality and minimize digestible dry-matter loss.

Where weather conditions make it difficult to harvest the desired quality of forage, use of mechanical or chemical conditioners, forced air barn curing, and/or ensile may be required.

Harvest may be delayed if prolonged or heavy precipitation is forecast that would reduce forage quality.

Green chopping or ensiling the forage to reduce or eliminate field-drying time may be



necessary in regions where rainfall and/or humidity levels cause unacceptable forage quality losses. Other options include the use of desiccants, preservatives, or macerating implements to reduce field-drying time.

#### Common Associated Practices

Forage Harvest Management (511) is commonly applied with conservation practices, such as Prescribed Grazing (528); and when nutrients or other soil amendments are applied, Nutrient Management (590), and Waste Utilization (633).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.