FPP02 – On-Farm Pilot Project 2 – Forage Combinations for Fall, Winter and Spring Grazing Following Irrigated Wheat

Availability: Banner, Cheyenne and Kimball Counties, NE.

Criteria/Requirements for Pilot Project 2

- Operator must have concurrence of Aaron Berger, University of Nebraska Extension Educator, 209 East Third, Kimball, NE prior to scheduling initiated demonstration or on farm research.
- Operators are responsible for any fees and negotiating terms with University of Nebraska Extension.
- Access to the pilot project site must be provided for follow-up educational program or tours.
- Provide annual report according to University of Nebraska Extension requirements to verify that the project is established and being carried out adequately in order to certify this each fiscal year.
- The pilot/research/demonstration cannot be used to promote a commercial product or process. It must focus on demonstrating the strength and weaknesses of a management practice or technology.
- Land requirements: 50-60 acres of irrigated cropland wheat.
- Maximum number of participants: 1.
- Length of Pilot Project: 3 years.

Specific Requirements:

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension would be conducting the on farm demonstration project.

Irrigated wheat production is common in western Nebraska in crop rotations. Currently after the winter wheat is harvested, much of the ground sits idle until the following spring when it is rotated to another crop. After the winter wheat is harvested in July, there is the opportunity to plant forage crops that can be used as forage for cattle for winter grazing and also capture/produce nitrogen for subsequent spring or summer planted crops. With increasing grain prices, there is an opportunity for producers to plant and utilize high quality forage that can be grazed in the winter and spring months with weaned calves, replacement heifers or cows as a way to reduce cattle production costs. Planting and grazing forage combinations that contain legumes in the winter and spring also provide the opportunity to grow nitrogen that can reduce the need for nitrogen fertilizer in future crops.

The national focus that would be being addressed would be **Energy** and **Soil Quality**.

Energy would be addressed through utilizing legumes that fix nitrogen in combination with cereal crops and brassicas that would capture and cycle nutrients. Energy would also be addressed through the use of strip grazing to efficiently harvest the forage produced and leave a majority of the nutrients in the crop back on the ground in the form of manure and urine from the grazing animals.

Soil Quality would be addressed through improving soil organic matter and the cycling of soil nutrients.

A participant in the demonstration project would need to provide approximately 50-60 acres of irrigated ground, equipment for preparing the soil and planting the forage combinations, assistance with the collection of soil samples and soil testing as well as the collecting of forage samples and forage testing. The participant will also need to provide cattle for grazing of the forages, temporary fencing materials and labor for the management of the cattle. Ideally these demonstration projects take place over a three year period to account for some of the seasonal variation that occurs in weather conditions.

Additional State Documentation Requirements for pilot, research and demo project (prior to initiating CSP contract)

1. Copy of project proposal as agreed to with University of Nebraska Extension
2. Agreement or documentation of concurrence with University of Nebraska Extension
3. A map showing fields where the enhancement will be applied

In addition, complete the Table below:

Tract	Field(s)	Acres Planned				Acres Applied (completed by operator)
EX. 1	*1*	*20*				*20 acres*

I certify that the following information meets specifications and has been provided to NRCS:

1. Complete the table above and provide a map with delineation of the area where the enhancement was applied including partial fields.
2. Photographs of a representative number of fields showing demonstration or research.
3. Annual report based on University of Nebraska Extension Service that documents accomplishments (required each year before certified).

Certified by: _____ **Date:**_____