



Conservation Options for Urban Small-Acreage Pastures

Conservation practices help improve soil health, reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide other natural resource benefits.

USDA's NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE - Idaho

Are you interested in conserving the soil, water, plants and other natural resources on your urban small-acreage pasture? USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can help.

We offer financial and technical assistance to private landowners to help them install conservation practices on agricultural lands. All of our programs are entirely voluntary and we can tailor the practices to suit the unique needs of your property.

NRCS can help you improve the health and vigor of your pasture to provide quality forage for animals. We can help you with pasture seedings, irrigation systems for pastures, cross fencing, composting, and other conservation practices. We can also help you develop and implement a grazing management plan that will keep your pasture functional and healthy for future years by avoiding over-grazing and allowing pastures adequate time to rest.

To learn more about managing your land, visit your local NRCS office. We can help you make the right choices to protect and improve your land and other resources.



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Practice

Description

Benefits

Forage & Biomass Planting



Planting grass and legumes to reduce soil erosion and improve production.

- » Improves/maintains livestock nutrition
- » Provides forage during periods of low production
- » Reduces soil erosion
- » Improves soil health and water quality

Prescribed Grazing



Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals, often using a rotational or mob grazing system where pastures are divided with fencing.

- » Improves/maintains species composition and vigor of plant communities
- » Improves forage quantity and quality for animal health
- » Improves surface and subsurface water quality and quantity
- » Provides wildlife habitat

Fencing



A permanent, portable or temporary constructed barrier to animals or people.

- » Reduces erosion and controls access by grazing animals to permit recovery or establishment of vegetation
- » Improves forage production which can increase livestock production

Windbreak / Shelterbelt



Single or multiple rows of trees and shrubs in linear configurations that protect areas from wind.

- » Reduces wind erosion
- » Serves as a sound barrier
- » Provides food and shelter for wildlife and pollinators
- » Protects farm animals from winter winds and snow
- » Protects plants from wind-related damage

Composting Facility



A structure that facilitates the decomposition of manure and other organic materials that creates a final product stable for storage, on-farm use and application to the land as a soil amendment.

- » Reduces water pollution potential
- » Conserves energy by reducing mass and improving handling of organic waste solids
- » Reuses organic waste and keeps it on-farm
- » Transforms organic waste into a soil amendment that improves soil health and plant health.

For more information visit: www.nrcs.usda.gov/idaho

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