

Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25)
NMDA's Healthy Soil Program
Bale grazing planning template
REQUIRED for Individual Applicants or Eligible Entities seeking funds
for bale grazing on rangeland or cropland

NOTE: If you are applying for a grant from NMDA's Healthy Soil Program with a project that will include bale grazing on rangeland or cropland, you must submit a completed version of this template as part of your online application. **This template was not designed for the Individual Applicant or Eligible Entity to complete themselves. Rather, this template must be completed in cooperation with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)* on or before March 22, 2024.** Failure to submit this template (completed in cooperation with NRCS, including the planner's signature) as part of your Healthy Soil Program application will render the bale grazing component of your application incomplete.

NOTE: NMDA's Healthy Soil Program requires grant applicants to create and upload with their online application a soils map ([using https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/](https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/)) for cropland projects or an Ecological Site Description map (<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>) for rangeland projects. Because these maps indicate different soil types and/or ecological sites within the project area and are essential to the conservation planning process, NMDA recommends that all applicants create and study either a soils map or Ecological Site Description map *prior to* their conservation-planning appointment with NRCS.

Name of Individual Applicant or Eligible Entity:

Project Location (Physical Address, Section/Range/Township, Latitude/Longitude):

County: _____

FOR THE INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT OR ELIGIBLE ENTITY: Using only the space below, describe your soil health-related goals. Explain how bale grazing would help achieve these goals.

FOR THE CONSERVATION PLANNER: Using only the space below, describe your observations regarding the Individual Applicant's / Eligible Entity's existing resource concerns related to soil health. Examples: decreased water infiltration, compaction, organic matter depletion, decreased forage productivity etc.

FOR THE CONSERVATION PLANNER: Use the blank spaces below to lead the Individual Applicant or Eligible Entity in calculating the specific components of a bale grazing plan.

NOTE: Bale grazing **must** be planned in accordance with USDA-NRCS* Conservation Enhancement Activity E528P (New Mexico Supplement).

Treatment area (acres or sq. ft.): _____

Existing forage available (lbs./unit area): _____

Type and numbers of livestock to be utilized: _____

Estimated dry matter consumption/day by livestock: _____

Size, type, and number of bales to be used: _____

Time of year that bale grazing will occur: _____

Duration of bale grazing (days): _____

Planned livestock numbers per day: _____

Planned bale residue after bale grazing (minimum 25%): _____

Exclusion plan, including method and duration of exclusion: _____

FOR THE CONSERVATION PLANNER: Use the space below to show all calculations used to complete the section above.

FOR THE CONSERVATION PLANNER: Using only the space below, draw a map or diagram of bale layout to ensure uniform residue distribution and livestock coverage of treatment area.

FOR THE CONSERVATION PLANNER: List any additional notes related to this bale grazing project. Examples include drought mitigation plans.

Individual Applicant or Eligible Entity representative signature _____ **Date** _____

NRCS Conservation Planner name/title _____

NRCS Conservation Planner signature _____ **Date** _____

Local USDA Service Center _____

*** USDA NRCS NM provides financial support to NMDA's Healthy Soil Program through a contribution agreement.**