

FY 2013 Livestock Initiative for Mississippi

Purpose

The purpose of the **Livestock Initiative** is to address grazing lands farming issues across the State of Mississippi. The targeted audience of this initiative is farmers growing less than \$250,000 a year in gross farm sales. (Landowner must provide IRS Schedule F from one of the last 3 years where the landowner did not have \$250,000 or more in gross farm sales.) The targeted livestock under this initiative include cattle, horses, and other large animals.

Core Conservation Practices: At least one of the following practices must be planned.

- 1- **Fence** (382) – This practice is for large livestock (Example – cattle, horses, etc.). This will include boundary fence and cross fence. (The fence maximum practice cap is \$11,669/BASE and \$13,992/HU.)
- 2- **Nutrient Management** (590)
- 3- **Prescribed Grazing** (528)

The resource concerns to be addressed in Mississippi are:

- (1) Surface Water Quality – runoff of nutrients and organics
- (2) Water Quantity – water management and irrigation
- (3) Soil Quality – erosion control above soil loss tolerance (T)
- (4) Sustainable Forestry

ELIGIBLE LAND: Eligible lands are pastureland and incidental grazed woodland only. The intent of the Livestock Initiative as related to woodland is to enhance the overall grazing system by including incidental grazed woodlands.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND PROCEDURE

Reference applicable EQIP practice pages in EQIP Manual for scenario changes, eligible components, and associated practices for FY2013.

Eligibility

The target audience is defined as any small farm that meets the USDA definition that states that a small farm is a farm with less than \$250,000 a year in sales.

Applicants with pastureland must be willing to follow a prescribed grazing plan.

All participants must be registered in the Service Center Information Management System (SCIMS) or grant permission to be registered in SCIMS.

2013 Historically-Underserved (HU) rate of compensation will be used when the participant has applied under the Livestock Initiative and meets HU (BF, LRF, SD) criteria (90% rate of compensation).

2013 EQIP Base rate of compensation will be used when the participant has NOT met any of the HU criteria yet does meet Livestock Initiative guidelines.

Existing field office technical standards are available to accomplish conservation planning for this livestock initiative.