

Watershed Agricultural Program SOP

2.1.12.3

PRESCRIBED GRAZING LIME:

PURPOSE: The purpose of this SOP is to detail the eligibility requirements and planning procedures for including the Forage & Biomass Planting – Lime BMP or IRC (Lime BMP) in a Whole Farm Plan (WFP). In addition this SOP outlines the procedure for creating a design package, and for implementing the BMP, as well as setting the payment rate for lime application. This payment rate should be evaluated annually to keep current with market changes.

1. **Eligibility:** All active WAP participants with Prescribed Grazing in their WFP are eligible for Forage & Biomass Planting – Lime. The following criteria exist:
 - a. The Prescribed Grazing Lime is a onetime only BMP. Fields are only eligible to receive this Lime BMP one time.
 - b. Fields may receive a split application of lime if the recommended rate is over 3 ton/ac. (@100% ENV). This split application equals the “one-time” BMP

2. **Planning Procedures:** Adding Forage & Biomass Planting – Lime to the WFP-2.
 - a. All acres justified in the grazing plan, including after-grazed hay meadows, are eligible to receive lime if needed.
 - i. At a minimum, a preliminary grazing plan shall be developed to indicate what pasture/field acres will be included in the Lime BMP.
 - ii. Use the Prescribed Grazing Worksheets to determine appropriate acres.
 - iii. Show the worksheet/calculations and preliminary grazing plan map as justification at the time of Peer and Coach reviews.
 - iv. Be aware that lime application may not be possible/practical on the entire pasture (areas may be poorly drained, too steep, wooded or scrub brush etc.). Account for those areas and subtract them from individual field acreages.
 - b. Calculating total lime and cost for WFP-2.
 - i. Use the most current soil sample results and Cornell recommendations for each pasture/field included in the Lime BMP. If no sample exists, use 3 tons/ac. as a default.
 - ii. All lime recommendations should be converted to 70% ENV lime. To do this, divide the 100% ENV recommendation by 0.70. (Example: A recommended rate of 3 tons/ac. @ 100% ENV would be 4.3 tons/ac. @ 70% ENV).
 - iii. When calculating the planning estimate for the WFP-2, use **\$55/ton** multiplied by the 70% ENV rate.

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- iv. If the Cornell recommendations call for more than 3 ton/ac. @ 100% ENV, a split application can be included in the plan, as follows:
 1. Take the first 3 tons/ac. of the recommendation and convert to 70% ENV as described above. Include these tons and acres as one BMP on the WFP-2.
 2. Create a second BMP for the remainder of the recommendation over the 3 ton/ac. (@100% ENV). This second application cannot exceed another 3 ton/ac. (example: A recommendation of 7 tons/ac. @ 100% ENV would be split into two 3 tons/ ac. applications.
 3. Convert this second application to 70% ENV lime as described above and multiply by \$55/ton. Use this as the planning estimate for the second BMP.
 4. Designate the second BMP with an “a” in the BMP number. There will be no “third” application.
 5. Applications must be a minimum of 1 year apart. At the planner’s discretion, it may be prudent to allow additional time for the first application to activate in the soil and a new soil sample to be taken before the second application.

3. Design Package Procedure:

- a. The design package for the Lime BMP must include the following:
 - i. Cover Sheet with Landowner/Producer name, BMP and design numbers, farm location map, and place for appropriate signatures.
 - ii. WAP Items of Work page where all the design details are listed (fields, acres, lime rates, ENV, cost estimates, etc.)
 - iii. Plan Map showing fields to receive lime and rates for each field that correspond to the Items of Work page.
- b. When calculating the cost estimate for the design package:
 - i. If the actual price and ENV of the lime being applied is not yet known by the producer, use the same procedure as the planning estimate. (70% ENV @ \$55/ton) This estimate is the maximum amount that will be paid for the BMP.
 - ii. If the producer does know the price and ENV of the lime they will apply, use this information for calculating the design estimate, provided it does not exceed the 70% ENV @ \$55/ton rate.

4. Implementation Procedure:

- a. Procurement – payments will be made following all WAP Procurement Policies.
 - i. The Landowner/Producer is responsible for soliciting prices and determining the type of lime that will be applied. They will also be responsible for deciding if they will apply the lime themselves or if they will have it custom applied. The WAP will pay up to the total amount in the design estimate, any expense above

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this amount is the responsibility of the Landowner/Producer.

- ii. The Landowner/Producer may work with the project designer and/or Planner if there are questions regarding ENV and cost. The planner can help calculate rates needed based on ENV and associated cost to determine what the best option is. The project designer should review and approve the Landowner/Producer's final choice of lime (ENV, costs, etc.).
 - iii. Lime applied by the Landowner/Producer will be contracted using the WFP-5P. Lime spread by a custom applicator will be contracted using the WFP-5C.
- b. Payment
- i. Landowner/Producer must provide copies of all bills related to the lime application. Payments will be calculated based of one of three scenarios.
 1. Custom Application – The payment for custom applied lime will be based on the bill submitted and will not exceed the \$55/ton rate calculated in the design package. Payment will be remitted directly to the custom applicator.
 2. Landowner/Producer application with spreader provided by lime vendor – The payment will be based on the actual cost of the lime with spreader included, plus \$5/ton for labor and fuel. Payment will be made directly to the Landowner/Producer who will be responsible for paying all vendors.
 3. Landowner/Producer application with owned, rented or contracted spreader – payment will be based on the actual cost of the lime plus up to \$10/ton for cost of spreader, labor and fuel. Payment will be made directly to the Landowner/Producer who will be responsible for paying all contractors or vendors.
- c. As-Built
- i. The project designer will complete a red marked, as-built Items of Work to document the following:
 1. Actual ENV (%).
 2. Application rate based on ENV.
 3. Amount of lime actually applied & locations (tons/ac. by field and total tons/field).
 4. Actual cost per ton
 5. Application method and cost
 - a. Custom applied = \$\$/ton
 - b. Participant applied = cost of lime (\$/ton) + spreading cost (\$/ton as detailed above and/or other direct cost)