



BALE GRAZING APPLICATION FOR HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE

For Office Use Only
Revised (11/20/25)
FY 2025-2026

Rec'd: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant's Agent (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____
(City) (State) (Zip)
(Primary) (Secondary)

Email Address: _____

Project Location (Taos County Neighborhood): _____

Property is (✓): ☐ - Owned *(Must attach a copy of a recent property tax bill for the project location)*
☐ - Leased *(Must attach a copy of lease & recent property tax bill for the project location)*
☐ - Agent *(Must attach a copy of written/dated landowner approval & a recent property tax bill for the project location)*

Have You Participated in Taos SWCD Programs Before (✓)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, Please List Project Type(s): _____

Total acres owned/leased for grazing: _____

Briefly describe the number, class, and weight of livestock you or someone else manages on your land (e.g., 6 bred beef heifers 1200# each, 15 120# ewes supporting 30 lambs 20# each, 8 100# milking goats with 6 kids 30# each, etc.):

Please list any preexisting fenced paddocks on grazing land you manage between ½ acre and 2 acres in size (e.g., I have a two acre pasture cross fenced into 2 one acre parcels): _____

Please describe the pasture soil health benefits you hope for from participation in this project: _____

Do you have access to effective electric fencing materials sufficient to control your animals (✓)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Are you able to load and haul small (50-60#) 2 string hay bales from Taos SWCD to your site (✓)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Are you also able to place these bales evenly across your intended bale grazing paddock(✓)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Are you able to provide drinking water to your livestock in this paddock this winter (✓)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Are you able to exclude livestock from the paddock for 6 months after the bale grazing event (✓)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Are you willing to pay the \$1.50 per bale cost share for bales <u>consumed</u> by your livestock (✓)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

Be sure to read all of the following program rules prior to submitting this application.

**Taos Soil & Water Conservation District
FY 2025/26 Healthy Soils Bale Grazing Program Guidelines**



- Taos SWCD has received a Healthy Soils Grant from the New Mexico Dept. of Agriculture to work with livestock producers within the Taos Soil and Water District to support bale grazing projects that follow specific NRCS practice guidelines. Approved applicants will be eligible to use Taos SWCD-purchased bales for feeding to approved livestock on an approved fenced parcel (1/2 ac to 2 acres) over a prescribed time period, with significant hay (1000# to 3000# per acre) being left behind as a pasture amendment.
- For consideration, applicants to this program must submit a signed FY 2025/26 Taos SWCD Healthy Soils Bale Grazing Program application. **Applications are due by December 12th, 2025.** Bale grazing projects will occur from December 2025 through March 2026.
- Applicants will be ranked based on a number of factors prior to selection. These rankings will be based on answers on this application as well as information collected at the site visit concerning project suitability. Applicants who have successfully participated in a past TSWCD healthy soils program will be given priority.
- Prior to approval for hay distribution, cooperators will be required to meet Taos SWCD staff in their field(s) for a rapid soil health assessment and in-field orientation to the Taos SWCD healthy soils program.
- Highest ranking applicants will be assigned “Cooperator status” and approved for bale grazing.
- Bale grazing is a practice that is intended to provide livestock with sufficient forage to satisfy animal needs (based on weight and stage of life) while the livestock naturally spread out the excess feed provided to them.
- Once excess bales have been sufficiently spread, trampled, urinated on, and manured, **livestock must be excluded from the bale grazing area for six months.** This rest period is crucial to allow residue to protect soils from wind, sun, and excessive animal impact. As the weather warms, leftover hay will decompose and rejuvenate existing and introduced vegetation.
- **EXAMPLE: A cooperator has a one acre fenced parcel (with minimal standing forage) for bale grazing ten 1200# bred heifers for 9 days. The cooperator is approved for distributing 104 small bales of hay to the one acre parcel over this period. The cows will meet their nutritional needs through feeding on 64 bales over these 9 days. 2000# of hay (40 bales) will be left as residue and livestock will be excluded from the plot for 6 months. The cooperator will pay a cost share of \$1.50 per bale for the hay consumed by their livestock. In this case the cooperator cost share is 64 bales * \$1.50 = \$96.00.**

I recognize that the above information is true and correct and I am requesting Taos SWCD assistance. This project is needed to protect soil & water resources on the identified property and technical/cost-share assistance is needed to complete the project. I hereby certify that I have read and I understand Taos SWCD's FY25-26 Healthy Soils Bale Grazing Program Guidelines.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Taos Soil & Water Conservation District (Taos SWCD) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact Taos SWCD at 575-751-0584. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to Taos SWCD, 220 Chamisa Road, Taos, NM 87571 or call 575-751-0584. Taos SWCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.