

Welcome to Pasture Management 101 Virtual Workshop series provided by Skagit Conservation District in partnership with WSU Skagit County.

Funding for this program is through a PSP Near Term Action hosted by Washington State Department of Health supported by EPA National Estuary Program to maintain healthy and productive shellfish beds in Skagit County.



Spring and Summer workshop series:

May - What does a healthy pasture look like, and how do I make my pasture look like that!

June - Are they weeds or are they food? Why do I have more weeds than grass

July – How do I water my livestock if they can't get to the stream? (Watering systems)

August – Now that it is dry what should I be doing? (Harrow, fertilizer, drainage maintenance, mowing)

September – Can I really collect rain water off of my roof and use it on the farm?

MONTHLY FARM PLANNER

AUGUST

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

MONTHLY FARM PLANNER

- AUGUST
- RESEED/SEED/FEED



A



B



*** AVOID OVER GRAZING as grass growth slows!!**



*Do not FEED animals hay or grain on the ground when the soil is dry.

- **Animals can create bare spots where weeds can invade.**
- **Horses can get sand colic from ingesting dirt in their feed.**

Plan To Reseed!!

- Order Seed, Lime, and Fertilizer and Reserve Equipment if planning to improve pastures next month.
- Remember, Total Renovations should be done only as a Last Resort when pastures are unproductive or unhealthy for your animals.

RESEEDING

PR1



Ploughing down old pasture and reseeding new perennial grass-based mixes. Reliable way to reinvigorate pasture and remove weed populations. Typically requires multiple cultivation passes. Seed: broadcast or drilled. Good (stale) seed bed and rolling is recommended - when broadcast. Cultivation looses organic matter but mineralises nutrients - giving seeds a boost. Weeds & soil erosion a risk in first year - light topping/ grazing is advised. Destroys the sod, exposes soil.

BROADCAST OVERSEEDING

PR2



Lowest cost method for seeding new perennial pasture species/forage crops into established pastures. Ideal where bare soil is prevalent. Apply by: seed spinner or by hand (targetting bare patches, where present). Precede high-density grazing events (allowing animals to tread-in seed) or roll/harrow following broadcast. Generally low success rate (perhaps focus on cheaper seedmixes). Cheapest option.

SLOT SEEDING

PR3

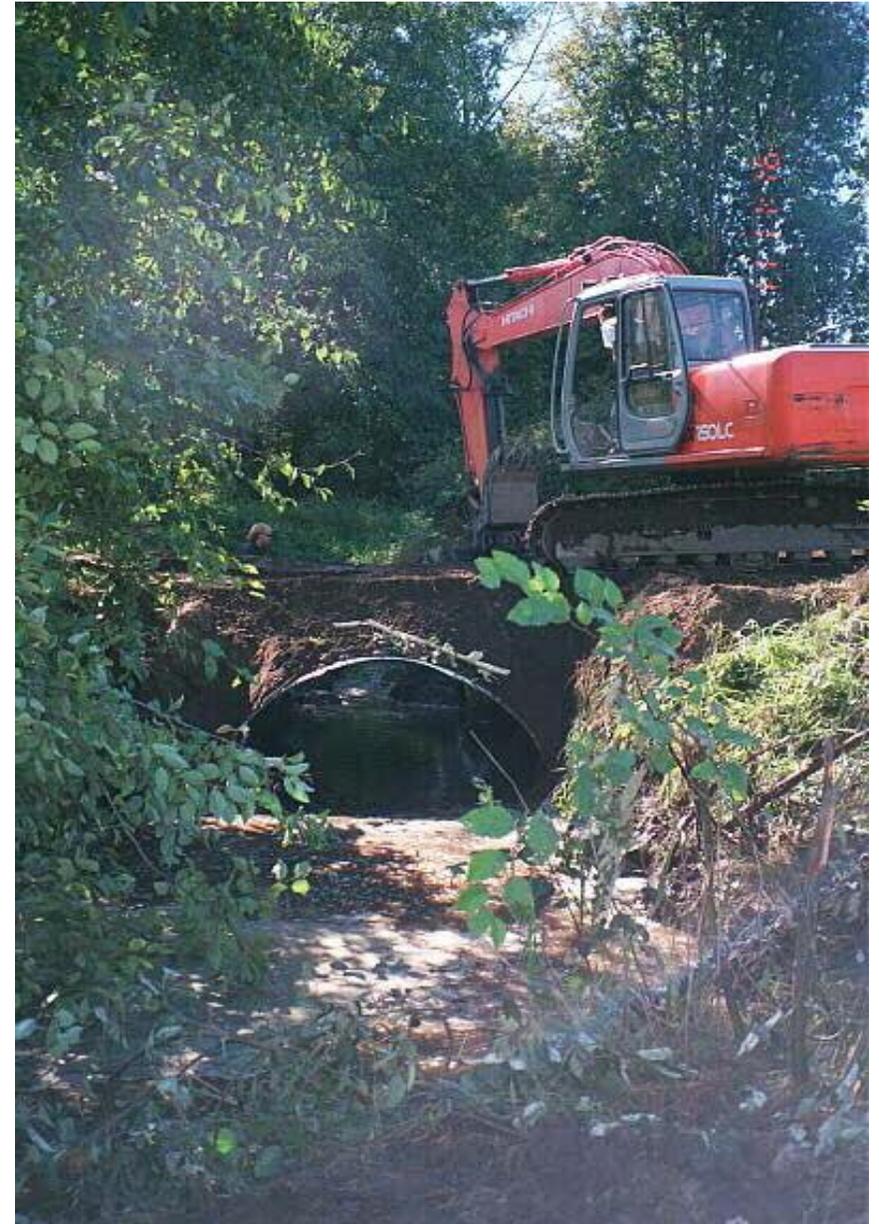


Drilling new perennial grasses, legumes and herbs into tightly grazed, established pastures. Ideally done with a tine drill eg Simtech Grassfarmer. Also poss. with harrowing and broadcasting, then rolling or stepping in with livestock following-on. Introduces new diversity and vigour into tired old pastures. Careful management and favourable moisture conditions are highly indicated. Can be grazed (lightly) the same year. Gets quick results without destroying the sod. Specialist equipment may be hard to source.

Take Advantage of Construction Season



Drainage maintenance is best done when dry.



Thank you

Questions?

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