

Forage Suitability Group Report Construction. (C06-cropper084149-Poster)

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Abstract:

Forage suitability groups (FSG's) are Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) interpretative reports. These reports use soil properties and climatic data to develop forage selection, management recommendations, and yield potentials for soils grouped with like agronomic characteristics. FSG's replace pasture and hayland soil suitability management groups (PHSG's) used by USDA-NRCS as planning tools in the past in states where they were developed. FSG's are based on more rigorous soil property criteria than those used to develop PHSG's. FSG's use the NRCS National Soil Information System and other pertinent soil databases to group similar response soils. FSG's also acknowledge that climate affects yield and forage selection and management recommendations and incorporate that information into the report. Microsoft Access is the database used to store the information and generate a report for each FSG. FSG's are being compiled for each Major Land Resource Area in the US that has significant forage production occurring in it. The Northern Plains Region is furthest along in the work.

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