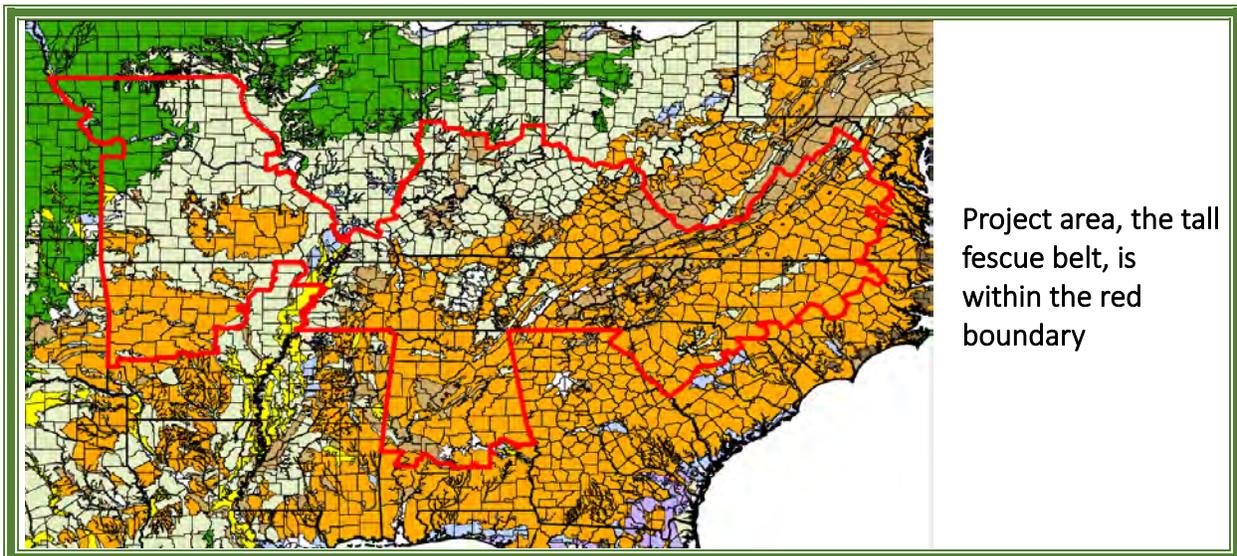


OVERVIEW for PRODUCERS

The Grasslands Partnership is a USDA-NRCS-funded program being led by the University of Tennessee and Extension Service partners across nine states. Working with 30 partners and some 200 collaborating farms, the Partnership aims to improve the productivity of forage-based farms within the tall fescue belt (see map below). The Partnership invites producers with grazing livestock to enroll in the program and implement specific grasslands management practices on their farms. These practices are known to improve grasslands productivity and provide environmental benefits, including greenhouse gas reductions, that may offer an alternative source of income through developing carbon and environmental benefits markets. Enrolled farms will be compensated for implementing and maintaining the practices and meeting other project expectations.



* The various colors correspond to different soil types.

WHAT MUST PARTICIPATING PRODUCERS DO?

- Cooperate with your Extension contact to determine which practices fit best on your farm. Ideally a farm will use three or more practices, with each practice occurring on a different pasture.
- Implement and maintain the practices, following the practice guidelines Extension shares with you, and keep another pasture in “business as usual” practices through Sept 2028
- Keep records of installation cost, grazing days on pasture, periodic forage heights, supplemental feed used, etc.
- Share basic farm data at enrollment and then annually
- Allow access to farm (coordinated through Extension contact) for assessment of pasture condition, soil sampling, and other monitoring
- Cooperate with Extension to host 2 field days during course of the project
- Share experience with others by allowing photos to be taken, participating in field days, and providing feedback that Extension contact can use in publications and social media posts.

HOW DO EXTENSION AGENTS ASSIST?

- Provide guidance to help you select practices that fit with your farm operation and goals.
- Help you through the enrollment and data reporting steps.
- Address your “how to” questions on implementation and maintenance of practices.
- Check on your enrolled pasture periodically to assess its status and report that information so that timely “maintenance” phase payments occur.
- Plan and lead any field days or training that will occur on your farm.

PRACTICES YOU CAN IMPLEMENT

For each practice supported by the Grasslands Partnership, there are implementation and maintenance guidelines and minimum and maximum acreages that can be enrolled. Also, a separate pasture must be maintained with your typical management practices to allow the Grasslands Partnership team to study the outcomes of your newly adopted grasslands management practices. Consult a Grasslands Partnership Extension contact with any questions about practices, acreage, and compensation.

Practices	Min & Max acreage*
Establishing Native Warm Season Grass pasture with either big bluestem blend or lowland switchgrass	5 – 25
Using Prescribed Burn to manage a pasture of native warm season grass	5 – 25
Interseeding Legumes as an alternative N source	5 – 30
Improved Grazing Management: maintaining optimal leaf surface area for longer periods and allowing adequate rest	10 – 30
Establishing a Perennial Field Buffer of native grass and forbs around a crop area	2 – 10
Establishing Silvopasture (adding trees to an existing pasture)	2 – 20
Amending pasture soil with Biochar	1 – 5
Amending pasture soil with Gypsum	5 – 25

* Producers may implement at larger scales than indicated here, but the Grasslands Partnership offers compensation up to these levels.

HOW DO PRODUCERS GET INVOLVED?

All producers begin by consulting with an Extension forage specialist, agent, educator or coordinator in their state. To identify the Extension professional representing your area, email

GRASSLANDSPARTNERSHIP@tennessee.edu or visit <https://GRASSLANDSPARTNERSHIP.ORG>