

Soil Health Benchmark Study:

Field Record Sample Narrative

The following is an example narrative based on Field Management Records submitted for a Pastured Livestock farm. This is meant to show you how the sequence of events in your field will be transferred into our record spreadsheet.

Farmer Jane has 3 fields in the Soil Health Benchmark Study. One of her fields is called Great Soil Field, which is **currently in 10 acres of perennial mix.**

The field **started out the year in triticale cover crop**, which was planted in late October of last year. On April 10th, she **spread stackable dairy manure** at the rate of 6 tons per acre. The field did not have a great triticale stand, and was more weeds and blue grass than triticale. On April 20th, she **tilled the field with a moldboard plow** to a depth of 8 inches. On April 22, she **disked the field** to a depth of 6 inches. On May 1st, she ran her **disk with a cultipacker** behind to create a good seed bed.

On May 3rd she **planted sorghum sudan grass**. On June 15th and 16th she **mowed, raked, and baled** the sorghum for winter feeding. She hauled the bales to the barnyard where they were wrapped. She **spread manure** on June 19th at the rate of 3000 gallons per acre. With some timely summer rains, regrowth on the field was excellent. Jane decided to put up a temporary poly wire fence around the field and **graze her 15 heifers** on the regrowth. She gave her heifers some new area each day starting on July 5th. She used back fencing as well and they finished the field in 21 days. The heifers left this field and were brought back in for a week from August 15-22 to **graze the entire area.**

On August 22nd the field was **disked** to 6 inch depth with a **cultipacker** behind it and then **drilled** into on August 24th with a **pasture mix** of orchard grass, red clover, alfalfa, and brome grass. There were no graze or harvesting events the rest of the calendar year in this field.

Plantings

Field Name *	Planting Date *	Crop(s) *	Cover Crop? * (Y/N)	Area Planted * use units of: - % of field - acres	Planting Implement *	Disturbance Depth * None (0") Shallow (0.1 - 4") Med (4.1" - 8") Deep (> 8")	Speed * Slow (< 2mph) Med (2 - 5mph) Fast (> 5mph)	Overwintered into 2025? * (Y/N)	Termination Date	Notes
Great Soil Field	10/25/2022	Triticale	Y	100 %	drill	shallow	med	N	4/20/2023	More weeds & blue grass than triticale
Great Soil Field	5/3/2023	Sorghum Sudan Grass	N	100 %	drill	shallow	med	N	8/22/2023	hayed once, rotationally grazed once, continuously grazed final time
Great Soil Field	8/24/2023	Orchard Grass, Red Clover, Alfalfa, Brome Grass	N	100 %	drill	shallow	med	Y		Planted for future rotational grazing

Amendments, Mulches and Sprays

Field Name *	Date *	Product Name and Brand *	Area Covered *	Quantity * (before dilution)	Implement *	Disturbance Depth * None (0") Shallow (0.1 - 4") Medium (4.1" - 8") Deep (> 8")	Speed * Slow (< 2mph) Med (2 - 5mph) Fast (> 5mph)	Additional Notes
Great Soil Field	45026	Stackable Dairy Manure	100 %	6 tons/acre	manure spreader	none	fast	
Great Soil Field	45096	Liquid Manure	100 %	3000 gal/acre	liquid manure spreader	none	fast	

Tillage, Cultivation, Harvest, Mowing and Other Disturbance

Field Name *	Date *	Implement *	Disturbance Depth * None (0") Shallow (0.1 - 4") Medium (4.1" - 8") Deep (> 8")	Speed * Slow (< 2mph) Med (2 - 5mph) Fast (> 5mph)	Area Covered *	Additional Notes
Great Soil Field	4/20/2023	Moldboard plow, 8"	deep	med	100 %	
Great Soil Field	4/22/2023	Disk 6"	med	med	100 %	
Great Soil Field	5/1/2023	Disk 6" with cultipacker	med	med	100 %	
Great Soil Field	6/15/2023	Mower	none	med	100 %	
Great Soil Field	6/16/2023	Rake	none	med	100 %	
Great Soil Field	6/16/2023	Bale	none	med	100 %	
Great Soil Field	8/22/2023	Disk 6" with Cultipacker	deep	med	100 %	

Grazing and Pasturing

Field Name *	Start Date *	End Date *	Animal Type *	Animal Count *	Avg Weight (lbs) *	Area Pastured *	Number of Sub-paddocks or Sections	Additional Notes
Great Soil Field	7/5/2023	7/26/2023	Dairy Heifer	15	600	100%	21	
Great Soil Field	8/15/2023	8/22/2023	Dairy Heifer	15	600	100%	1	