

Professional Work Experience

At least five years of full-time experience is required. Only work that is directly related to grassland/forage resource management will be counted toward the experience requirement. Qualifying experience may consist of employment in farm/ranch management, land management agencies, consulting, teaching, research, extension or technical assistance, or other types of grassland/forage resource management.

Further information concerning programs from which work may qualify for transfer may be found in the certification program *Guidelines and Procedures*.

Education Requirements

Education should include completion of bachelor's degree in Agronomy, Soils, Animal Science, Natural Resources, Range Science, or a closely related field.

Education toward an MS or PhD degree in a field closely related to forage or grassland management may be substituted for two years of experience as determined by the Certification Committee. The Committee may, at their discretion, accept other combinations of education and experience as meeting these requirements.

Five years of experience and performance on the written exam may be substituted for course requirements if the Committee decides that the required subject matter content is met. Also, completion of courses approved for continuing education units may be substituted for some educational requirements. Education alone cannot be substituted for all of the experience requirements.

Recertification Requirements

Those who earn CFGP status are required to re-certify every two years by meeting continuing education requirements specified by AFGC. Further details concerning point eligibility and limits for these credits are available in the certification program *Guidelines and Procedures*.

INFORMATION



For further information, or to receive a copy of the program Guidelines, contact the AFGC National Office at the following address, phone number, or email.

CFGFP Certification Program
P.O. Box 867
Berea, Kentucky 40403
Phone: 800.944.2342; Fax:
859.623.8694
www.afgc.org

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*American Forage
and Grassland
Council*



**Certified
Forage and
Grassland
Professional**

*The leader and voice of
economically &
environmentally sound
forage focused
agriculture.*

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INTENT

Certification as a Forage and Grassland Professional signifies that the designated individual has met the basic qualifications to be able to carry out professional work in the field, and has not been found to engage in unprofessional conduct. Persons possessing the professional credentials indicating that they can plan critical conservation practices and implement sound resource management of pasture, hayland, and grazed cropland may be certified as such by the American Forage and Grassland Council. *Critical conservation practices are those that address critical resource needs such as: gully, sheet, rill, and streambank erosion; plant health and adaptation, and contaminated runoff. Such practices include but are not limited to: prescribed grazing, water supply alternatives, stream crossings, fencing, and livestock trails and walkways.*

FEES

Fees include a non-refundable, one-time initiation fee that must be paid when the application is submitted, and a renewal fee paid each biennial renewal period. Certain penalty fees will be assessed for failure to meet continuing education requirements or to make timely application for renewal of certification. Fees will be used for administration of the certification program, and may be adjusted as the program is developed.

The initiation fee includes the cost of the exam. If you take the exam and pass the initiation fee covers the first two years of certification as well. If you take the exam and do not pass the initiation fee covers one exam retake.

Fees for the program can be located online at www.afgc.org.

EXAM

There is a practice exam online and the actual exam is now available online and is 50 questions in length and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete

AFGC Partners with NRCS and the Technical Service Providers (TSP) Program

The Technical Service Providers Program:

The TSP Program opens up new opportunities for AFGC members to work directly with clients who are participating in conservation programs with the NRCS. The Farm Bill allows farmers a choice in using a technical service provider to plan and design conservation systems including grazing and forage management practices in conjunction with Farm Bill Programs. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) now provides financial assistance to qualified farmers for hiring TSPs to plan for grazing management through a Conservation Activity Plan. AFGC members who become Technical Service Providers can help service the need for grazing and forage planning and management.

How CFGP works with TSP:

Certified Forage and Grassland Professionals will have the opportunity to qualify as Technical Service Providers (TSPs) based on their AFGC credentials and the completion of a one day training session offered by the NRCS at the AFGC Conference. The training focuses on the unique aspects of grazing and forage planning, management application of practices, including the required elements that are unique to USDA program participants. A new opportunity will be available for AFGC TSPs to become certified in conservation planning for lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Attend this workshop for more details on this and other potential conservation work.

TSP Workshop:

Participation in the TSP training will allow AFGC members who are Certified Forage and Grassland Professionals to qualify for TSP certification. Participants will receive a level 2 eAuth account, enter their profiles into TechReg, and receive all the required NRCS training including TSP Orientation, Conservation Planning for TSPs and will develop a Grazing Management Conservation Activity Plan. The class is also open to members who are not yet Certified Forage and Grassland Professionals, but will become certified within the year.

For more information about the TSP Program, go to:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

and look for Technical Service Providers in the right hand sidebar under “You and NRCS.” Or... copy and paste this link directly into your browser

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp>

Look at the certification requirements for TSPs on TechReg at:

<https://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

Contact Dana Larsen, TSP Team at dana.larsen@wdc.usda.gov for more information.

