



United States Department of Agriculture



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MN STAC: Grazing Sub-committee Updates

April 2024 |

Jeff Duchene: State Grazing Lands Specialist

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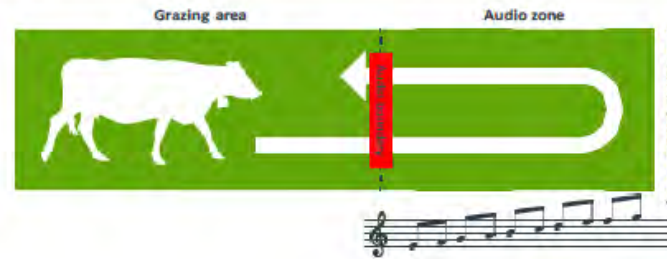
General format

- **Partner Updates**
- **Upcoming events**
- **Guest Speakers**
- **NRCS Information, Updates, etc.**



Virtual Fencing: Meghan Filbert

Virtual fence (VF) is a precision livestock management tool that creates an enclosure, barrier, or boundary without a physical fence. VF allows real-time automation of grazing management from a smartphone or computer. Livestock are fit with a collar that generates audio warnings and electrical stimuli.



GPS in the collar continuously tracks animal position and checks this against the virtual boundaries set by the producer. As an animal approaches the boundary, a series of audio warnings are delivered. If the animal does not turn away, the collar delivers an electrical pulse.

VF aids in the adoption of regenerative grazing. This technology can be applied in many different management scenarios:

- Rotational grazing
- Weed control
- Cover crop grazing on row crop acres
- CRP grazing
- Grassed waterways and ditches
- Woodlands, silvopasture
- Public land grazing
- River corridors and floodplains
- Reduce fuel loads for wildfire mitigation
- Post-fire grazing
- Solar grazing
- Bale grazing



Cost of VF varies by vendor:

Costs include collars and monthly subscription fees, and base stations, in some cases.

Vendors in the US include:

Vence™
Nofence™
eShepherd™
Corral Technologies™

NRCS support of VF:

Producers are encouraged to work with their NRCS representatives to incorporate VF into a Prescribed Grazing 528 plan. As part of this plan, producers may have the opportunity to receive a per acre grazing payment each year of their contract to help offset the cost of VF.

* Goliński P, Sobolewska P, Stefańska B, Golińska B. Virtual Fencing Technology for Cattle Management in the Pasture Feeding System—A Review. *Agriculture*. 2023; 13(1):91. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture13010091>



Grazing Solar Fields: Margaret Chamas



FY2023 EQIP Grazing Practices

Fiscal Year 2023 EQIP Allocations for Grazing-Related Practices

Code	Practice Name	Amount	Unit	\$ Obligated
382	Fence	1,324,905.6	Feet	\$2,346,639.75
512	Pasture and Hayland Planting	4,116.10	Acres	\$1,065,220.57
528	Prescribed Grazing	27,010.70	Acres	\$701,916.00
516	Livestock Pipeline	332,871.00	Feet	\$699,305.18
614	Watering Facility	402	Number	\$282,246.91
642	Water Wells	37	Number	\$217,002.52
576	Livestock Shelter Structure	18.00	Number	\$62,583.00
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	1,159.90	Acres	\$33,745.07
511	Forage Harvest Management	1,011.2	Acres	\$9,114.20
381	Silvopasture	11.2	Acres	\$4,209.00
472	Access Control	8.4	Acres	\$3,008.00
Total EQIP Allocations for Grazing-Related Practices				\$5,424,990.20

FY2023 CSP Grazing Activities



Fiscal Year 2023 CSP Allocations for Grazing-Related Practices

Practice	Enhancement Name and Number	Acres	\$ Obligated
511	Forage Harvest Management		
511A	Harvest of crops (hay or small grains) using measures that allow desired species to flush or escape	67,270	\$91,328.00
511D	Forage Harvest Management to Improve Terrestrial Habitat for Wildlife during Over-Winter Periods	1,450	\$39,708.00
511C	Forage testing for improved harvesting methods and hay quality	3,409.90	\$13,138.00
511	Total	72,130	\$144,174.00
528	Prescribed Grazing		
528P	Implementing Bale or Swath Grazing to increase organic matter and reduce nutrients in surface water	3,237.00	\$67,270.00
528O	Clipping mature forages to set back vegetative growth for improved forage quality	1,662.40	\$35,800.00
528F	Stockpiling cool season forage to improve structure and composition or plant productivity and health	533.6	\$15,380.00
528R	Management Intensive Rotational Grazing	260.8	\$11,252.00
528L	Prescribed grazing that improves or maintains riparian and watershed function-erosion	144.9	\$1,677.00
528	Total	5,838.70	\$131,379.00
512	Pasture and Hayland Planting		
512L	Diversifying Forage Base with Interseeding Forbs and Legumes to Increase Pasture Quality	377.7	\$32,173.00
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment		
315A	Herbaceous weed treatment to create plant communities consistent with the ecological site (Agland Only)	251.7	\$3,521.00
Total CSP Allocations for Grazing-Related Practices		78,221	\$311,247.00



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ICPS 827: Strategic Harvested Forage Management



ICPS 827: Definition



The planned feeding of livestock by controlling access to harvested forages arranged in a predetermined pattern on the landscape to address specific resource needs.





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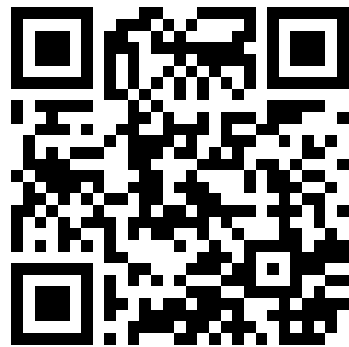
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YouTube channel



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