Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM17 – Monitoring nutritional status of livestock using the NUTBAL PRO system

Enhancement Description
Use the NUTBAL PRO software to determine if the current diet is sufficient to meet livestock nutritional needs. This requires the collection and laboratory analysis of forage or fecal samples to determine the nutritional value of grazing forages.

Land Use Applicability
Pastureland, Rangeland

Benefits
NUTBAL PRO is decision support software that assimilates information regarding animal attributes, environmental conditions, forage conditions, feeding program, and metabolic modifiers. NUTBAL PRO reports provide information to:

- Balance animal nutritional needs with contributions from grazing forage,
- Select the most cost efficient feed alternative, amount to be fed, and cost per day,
- Evaluate feed stuff values with regards to the animal's nutrient deficiency or desired gain,
- Monitor the quality of grazing forages throughout the year, and
- Better understand animal nutritional needs as they change throughout the year.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies
This enhancement applies to all pasture or range land use acres.

Criteria

1. Forages (using either fecal samples or forage tissue sample) must be analyzed by an accredited laboratory,
2. Information is entered into the NUTBAL PRO decision support software,
3. A report must be generated and management decisions documented and completed within 14 days from receiving forage analysis, and
4. A minimum of 6 forage analysis and NUTBAL PRO reports must be completed each year.

Adoption Requirements
This enhancement is considered adopted when a minimum of 6 NUTBAL PRO reports have been generated per year and the results have been used to make management decisions.

Documentation Requirements
For each forage sample collected for analysis:
1. A copy of the forage analysis report.
2. A copy of the NUTBAL PRO reports generated from the decision support software.
3. Written documentation of the management decisions made as a result of the analysis.

North Dakota Requirements
To fully implement this enhancement, a minimum of 6 samples per year with NutBal Pro reports are required for each sample. This enhancement applies to livestock grazing pastureland and rangeland only. A prescribed grazing plan (528) is not required. Refer to GanLab web site for more information and processing samples: http://cnrit.tamu.edu/ganlan/