

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM25 – Stockpiling of forages to extend the grazing season



Enhancement Description

Livestock are excluded from forages on specified acres during the growth season. The “stockpiled” forages are grazed at a later time using strip grazing to allow animals to utilize the forage within a strip for a specified period of time.

Land use Applicability

Pastureland

Benefits

Managing grazing land to “stockpile” forages for later use extends the grazing season and promotes

yearlong grazing. Stockpiling also provides long-term grass sustainability and improved forage health resulting in higher quality forage for livestock. Eliminating a minimum of one hay cutting reduces fuel use and labor. Water quality is improved since manure is evenly distributed throughout the pasture as livestock graze, and nutrient loading at hay feeding sites, if needed, is reduced.

Criteria

Grazing on stockpiled forage must follow a grazing plan that includes:

1. Exclude grazing from specified acres for a state specified time period (at least three months minimum for cool season and two months for warm season)
2. Acreage needed will be calculated using a ratio of one acre per animal unit
3. Stockpiled acreage will be fertilized to achieve adequate forage growth
4. Livestock must be rotated into a new stockpiled paddock every 1-3 days; use temporary fencing to adjust strip size to match forage availability
5. Do not allow livestock to access previously grazed stockpiled areas when spring regrowth begins until adequate forage heights exist
6. Follow NRCS Prescribed Grazing practice standard (528) each year this enhancement is in effect, including applying a prescribed grazing plan on the entire operation
7. Certification that practice requirements have been met after grazing of stockpiled forages begins each year

Documentation Requirements

1. A copy of the operation’s prescribed grazing plan
2. Specified stockpiled acres designated on a map and in the prescribed grazing plan
3. Photographs showing stockpiled forage for each such pasture

**ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT TO ENHANCEMENT ANM25 STOCKPILING OF FORAGES TO
EXTEND THE GRAZING SEASON**

This enhancement is designed to improve the forage resource and livestock health through stockpiling of forages and allowing livestock to strip graze the forage. This enhancement may eliminate some hay cutting and allow livestock to harvest the forage.

The below forage guidelines that apply for rotational grazing. Livestock may start grazing stockpiled forages when taller than what is described in the below table. When warm season forages are stockpiled, the forages may be grazed to a lower height only if it will facilitate the planting of cool season annual forages in the targeted pasture.

FORAGE GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBED GRAZING SYSTEMS

Common Forages	Begin Grazing (in)	End Grazing (in)	Usual days of Rest
Alfalfa grazing types	10	4	35 - 40
Bahiagrass	6	2	10 - 20
Bermudagrass common	5	2	7 - 10
Bermudagrass hybrid	6	3	7 - 10
Big or Little Bluestem	18	10	30 - 45
Dallisgrass	6	3	7 - 15
Eastern Gamagrass	15	8	30 - 45
Tall Fescue	6	3	15 - 30
Indiangrass	12	6	30 - 40
Orchardgrass	8	3	15 - 30
Switchgrass	18	10	30 - 45

References: AL NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Prescribed Grazing (528)
Southern Forages, 4th Edition, D. M. Ball, et al.

Documentation Requirements:

1. Operation's Prescribed Grazing Plan
2. Specified stockpiled acres designated on a map and in the prescribed grazing plan.
3. Photographs showing the stockpiled forage for each such pasture.
4. Records for documenting grazing management (see attached example records document)

Grazing Management Records

Keeping accurate records is a continual process in effective pasture and livestock management. Records help you track pasture conditions and effectively manage each pasture in your grazing system.

Pasture ID		Pasture acres	Forage type			
Soil test date		Lime/ Fertilizer rate	Lime/ Fertilizer type	Date applied		
Livestock		Date in	Forage height	Date out	Forage height	Notes (fertilizer applied)
Type	Number					

Pasture ID		Pasture acres	Forage type			
Soil test date		Lime/ Fertilizer rate	Lime/ Fertilizer type	Date applied		
Livestock		Date in	Forage height	Date out	Forage height	Notes (fertilizer applied)
Type	Number					

The documentation submitted accurately reflects the implementation of the enhancement.

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____