

GRAZING MANAGEMENT (CSP Enhancements)

Jan 2006

Enhancement Activity Job Sheet

AL-CSP-EGM-JS



Photo courtesy of NRCS

Enhancement Activities

Enhancements activities refer to actions that provide resource benefits beyond the level prescribed by NRCS Conservation Practice Standards. Once implemented Enhancement Activities should result in an observable or measurable improvement to the condition of one or more of the soil, water, air, plant, or animal resources, or provide for more efficient resource utilization and/or energy conservation.

Enhancement Activity Benefits

Enhancement activities associated with Grazing Management can result in the following benefits to the producer and the environment:

- Reduced risks to ground and surface water quality
- Increased ecosystem health for better water cycling, mineral cycling, and biologic integrity
- Lowered costs by increasing efficiency of your operation

Enhancements include the following:

- increasing the intensity of rotational grazing,

- improving the quality of the forage and pasture condition by overseeding cool-season grasses and legumes,
- improving water quality by excluding livestock from farm ponds, streams, wetlands or other sensitive aquatic areas,
- improving the grazing system by utilizing stockpiled fescue
- improving the warm-season to cool-season perennial forage ratio,
- using native warm season grasses (NWSG) for forages,
- uniformly separating feeding and watering facilities

CSP Payments

You can earn payments by participating in any of the following activities:

- Implementing moderately or highly intensive grazing management systems
- Overseeding perennial grasses with cool season annual grasses and legumes
- Installing and/or maintaining heavy use areas around permanent water troughs and feeding sites.
- Excluding livestock from ponds, streams, wetlands or other sensitive areas.
- Using stock-piled fescue in a prescribed grazing system.
- Improving ratio of cool- to warm-season perennial forages in a grazing system
- Introducing and/or managing NWSG for livestock forage
- Uniformly distributing livestock facilities for feed, mineral, water and shade.

CSP Enhancements earnings are subject to payment caps. Your actual payment will depend on your CSP Tier level, Category and the number of acres enrolled.



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Client's Acknowledgement Statement:

I have elected to use the following Grazing Management activities and understand the requirements of the selected activities (check all that apply):

- Improve quality and quantity of pasture forages by implementing a moderately intensive grazing management system that includes 4 to 7 pastures for each functional group with about 7 to 10 days of continuous grazing per pasture. Pastures will rest 75-85% of the grazing cycle.
- Improve quality and quantity of pasture forages by implementing a highly intensive grazing management system that includes at least 8 pastures for each functional group with about 3 to 5 days of continuous grazing per pasture. Pastures will rest at least 85% of the grazing cycle.
- Improve pasture condition and quality of forage by overseeding perennial grasses with cool-season annual grasses and legumes.
- Manage and improve livestock water and feeding conditions by maintaining heavy use area pads for each permanent trough or feeding area.
- Improve water quality by excluding livestock from farm ponds, streams, wetlands and other sensitive aquatic areas.
- Manage and improve the grazing system by stock-piling fescue.
- Improve the prescribed grazing system by changing the cool-season perennial to warm-season perennial forage ratio (about 70-75% cool-season forages and 25-30% warm season forages).
- Enhance the grazing system by planting and/or managing up to 10% (5 acre minimum) of the pasture and hayland acreage in native warm season forages for livestock.
- Improve distribution of grazing and animal waste by separating feed, mineral, water or shade in each pasture.

I agree that the following information will be provided to NRCS upon request:

- Written documentation of the activity performed (use attached worksheets or equivalent).
- Copies of dated receipts for equipment or services purchased.

I understand that CSP Enhancements earnings are subject to payment caps and that my actual payments will depend on my CSP Tier level, Category and the number of acres enrolled.

I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of these activities.

Accepted by: /s/ _____ Date: _____



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Name: _____

Work Sheet 1 - Prescribed Grazing Pasture- Moderate Intensity EGM 05a

Payment = \$10.00/acre/year/Ag Operation for pasture units using prescribed grazing.

Pasture management units on the agricultural operation are in a prescribed (rotational) grazing system. The grazing system for each functional group should contain at least four to seven pastures or management units. Each pasture will be grazed about seven to ten consecutive days. Pastures will rest about 75% to 85% of the time. Use the worksheet to indicate which pastures are rotated and when. Keep actual use records. Managers are encouraged to take before and after photos at key areas. Attach grazing records and photos for the unit for each year. Follow Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (528).

Use this or similar table to document where Moderate Intensity Prescribed Grazing is done.

Pasture Management Units	System Acres	Year
Fields 2, 3, 5, 6, & 8 <i>Example</i>	215	2005

Moderate Intensity Prescribed Grazing Certification

I certify that I have used a moderate intensity prescribed grazing system on the field(s) listed in the table above.

Name: _____ Date: _____



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Worksheet 2 - Prescribed Grazing Pasture- High Intensity EGM 05b

Payment = \$20.00/acre/year/Ag Operation for pasture units using prescribed grazing

Pasture management units on the agricultural operation are in a prescribed (rotational) grazing system. The grazing system for each functional group should contain at least eight pastures or management units. Each pasture will be grazed about three to five consecutive days. Pastures will rest at least 85% of the time. Use the worksheet to indicate which pastures are rotated and when. Keep actual use records. Managers are encouraged to take before and after photos at key areas. Attach grazing records and photos for the unit for each year. Follow Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (528).

Use this or similar table to document where high intensity prescribed grazing is done.

Pasture Management Units	System Acres	Year
Fields 2, 3, 5, 6, & 8 <i>Example</i>	215	2005

High Intensity Prescribed Grazing Certification

I certify that I have used a high intensity prescribed grazing system on the field(s) listed in the table above.

Name: _____ Date: _____



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Worksheet 3 – Improve pasture condition and forage quality by overseeding grasses and legumes EGM07

Payment = \$20.00/acre/year/Ag Operation for pastures overseeded and prescribed grazed.

Pasture condition and forage quality will be improved by overseeding with suitable cool-season annual grasses and legumes. Permanent grass pastures will be prepared by close grazing or by mowing to a height of two to three inches or killing strips of pasture grasses with herbicides and then planting into the killed strips. Seed will be planted at the recommended planting dates and rates. Seeding may be done by broadcasting followed by light disking or drilling into the established grasses. Follow Conservation Practice Standards Pasture and Hayland Planting (512) and Prescribed Grazing (528).

Management Units	Types of Forages Overseeded	System Acres Overseeded	Year
1, 2, 3 <i>Example</i>	Ryegrass, Crimson clover	200	2005

Overseeding With Suitable Cool-Season Annual Grasses and Legumes Certification

I certify that I have overseeded with suitable cool-season annual grasses and legumes on the field(s) listed in the table above.

Name: _____ Date: _____



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Worksheet 5 - Exclude livestock from environmentally sensitive aquatic areas EGM04

Payment = \$2.00/acre/year/Ag Operation for area for which livestock are excluded.

Prevent domestic livestock from accessing environmentally sensitive aquatic areas such as farm ponds, streams and wetlands. The livestock exclusion can be achieved through the use of fences and gates. Barriers should control the targeted animal and not be a safety hazard. The fences should meet NRCS standards and specifications and should meet the intended purpose and life expectancy. Follow Conservation Practice Standard Use Exclusion (472) and Fence (382).

This enhancement is permanent use exclusion for the length of the stewardship contract. Protected aquatic areas need to be evaluated prior to and during exclusion to determine if desired ecological changes are occurring. Weed control and other maintenance will be performed as needed to maintain the integrity of the protected areas and the fence.

Location	Acres	Type of Fence	Dates Excluded	
			Begin	End
Turner Creek <i>Example</i>	113	Four strand barbed wire fence	1/1/2004	12/31/2004

Livestock Exclusion Certification

I certify that I have excluded livestock from sensitive aquatic areas on the locations listed in the table above.

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Worksheet 7- Improve pasture by improving ratio of acreage for warm-season and cool-season perennial forages. EGM09a

Payment = \$8/acre/year/Ag Operation for grazing system with proper forage balance.

This Prescribed Grazing enhancement is designed to adjust the ratio of cool-season and warm-season perennial forages in a grazing system. Perennial cool-season forages should compose about 75% of the pasture acres while perennial warm-season forages should compose about 25%. For this system to be effective the forages must be managed separately, as individual species of forage. This type of system promotes prescribed grazing for most of the year and minimizes the need for feeding. The system can result in significant improvements in animal waste distribution improving water quality and minimizing negative effects of feeding in static locations.

The desired grass ratio can be obtained by planting the necessary acreage to the appropriate forage type. It can also be obtained by managing existing pastures with mixed stands. Management of the forage species is appropriate if there is at least a 50% uniform stand of the target grass species. Otherwise, renovation should be planned. Specific forages can be selectively enhanced by managing the timing of nitrogen fertilization and grazing heights. For example, in a bermudagrass and tall fescue pasture, fescue can be selected by raising the grazing heights and fertilizing in the fall and/or spring to favor tall fescue. To select for bermudagrass, graze closer and apply nitrogen in late spring or summer.

The progress in implementing this system can be evaluated using the Pasture Condition Score worksheet several times a year.

An incentive payment for this prescribed grazing management is set at \$8 per acre. This component must be fully applied to a "grazing system". A grazing system is the area (pastures) being utilized by a particular herd of cattle. Grass planting should follow the Conservation Practice Standards Pasture and Hayland Planting (512). Grasses should be managed following the Conservation Practice Standard for Prescribed Grazing (528).

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Name:

Worksheet 8 – Enhance the grazing system by planting and/or managing native warm season grasses. EGM09b

Payment = \$100/acre/year/ag operation

The use of native warm season grasses (NWSG) is a high priority across the nation. The grasses have the potential of producing forage for farmers that need low commercial nitrogen input systems. If well managed, the grasses can produce two to four tons of forage per acre. The forage quality of the NWSG is excellent. Species considered as viable for use in the Southeast include Eastern Gamagrass, Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Little Bluestem and Big Bluestem.

In addition to being very good forage grasses, the NWSG offer wildlife benefits. Wildlife biologists and upland game managers use them for game habitat, nesting and holding areas.

The use of NWSG requires extra efforts in establishment and management. Refer to Conservation Practice Standard Pasture and Hayland Planting (512). Indiangrass, Little Bluestem and Big Bluestem have fluffy seed that require special handling techniques or specialized equipment for planting. Seeding rates are based on amount of pure live seed (PLS). The NWSG seedlings have low vigor and do not compete well with weeds. It is common for NWSG plantings to take up to two years before the stands can be grazed or hayed. NWSG stands cannot withstand continuous, close grazing or close clipping without reducing yield or causing stand deterioration. Rotational or prescribed grazing or proper haying is necessary to maintain productive NWSG stands. After stands are established and are being actively grazed or hayed, adequate soil fertility will be needed to maintain productivity (refer to Conservation Practice Standard Nutrient Management, 590).

The newly planted stands will not be grazed or hayed until the stand is fully established. See grazing height recommendations in the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528). If hayed, follow the standard for Forage Harvest Management (511).

To be eligible for this grazing system enhancement, at least five acres of NWSG must be established and/or maintained for forages. The enhancement shall not exceed 10% pasture and hayland of the contract acreage.



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Worksheet 9 – Improve distribution of grazing and animal waste by separating feed, mineral, water and shade in each pasture. EGM12

Payment = \$1 per acre/year/ag operation

The separation of livestock facilities encourages livestock distribution which improves grazing distribution, forage utilization, manure distribution and water quality. Without this distribution livestock concentrate in one area. The result is concentrated animal waste, animal trails, loss of vegetation, erosion and degradation of water quality. Animal manure that is well distributed across pastures provides significant financial benefits.

Feed, water, shade and minerals should be evenly distributed throughout the pastures throughout the year and moved as needed to minimize erosion, loss of vegetation and water quality concerns. Locate the facilities away from environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams or surface water.

Management Units	Type of Treatment	Acres Treated	Year
Field 1-8 <i>Example</i>	Proper distribution of facilities	60	2004

Improved Distribution of Grazing and Animal Waste Certification

I certify that I have proper distribution facilities on the field(s) and acres listed in the table above.

Name: _____ Date: _____