

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL03 - Rotation of supplement and feeding areas



Enhancement Description

The proper location and regular movement of livestock concentration areas such as feeding areas and mineral blocks in a manner that will improve livestock distribution, reduce localized areas of disturbances and reduce impacts on water bodies.

Land Use Applicability

Pastureland, rangeland and forest land.

Benefits

The benefits of proper location and rotation of supplement and feeding areas are:

- a. Minimize impact around water sources and facilities
- b. Aid in livestock distribution and utilization of forage
- c. Reduce compaction of the soil and excess trampling of vegetation
- d. Reduce high concentrations of nutrients around water sources
- e. Improve animal health (concentrated areas of parasites etc.)

Criteria

- 1. Move all supplement (such as salt and mineral) locations between grazing periods and/or on an annual basis.
- 2. Locate supplement at least ¼ mile (1,320 ft) from surface water and watering facilities. In those situations where pasture size limits supplement placement or multiple water sources preclude meeting the minimum distance requirement, move supplement areas more frequently to prevent nutrient buildup and to maintain good ground cover.
- 3. Move all feeding locations (including creep feeders) every 30 days.

Documentation Requirements

A map showing the planned locations of supplement and feeding areas in each pasture and a schedule for moving these locations.

Michigan Supplement

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State Criteria

1. Move all supplement (salt and minerals) locations between grazing periods during the May through October grazing season unless weather conditions impact length of season.
2. Locate supplements at least ¼ mile (1,320 ft) from surface water and watering facilities. In those situations where pasture size limits supplement placement or multiple water sources preclude meeting the minimum distance requirement, move supplement areas frequently during a grazing period to prevent nutrient buildup and to maintain good ground cover.
3. If summer feed is fed on pasture, then move summer feeding locations (including creep feeders) every 30 days.
4. If feeding on winter pasture, then move winter feeding locations at least ¼ mile (1320 ft.) from surface water including hydric soil areas and move feeding location every 30 days. In those situations where pasture size limits the placement, move feeding locations weekly.

Documentation

- Use the Grazing Record Sheet to note pasture/paddock used, date of placement, length of time supplement or feeding areas were in use.

GRAZING RECORDS

NAME:				Total Pasture Acres:			
Farm or Tract:							
Management Unit		Livestock		Date In	Forage Height Inches	Date Out	Forage Height Inches
Key Forage	Acres	Type	Number				

Remarks: