

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM25 – Stockpiling of forage 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.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to all pasture land use acres.

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, and
7. Certification that practice requirements have been met after grazing of stockpiled forages begins each year.

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when a prescribed grazing plan that specifies stockpiling acres has been developed and implemented.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2012 Ranking Period 1

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, and
3. Photographs showing stockpiled forage for each such pasture.

Michigan Supplement

ANM 25

Perennial Pastures		
Season of Use	Defer Grazing By	Additional Management Needed
Fall (late September-October)	60-90 days before end of the fall growing season, before first freeze. No earlier than late July. No later than late August.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize grass pastures with Nitrogen after last grazing or haying. Apply Potassium for legume and grass/legume mixed stands after last cutting. Feed hay/other forage when snow cover is 6 inches or more.
Winter (November-February)	60-90 days before end of the fall growing season, before first expected frost. UP- August 15- September 1 Northern MI- September 15* Southern MI- September 15* *depending on growing conditions, may extend to Sept 30 with adequate moisture and warm temperatures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize grass or grass-legume pastures or hayfields with Nitrogen and Potassium in August. Feed hay/other forage when snow cover is 6 inches or more, snow has ice crust, or ice is ¼ inch thick or more. Grazing after killing frost does not require minimum grazed stubble heights. Use sacrifice areas or dry lots to prevent damage to vegetation crowns in wet conditions.
Spring (March- April)	UP- August 15- September 1 Northern MI- September 15* Southern MI- September 15* *depending on growing conditions, may extend to September 30 with adequate moisture and warm temperatures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize grass or grass-legume pastures or hayfields with Nitrogen and Potassium in August. Feed hay/other forage when snow cover is 6 inches or more, snow has ice crust, or ice is ¼ inch thick or more. Observe and record grazing stubble heights. At spring green up, utilize forage not to exceed ½ of average height. Refer to Grazing Technote 3 Designing a Grazing System.

** All fertilizer applications should be according to a current (less than 3 year old) soil test and MSUE recommendations.

** Acreage needed will be calculated using a ratio of one acre per animal unit
The primary grazing season is May – September.