

Michigan Supplemental Enhancement Activity

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL23 – Protection of sensitive areas on winter grazing land

Every wintering site is unique and management practices should be selected specific to that site. A wintering site is the area where livestock are fed stockpiled forage and/or hay or other feeds during the winter months. Sensitive areas on wintering sites or winter grazing lands must be protected from degradation when used as wind shelter.

Sensitive areas on winter grazing land include:

- Drainage runs, concentrated flow paths, creek, stream or river channels
- Natural wetlands, constructed wetlands, wetland restoration sites
- Organic or hydric soils during periods of saturation due to groundwater or snow melt
- Riparian forest buffers
- Sites with a flooding hazard
- Sloped sites with direct drainage to a water course
- Woodlots managed for quality timber
- Woodlots on organic soils, on floodplains, or with a high water table.
- Woodlots in known bovine TB risk areas

Alternative wind shelters on winter grazing lands include:

- Round or large square bales, single row or stacked
- Woodlots not managed for quality timber with controlled area of use
- South facing slopes less than 10 percent slope
- South facing slopes, sloped away from water course
- Constructed run-in open front shelters that can be moved as designed in Midwest Plan Services books or provided by MSU Extension Educators.