

## Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM17 – Monitoring nutritional status of livestock using the NUTBAL PRO system



### Enhancement Description

Use the NUTBAL PRO software to determine if the current diet is sufficient to meet livestock nutritional needs. This requires the collection and laboratory analysis of forage or fecal samples to determine the nutritional value of grazing forages.

### Land Use Applicability

Pastureland, Rangeland

### Benefits

NUTBAL PRO is decision support software that assimilates information regarding animal attributes, environmental conditions, forage conditions, feeding program, and metabolic

modifiers. NUTBAL PRO reports provide information to:

- Balance animal nutritional needs with contributions from grazing forage,
- Select the most cost efficient feed alternative, amount to be fed, and cost per day,
- Evaluate feed stuff values with regards to the animal's nutrient deficiency or desired gain,
- Monitor the quality of grazing forages throughout the year, and
- Better understand animal nutritional needs as they change throughout the year.

### Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to all pasture or range land use acres.

### Criteria

1. Forages (using either fecal samples or forage tissue sample) must be analyzed by an accredited laboratory,
2. Information is entered into the NUTBAL PRO decision support software,
3. A report must be generated and management decisions documented and completed within 14 days from receiving forage analysis, and
4. A minimum of 6 forage analysis and NUTBAL PRO reports must be completed each year.

### Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when a minimum of 6 NUTBAL PRO reports have been generated per year and the results have been used to make management decisions.

### **Documentation Requirements**

For each forage sample collected for analysis:

1. A copy of the forage analysis report.
2. A copy of the NUTBAL PRO reports generated from the decision support software.
3. Written documentation of the management decisions made as a result of the analysis.

## Michigan Supplement

### ANM 17

**For more information on the Grazing Animal Nutrition Lab (GAN Lab), and sampling procedures refer to <http://cnrit.tamu.edu/ganlab/>**

As part of the service, the GAN Lab provides a kit for shipping the fecal samples to the lab. The sample kit includes a small Styrofoam cooler, a freezer gel pack and a cardboard box with appropriate diagnostic labeling. Each kit can hold 1 to 3 samples depending on size of sample. To request sample kits, email or call the GAN Lab. Provide name, mailing address, email or phone number and how many kits you need. You may request bundles of 1, 4, 6, or 12 kits.

### **NUTBAL PRO**

Access to NUTBAL is available via the interactive website: (<http://cnrit.tamu.edu/WK/autosystem>) or the NUTBAL PRO v1.1 Windows application is still available and can be used in conjunction with the NIRS Analysis if you do not wish to use NUTBAL Online.

### **Other Manure Testing Laboratories**

Manure analyses shall be performed by laboratories successfully meeting the requirements and performance standards of the Manure Testing Laboratory Certification Program (MTLCP) (<http://www2.mda.state.mn.us/webapp/lis/manurelabs.jsp>).

### **Forage Analysis**

Accredited forage testing laboratories can be found at the National Forage Testing Association website at [www.foragetesting.org](http://www.foragetesting.org).

### **Documentation Requirements**

- A minimum of 6 forage analyses must be provided to document completion of the enhancement. For each forage analysis provide the following:
  - o A copy of the forage analysis report
  - o A copy of the NUTBAL PRO reports generated from the decision support software
  - o Written documentation of the management decisions made (within 14 days) as a result of the analysis.