

**Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM01 – Drainage water management for seasonal wildlife habitat**



**Enhancement Description**

This enhancement consists of managing soil and/or surface water levels during the off season in order to provide seasonal wildlife habitat.

**Land Use Applicability**

Cropland

**Benefits**

This enhancement provides food, cover and resting areas for wildlife, especially waterfowl during their migration.

**Criteria**

1. Acceptance of this enhancement requires that the client must comply with the requirements of the Conservation Practice Standard, Drainage Water Management (554)
2. Maintain water control structures/devices for a minimum of 60 days per year at an elevation to maintain ponded area
3. Fields must be flooded annually
4. For each field that is flooded, at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the field area must be flooded
5. Operating water level control equipment/devices to maintain water levels at desired elevations on cropland acres

**Documentation Requirements**

1. List of fields where this enhancement was utilized, ponded area for each field, and equipment installed
2. Dates when fields were flooded and water removed from fields

## **Michigan Supplement**

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#### **Conditions Where Practice Applies**

1. On lands, both hydric and non-hydric, where water can be impounded or regulated for the purpose of wildlife habitat management.
2. A water table will be maintained without affecting adjoining properties.

#### **Criteria**

1. Drainage water will be managed using a water control structure or device.
2. Drainage water management will be planned, designed, and installed to meet all federal, state, local and tribal, laws and regulations.
3. NRCS Shallow Water Development and Management (646) and Drainage Water Management (554) conservation practice standards will be followed.
4. The system shall provide saturation to the soil surface or shallow flooding at a maximum average depth of 18 inches to provide wildlife habitat unless deeper average depths are incidental to flooding a minimum of 1/3 of a field.
5. Flooding will be maintained annually for a minimum of 60 days between September 1 and June 1.
6. If flooding begins prior to October 1, water levels must be maintained through April 15 to avoid detrimental impacts on hibernating reptiles and amphibians.