United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2012 Ranking Period 1

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, Forestland

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

1. Aid in livestock distribution and utilization of forage
2. Reduce compaction of the soil and excess trampling of vegetation
3. Reduce high concentrations of nutrients around water sources for improved nutrient distribution in the grazed area.
4. Improve animal health (concentrated areas of parasites etc.)
5. Reduced energy consumption (where heavy use area will be decommissioned)

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies
This enhancement applies to all grazing acres in the operation for the selected land use.

Criteria

1. Move all supplement sources (i.e., salt or mineral block, tub or station) locations between grazing periods or every 30 days during a grazing period.
2. Move all feeding locations (including creep feeders) every 30 days or less.
3. Locate supplement sources at least ¼ mile (1,320 ft) from surface water and watering facilities. In those situations where pasture size limits supplement source placement or multiple water sources preclude meeting the minimum distance requirement, move supplement areas twice as frequent as described in criteria 1 or 2 to prevent nutrient buildup and to maintain good ground cover.
4. Follow a written grazing plan that meets NRCS requirements.

Adoption Requirements
This enhancement is considered adopted when supplement source locations and feeding areas are being moved at intervals less than or equal to this job sheet's criteria and the locations are at distances from surface water greater than or equal to the suggested criteria of this job sheet.

Documentation Requirements
1. A map showing the location of supplement sources and feeding areas in each pasture, and
2. The schedule for moving the supplement source and feeding area locations.

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Documentation will include map or photo of supplemental feeding area, type of feed used, number of animals, and duration of feeding at each site.

This is a 'System' type enhancement. This enhancement shall be performed on the areas (i.e. fields) identified in the Conservation Stewardship Plan each year when appropriate to do so.