United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2011 Ranking Period 1

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM09 –Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat

Enhancement Description:
Implement a grazing management plan that will allow for rest periods to provide adequate residue for nesting and fawning cover and increase diversity of vegetation structure to benefit a variety of wildlife species.

Land Use Applicability
Pastureland, rangeland and forestland.

Benefits
Wildlife habitat can be greatly improved through proper grazing management. Proper grazing management is essential to healthy wildlife populations because plants supply many species of birds and animals with food and cover for nesting, fawning, loafing, roosting, travel and escape from predators and adverse weather. These include song birds, quail, turkey, pheasants, deer, and rabbits to name just a few. Some species of ground nesting grassland birds are in decline and others have become uncommon. Healthy stands of forage can be managed to provide habitat for a wide array of wildlife.

Criteria

1. Defer one third of grazing land from grazing during the nesting/fawning season each year.
2. Prepare a written grazing management plan that identifies
    a. wildlife management objectives for grazing land
    b. targeted wildlife species
    c. nesting or fawning dates
    d. the location and number of acres to be deferred each year
    e. a schedule for the year of deferment
    f. stocking rates that will allow proper forage utilization while maintaining proper plant heights that provide food and shelter for wildlife and maintain plant health

Documentation Requirements

1. A schedule of when grazing activities occurred documenting that grazing activities were deferred on a minimum of 33% of the available acreage
2. A map showing the acreage where these activities are applied

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Nesting/fawning season is from May 15 through August 1st.

Provide an annual summary of non-grazing site management and weed control activities implemented.