United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2011 Ranking Period 1

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM25 – Stockpiling of forages to extend the grazing season

Enhancement Description
Livestock are excluded from forages on specified acres during the growth season. The "stockpiled" forages are grazed at a later time using strip grazing to allow animals to utilize the forage within a strip for a specified period of time.

Land use Applicability
Pastureland

Benefits
Managing grazing land to "stockpile" forages for later use extends the grazing season and promotes yearlong grazing. Stockpiling also provides long-term grass sustainability and improved forage health resulting in higher quality forage for livestock. Eliminating a minimum of one hay cutting reduces fuel use and labor. Water quality is improved since manure is evenly distributed throughout the pasture as livestock graze, and nutrient loading at hay feeding sites, if needed, is reduced.

Criteria
Grazing on stockpiled forage must follow a grazing plan that includes:

1. Exclude grazing from specified acres for a state specified time period (at least three months minimum for cool season and two months for warm season)
2. Acreage needed will be calculated using a ratio of one acre per animal unit
3. Stockpiled acreage will be fertilized to achieve adequate forage growth
4. Livestock must be rotated into a new stockpiled paddock every 1-3 days; use temporary fencing to adjust strip size to match forage availability
5. Do not allow livestock to access previously grazed stockpiled areas when spring regrowth begins until adequate forage heights exist
6. Follow NRCS Prescribed Grazing practice standard (528) each year this enhancement is in effect, including applying a prescribed grazing plan on the entire operation
7. Certification that practice requirements have been met after grazing of stockpiled forages begins each year

Documentation Requirements

1. A copy of the operation's prescribed grazing plan
2. Specified stockpiled acres designated on a map and in the prescribed grazing plan
3. Photographs showing stockpiled forage for each such pasture

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Forage must be stockpiled for a minimum of 3 contiguous months between April 1 - October 31.