

**Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 21 - Prairie restoration for grazing and wildlife habitat**



**Enhancement Description**

This activity consists of restoring/renovating prairie habitat by establishing native vegetation and managing the restored plant community.

**Land Use Applicability**

Cropland, pastureland and rangeland

**Benefits**

Establishing and managing native prairie vegetation will provide food, cover, and nesting habitat for adapted species, especially grassland nesting birds.

**Criteria**

The resulting plant community will consist of at least 10 species of native perennial grasses and at least six species of native forbs. In areas where seed availability or seed cost is an issue, the NRCS State Office can modify the seeding combinations to meet local conditions. Species appropriate fungal and microbial inoculants will be used during establishment where appropriate. Additional planting conditions may be specified if an ecological site description has been developed for the area.

After establishment, the field will be protected from grazing and disturbance during the primary nesting and fawning season as defined by the NRCS State Office. A grazing management plan will be prepared, documented, and followed. Grazing intensity outside of the nesting season will never exceed “moderately” grazed as defined by the NRCS State Office. Rest or rotation intervals will also be documented.

**Documentation Requirements**

Following implementation of this activity, the landowner must document the restoration of native vegetation by providing a brief written description of the actions taken; providing receipts and dates; documenting the area (acres) restored, grazing management plan, and delineating the location of the restored prairie on a map or aerial photograph.

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Primary nesting and fawning season is between May 15 - August 1.

Moderately grazed is defined as leaving a stubble height no less than 8 inches.

Follow Wisconsin Agronomy Technical Note 5 for species selection, seeding rates, and establishment & maintenance requirements. In lieu of the 10 grasses and 6 forb requirement as stated in the ANM21 Job Sheet criteria, refer to the "Seed Mixture Requirements for Planting a Basic Prairie" section of Technical Note 5 for the minimum quantity of grasses/forbs to be established and the minimum seeding rates required.

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/WI/technotes/agronomy-tn5.pdf>

Written documentation shall include a summary of the soil moisture regime of the site, plant species established and method of establishment. Provide an annual summary of site management and weed control activities.