United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2011 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 and forest land.

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

a. Minimize impact around water sources and facilities
b. Aid in livestock distribution and utilization of forage
c. Reduce compaction of the soil and excess trampling of vegetation
d. Reduce high concentrations of nutrients around water sources
e. Improve animal health (concentrated areas of parasites etc.)

Criteria

1. Move all supplement (such as salt and mineral) locations between grazing periods and/or on an annual basis.
2. Locate supplement at least ¼ mile (1,320 ft) from surface water and watering facilities. In those situations where pasture size limits supplement placement or multiple water sources preclude meeting the minimum distance requirement, move supplement areas more frequently to prevent nutrient buildup and to maintain good ground cover.
3. Move all feeding locations (including creep feeders) every 30 days.

Documentation Requirements

A map showing the planned locations of supplement and feeding areas in each pasture and a schedule for moving these 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.