United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2010 Ranking Period 2

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL12 - Managing livestock access to water bodies/courses

Enhancement Description
Install structures or implement grazing management actions that will assist in managing livestock access to water bodies and water courses.

Land Use Applicability
Pastureland, rangeland and forestland.

Benefits
Management of livestock access to surface waters can have positive impacts on water quality, decrease soil erosion, improve vegetation cover and wildlife habitat. Water quality is especially enhanced due to better manure distribution and reduction of nutrients in surface waters. Livestock performance and health can also be positively impacted.

Criteria

1. A written grazing management plan.
2. Stocking rates that will allow for proper forage utilization.
3. Structures or grazing management activities that include the following activities as necessary to manage livestock access to water bodies:
    a. Install alternative water sources away from water courses
        i. Installation of solar or conventional pumps, hydraulic rams, nose pumps
        ii. Development of wells or guzzlers
        iii. Installation of pipelines and troughs
    b. Install fencing to exclude livestock to water bodies or water courses
    c. Install hardened stream crossings or water access points
    d. Implement riparian grazing management strategies
        i. Herding
        ii. Seasonal exclusion with rotational grazing system

Documentation Requirements

1. A written grazing management plan
2. For riparian grazing management strategies, a written narrative describing planned season of livestock grazing use.
3. A map showing locations of installed structures

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Document type of fence, materials utilized, and required permits.