United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2012 Ranking Period 1

On-Farm Research and Demonstration—KS-FRD01
Pest Management—Cultural Control of Serecia Lespedeza

Kansas Criteria for National Special Project Enhancement Activity—FRD01

Enhancement Description: To perpetuate the consumption of serecia lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneata) for the purpose of preventing seed development on established seed-producing plants by grazing animals.

Target projects will be existing grazing operations where known infestations of serecia lespedeza exist and infested sites will be grazed by cattle.

Land Use Applicability: Grazed Range

Benefits: Increasing consumption of serecia lespedeza by grazing animals will prevent seed development on established seed-producing plants. This cultural method, in combination of other known control methods, will aid in the control of the target species.

Criteria: This research project is a partnership between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Kansas State University (KSU), and the producer applicant(s).

1. Grazing locations will be within one-hour driving time of KSU in Manhattan, Kansas, and will consist of at least 80 acres in size, but not more than 640 acres.
2. Approximately one-half of the grazing location will be treated with this research method and the other half untreated at every location to provide demonstrable comparison.
3. Other treatment methods, if prescribed by KSU and/or NRCS, shall be applied comparatively to both sides.
4. Intensively early-grazed management system (IEG, short season) by yearling or stocker cattle will be used.
5. All pasture upkeep, water supply, livestock health, and all infra-structure maintenance are the responsibility of the producer applicant.

6. Accessibility shall be provided to KSU researchers throughout the research period for the purpose of conducting research (providing supplement for grazing livestock and vegetation studies).
7. Assistance shall be provided to KSU researchers to gather livestock when needed to complete research or gather data to support research efforts.
8. Access shall be provided to NRCS and potential field day attendees to view research results or findings.

KSU will:

1. Supply both the NRCS and producer an overview of the research project which includes scientific methods, project goals, hypotheses, data collection methods, and time-frame for completion.
2. Supply grazing livestock with supplements used to encourage the consumption of serecia lespedeza.
3. Provide a detailed vegetation analysis consisting of species composition of the existing plant community and results of grazing effects to the plant community from livestock as a result of the research project to NRCS and producer.
4. Aid NRCS in conveying results to the producer and the public when applicable.

Note: Estimated time required of the producer would be approximately three days during the grazing period and on-site tour. This would include a pre-research overview and cattle turn-out day, a post-research processing of cattle, and a day for partners to view results of research.

Documentation Requirements:

1. Results or conclusions from the research and demonstration.
2. Documentation of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) participant's participation in the research project including:
   a. A schedule of activities undertaken by the participant.
   b. Fields or other areas of the farm involved in the research.