



**NORTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL NOTE
CONSERVATION PLANNING GUIDE FOR GRAZING LAND**

This Technical Note serves as a guide to conservation planning on grazing land, and may be used, along with the CPA-52 Inventory of Planning Area to document the basis for a grazing plan or grazing practices and alternatives discussed with the client. Following the steps in this Technical Note assure that a sound planning process has been followed and that environmental benefits will be achieved from the conservation plan or program contract.

Client: _____
Planner: _____

Date: _____
County: _____

Initial Planning Steps <i>**Planners are encouraged to use the PCS method for evaluating pastureland conditions</i>	Notes
1. Client's livestock and related objectives have been recorded (e.g. animal production, breeding, seasonal stocker operation, hobby farm, keep grassland from growing up, tradition, etc):	
2. Resource concerns observed	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor stand of desirable forage plant <input type="checkbox"/> Poor utilization of forage/inadequate rotation <input type="checkbox"/> Poor fertility <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive weeds/pests <input type="checkbox"/> Sheet & rill, gully erosion on pastures <input type="checkbox"/> Critically eroding heavy use areas/streambanks/access roads <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
3. Environmentally-sensitive areas (due to steepness, soil conditions, wetlands, riparian areas, etc.) that require additional protection from over-grazing have been identified and recorded on plan map.	How will these areas be treated? (e.g. exclusion with fencing, fencing and flash grazing, critical area planting) Alternative uses discussed: <input type="checkbox"/> Upland wildlife habitat (e.g. early succession) <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland/riparian wildlife habitat <input type="checkbox"/> Forest/timber <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality protection (filter strips) <input type="checkbox"/> Short-duration grazing

4. Inventory of current or planned livestock and forage/hay available has been completed and recorded.	Livestock herd size and type of operation:
5. Inventory of forage/hay resources.	Species, acres, realistic yields Baseline Pasture Condition Score: _____
6. Grazing efficiency (%) assessed.	Baseline efficiency: _____
7. Baseline annual forage budget completed (Results from C-Graze)	Annual needs: _____ tons Forage available: _____ tons Hay available on-site: _____ tons Hay to be imported: _____ tons

Planned Grazing/Forage Period	Notes
8. Options to maximize grazing period evaluated:	Planned Livestock herd size and type of operation: _____ Planned grazing efficiency (%): _____ Average days per grazing paddock: _____
9. Use of warm season grasses, or use of other species more adapted to site considered.	Baseline: Acres of warm season grasses: _____ Planned: Acres of warm season grasses: _____
10 Separate paddocks to allow for rotational grazing have been identified.	Baseline: Number of separate fields: _____ Planned: Number of separate fields: _____
11. Water locations within the fields have been evaluated or planned to facilitate effective utilization of forage.	Decisions: New water access sites planned: _____ Relocated water access sites: _____
12. Start and stop heights for fields/forage have been included in plan. Guidance on the use of flash grazing in sensitive areas included in plan if applicable.	
13. Fences and structural practices planned to minimize concentrated livestock traffic. Animal trails planned if needed to address access to water or other concentrated livestock travelways.	Decision:
14. Evaluation of access to fertilize grazed areas.	Can access be provided where not available?

15. Planned annual forage budget completed (Results from C-Graze)	Annual needs: _____ tons Forage available: _____ tons Hay available on-site: _____ tons Hay to be imported: _____ tons Planned Pasture Condition Score: _____
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Supplemental Feeding Period	Notes
16. Supplemental feeding period required: <i>**NRCS 528 standard requires 20% or less dependence on external feeding according to C-GRAZ grazing forage balance</i>	Total no. of days: _____ No. of livestock to carry through feeding period: _____
17. Identification of fields that should be avoided in winter months due to slope, wet areas, runoff, proximity to streams, etc.	Fields:

18. <u>Option 1: Rotational Feeding</u> Rotate winter feeding areas using a feeding site only once winter cycle. Avoid overgrazing pastures where feeding sites are located. (Consider sites on convex landscapes, fairly level, well-established in vegetation.) If option 1 is not possible, evaluate the potential for options 2, 3, or 4. <i>**See 528 Rotational Feeding Incentive Strategy</i>	Number of sites (estimate): _____ Estimated no. of days/site: _____ Estimated total number of days: _____ Area adequate sites available to support the herd?
19. <u>Option 2: Feedlot strategy.</u> If the site will not support a rotational feeding strategy, is there a site that is suitable for heavy use area supplemental feeding (or Livestock Waste/Feed Structure where approved), where waste can be collected through the winter supplemental feeding period for land application? Was this option selected?	Design/Siting: ____ Located on an upland terrace or ridge position, as far from surface water or concentrated flows as possible. ____ A fenced livestock lounging area incorporated into the facility design to minimize the area damaged. ____ A 100 foot buffer (ungrazed during the winter months) along flowpath should be located between the sacrifice area and surface water. At a minimum, this 100 ft must include a 20 foot filter strip that is never grazed between lounging area & perennial/ seasonal streams. ____ Client has a manure spreader, and understands the O&M requirements. ____ All waste collected shall be spread according to a 590/633 NM/WUP. ____ A prescribed grazing plan must be implemented as part of the conservation plan

<p>20. <u>Option 3. Rotational Feeding paddocks strategy</u>. Is there a suitable location to use this modified feedlot strategy?</p> <p>Was this option selected?</p> <p><i>**Selection of this feeding strategy may not meet criteria for prescribed grazing due to excessive use of external feeding. In these situations, planners should use practice 472 (Use Exclusion) for protection of grazing forages and/or practice 771 (Controlled Livestock Lounging Area) in conservation plans.</i></p>	<p>Design/Siting:</p> <p>___ Size required computed: _____ ac</p> <p>(#days feeding required/days per lot)* number of animals being fed*300 sf <i>Example: (120 days feeding/3 day rotation) * 30 cows * 300 sf = 8 acres. (In some cases, some paddocks may be reused in a season)</i></p> <p>___ Site must be on convex landscapes, fairly level, well-established in vegetation. Site and design accommodates access to water.</p> <p>___ Client must be willing/able to move an electric fence every few days. Client understands O&M requirements.</p> <p>___ A minimum 100 foot buffer (ungrazed during the winter months) along flowpath should be located between the sacrifice area and surface water. At a minimum, this 100 ft must include a 20 foot filter strip that is never grazed between lounging area & perennial/ seasonal streams.</p>
<p>21. <u>Option 4. Conversion to Summer Stocker Operation or Partial Reduction in Winter Herd Size</u>. Reduction in winter feeding requirements is accomplished through full or partial de-stocking of the site during the feeding period.</p> <p>Was this option selected?</p>	<p>Planned herd size through the feeding period:</p>