United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2010 Ranking Period 2

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM02 – Defer crop production on temporary and seasonal wetlands

Enhancement Description
Deferring crop production on temporary and/or seasonal wetlands until after spring migratory bird season to promote early successional wetland habitat.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland

Benefits
Undisturbed temporary and seasonal wetlands provide cover and food for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wetland-dependent wildlife species. Delaying the physical disturbance of temporary and seasonal wetlands allows migratory species to reach nesting grounds in better physical condition and improves hatching success.

Criteria
Temporary and seasonal wetlands in cropland will be left undisturbed according to dates established by NRCS State Offices.

1. This enhancement can be used to protect temporary and seasonal wetlands on all cropland acres.
2. The area enrolled under this enhancement may only be cultivated after the dates established for this enhancement.
3. Haying, grazing, prescribed burning, and light disking can only be used on applicable acreage to manipulate the herbaceous vegetation after the established dates.

Documentation Requirements
1. An aerial photograph showing the areas where deferred cropping takes place
2. A schedule showing when crops were planted on the deferred areas