Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL23 – Protection of sensitive areas on winter grazing land

Enhancement Description
This enhancement is for the protection of riparian and other identified sensitive areas that are susceptible to degradation when used for wind protection by livestock.

Land Use Applicability
Pastureland and rangeland

Benefits
Properly placing a wind shelter (away from riparian and sensitive areas) protects livestock from the weather, while protecting water resources from degradation that results when livestock concentrate in an area. Alternative wind shelters minimize adverse impacts around riparian areas that offer natural protection by reducing the potential to concentrate nutrients around water sources, and reducing bank disturbance, soil compaction and excessive trampling of riparian or sensitive area vegetation. The proper placement of these alternative shelters results in improvements to water quality and animal health.

Criteria

1. Producers are required to use one type of alternative shelter to provide livestock with protection from wind
2. Alternative shelter design criteria and placement must follow state Land Grant University guidelines or NRCS design criteria
3. Fabricated shelter designs will meet the need of the entire herd
4. Supplemental feeding or mineral supplements will not be permitted within ¼ mile (1,320 ft) of riparian areas, water courses or water bodies

Documentation Requirements

1. A map showing the planned location(s) of fabricated shelter(s) in each pasture
2. An approved fabricated shelter design
3. Photographs showing shelters in the field