United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2011 Ranking Period 1

Animal Enhancement Activitv –*ANM17- Monitorina nutritional status of livestock using the NUTBAL PRO System*

Enhancement Description:
Use the NUTBAL PRO software to determine if the current diet is sufficient to meet livestock nutritional needs. This requires the collection and laboratory analysis of forage or fecal samples to determine the nutritional value of grazing forages.

Land Use Applicability: Pastureland and rangeland.

Benefits
NUTBAL PRO is a decision-support software that assimilates information regarding animal attributes, environmental conditions, forage conditions, feeding program, and metabolic modifiers. Nutbal Pro reports provide information to:

- balance animal nutritional needs with contributions from grazing forage,
- select the most cost efficient feed alternative, amount to be fed, and cost per day,
- evaluates feeds' values with regards to the animal's nutrient deficiency or desired gain,
- monitor the quality of grazing forages throughout the year, and
- Better understand animal nutritional needs as they change throughout the year.

Criteria

- Forages (using either fecal samples or forage tissue sample) must be analyzed by an accredited laboratory.
- Information is entered into the NUTBAL PRO decision support software.
- A report must be generated and management decision documented and completed within 14 days from receiving forage analysis.
- A minimum of 6 forage analysis and NUTBAL PRO reports must be completed each year.

Documentation Requirements
For each forage sample collected for analysis:

- A copy of the forage analysis report.
- A copy of the NUTBAL PRO reports generated from the decision support software.
- Written documentation of the management decisions made as a result of the analysis.

This activity may NOT be used with enhancement PLT02.

No potential duplicate practices.