

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM25 – Stockpiling of forages to extend the grazing season



Enhancement Description

Livestock are excluded from forages on specified acres during the growth season. The “stockpiled” forages are grazed at a later time using strip grazing to allow animals to utilize the forage within a strip for a specified period of time.

Land use Applicability

Pastureland

Benefits

Managing grazing land to “stockpile” forages for later use extends the grazing season and promotes

yearlong grazing. Stockpiling also provides long-term grass sustainability and improved forage health resulting in higher quality forage for livestock. Eliminating a minimum of one hay cutting reduces fuel use and labor. Water quality is improved since manure is evenly distributed throughout the pasture as livestock graze, and nutrient loading at hay feeding sites, if needed, is reduced.

Criteria

Grazing on stockpiled forage must follow a grazing plan that includes:

1. Exclude grazing from specified acres for a state specified time period (at least three months minimum)
2. Acreage needed will be calculated using a ratio of one acre per animal unit
3. Stockpiled acreage will be fertilized to achieve adequate forage growth
4. Livestock must be rotated into a new stockpiled paddock every 1-3 days; use temporary fencing to adjust strip size to match forage availability
5. Do not allow livestock to access previously grazed stockpiled areas when spring regrowth begins until adequate forage heights exist
6. Follow NRCS Prescribed Grazing practice standard (528) each year this enhancement is in effect, including applying a prescribed grazing plan on the entire operation
7. Certification that practice requirements have been met after grazing of stockpiled forages begins each year

Documentation Requirements

1. A copy of the operation’s prescribed grazing plan
2. Specified stockpiled acres designated on a map and in the prescribed grazing plan
3. Photographs showing stockpiled forage for each such pasture



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

IDAHO ADDENDUM 2010

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Additional guidance for stockpiling forages:

Stockpiling of forages for use in fall and winter can help reduce the expense of winter feeding, and can provide benefits to livestock and other resources. On pastures, grazing can be delayed to accumulate sufficient forage for fall and winter grazing. Livestock should be excluded from pastures to be stockpiled in mid to late summer to provide adequate over-winter forage. When stockpiling hayland, omit the last cutting to provide adequate forage for fall and/or winter grazing. Consideration should be given to the nutritive value and palatability of stockpiled forages in the prescribed grazing plan.

For additional information, refer to the following documents:

Brummer, JE, and CA Pearson (eds). June 2002. Proceedings of the Intermountain Forage Symposium, *Potential for stockpiled perennial forages for winter grazing*. Colorado State University Technical Bulletin LTB 02-1.

Hitz, AC and JR Russell. 1998. *Potential of stockpiled perennial forages in winter grazing systems for pregnant beef cows*. J Anim Sci 76:404-415.
<http://jas.fass.org/cgi/content/abstract/76/2/404>

Iowa State University Extension. 1998. *Stockpiled forages: A way to extend the grazing season*. PM 1772.
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1772.pdf>

Idaho NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 11, *Pasture – Species Selections and Grazing Management Guidelines*. ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/tn11_pasture.pdf

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture. 2010. *Stockpiling perennial forages for fall and winter beef cattle grazing. Factsheet 131/53*.
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/beef/facts/99-009.htm>

University of Idaho Bulletin 547, *Idaho Forage Handbook*.
<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/forage/index.html>

Volesky, JD, BE Anderson, and MC Stockton.2008. *Species and Stockpile Initiation Date Effects on Yield and Nutritive Value of Irrigated Cool-season Grasses*. Agronomy Journal 100: 931-937.

<http://agron.scijournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/100/4/931>

**This activity may NOT be used with the following enhancements:
ANM23, PLT01**

**Potential duplicate practices:
528 – Prescribed grazing**