



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Stewardship Program
2012 Ranking Period 1

WQL19 - Montana Supplement

Transition to Organic Grazing Systems – (Water Quality Enhancement Activity)

Montana Clarification

Environmental benefits will be operation specific. This enhancement supports a transition to an organic grazing system from a conventional system. The applicable acres are all grazed pastureland, rangeland or forest lands that are in the process of transitioning to an organic system.

Montana Specifications

All standards of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) for production, handling and labeling of organic agricultural products must be followed.

Information regarding USDA-NOP standards, application forms and processes, certification requirements and certifying agents can be found at:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/nop>

or through the Montana Department of Agriculture Organic Program:

<http://agr.mt.gov/organic/Program.asp>

By Mail:

Montana Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 200201
Helena, Montana 59620-0201

Physical Location:

303 North Roberts Street
(corner of 6th and Roberts)
Helena, Montana

By Phone: (406) 444-3144

By E-mail: agr@mt.gov

By Fax: (406) 444-5409

Hearing Impaired: Dial 711

Incompatible Enhancements

Some enhancements are not compatible with other enhancements. If you have a question, contact your local NRCS office.

Eligible Land

Pasture, range and forest land

Applicable Acres

Applies to only pasture, range, or forest land use acres that are IN THE PROCESS of transitioning to an organic production system.

Documentation Requirements

1. Provide a written grazing plan **following the NRCS 528 Standard and Specification** guidelines. Include time and timing of grazing, minimum and maximum grazing heights, and date rotated in and date off of pastures/paddocks in the grazing plan, as appropriate for the land use as well as other documentation needed to meet the 528 standard.
2. Provide a record of the application of inputs according to the NOP rules, e.g., type, date, rate, and amount of allowed nutrients and pesticides for forage and livestock.
3. Provide a copy of the Organic System Plan when approved by the certifying agent.

NRCS Pasture Notes, grazers notebooks, or other record keeping systems for pasture livestock operations can be used to facilitate record-keeping.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all that is required for the implementation of this CSP Enhancement Activity.

Contract participant

Date