



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528F

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Stockpiling cool season forage to improve structure and composition or plant productivity and health

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture; Associated Agricultural Land; Crop (Perennial); Crop (Annual and Mixed)

RESOURCE CONCERN: Plants

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Grazing management employed will stop grazing events of selected paddock(s) to allow pasture forages to grow to maximum vegetative biomass accumulation before the end of the growing season.

Criteria

Additions to the current Prescribed Grazing Plan must include:

- A record of designated paddocks and acreages to exclude grazing for a stated specified time period.
- The acreage needed for stockpiled forage will be predetermined.
- Stockpiled acreage will be supplied nutrients according to a land grant university approved soil test to achieve adequate forage growth at the beginning of the stockpiling period.
- Stockpile will be grazed in a manner that maintains specified minimum forage heights in the grazing plan to avoid damage to soil or forage.

E528F – Stockpiling cool season forage to improve structure and composition or plant productivity and health	April 2021	Page 1
--	------------	----------



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Do not allow livestock to access previously grazed stockpiled areas when spring regrowth begins until recommended forage heights exist.
- The NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) must be followed on all pasture each year this enhancement is in effect. Note - leaving recommended residual forage heights, even though plants are dormant, are needed for erosion control and wildlife.
- Certification recorded that practice requirements have been met after grazing of stockpiled forages is complete before the new growing season begins.

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, develop a prescribed grazing plan including a plan map that delineates where forage stockpiling will occur. Make these materials available to NRCS for review.
- After implementation, make grazing records and photo documentation of stockpiling and level of use available to NRCS.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, review grazing plan and maps provided by participant.
- During implementation, as requested, assist the participant with adapting the grazing strategy and plan to current conditions.
- After implementation, review records and photos provide to confirm adequate stockpiling and acceptable levels of grazing use.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature Date



E528F – Stockpiling cool season forage to improve structure and composition or plant productivity and health	April 2021	Page 3
--	------------	----------



**IOWA SUPPLEMENT TO
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

E528F

Stockpiling cool season forage to improve structure and composition or plant productivity and health

Additional Criteria for Iowa

- A minimum of one acre per Animal Unit (1000 lbs of animal) is required for this enhancement.
- Soil testing is only required every four years. Plant nutrients and soil amendments will be based on a current soil test and follow Iowa State University Extension Publication PM869.
- Livestock Exclusion is required during the stockpiling period. Stockpiling will start August 1st and be a minimum of 90 days.
- Stockpiled forages will be hayed, clipped, or grazed to minimum stubble height within one week of August 1st.

Additional Considerations for Iowa

- Apply 40-80 pounds of Nitrogen fertilizer.
- Divide the pasture or paddock into strips that are sized to provide adequate forage for one to three days.
- Back fencing is not required.