



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**  
**New Mexico Supplement**

**CONSERVATION**  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
**PROGRAM**

**E528A**

**Maintaining quantity and quality of forage for animal health and productivity**

**Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range, Associated Ag Land**

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year**

**Enhancement Description**

Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals for the purposes of maintaining desired pasture composition/plant vigor and improving/maintaining quantity and quality of forage for the animals' health and productivity following the recommendations of a qualifying professional, as detailed in the documentation and implementation requirements.

**Criteria**

- A written plan matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand will be followed.
- Removal of herbage will be in accordance with site production limitations, rate of plant growth, the physiological needs of forage plants, and the nutritional needs of the animals.
- Deferments will be planned and implemented for critical periods of plant needs (such as post-planting or renovation, severe drought, etc.).
- Manage grazing and/or browsing animals to maintain adequate cover on sensitive areas (such as riparian areas, wetlands, habitats of concern, karst areas, etc.).

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- Manage livestock movements based on rate of plant growth, available forage, and allowable utilization target. Develop and follow contingency plans to deal with episodic disturbance events.
- Plan grazing and/or browsing to match forage quantity and quality goals of the producer within the capability of the resource to respond to management. Plan the intensity, frequency, timing, and/or browsing to reduce animal stress and mortality from toxic and poisonous plants.
- Supplemental feed and/or minerals will be balanced with the forage consumption to meet the desired nutritional level for the kind and class of grazing and/or browsing livestock.
- The Certified Consultant provided recommendations or qualified, non-affiliated consultant (see documentation requirements) will be based on the National Research Council's Nutrient Requirements of Domestic Animals.

**Participant will:**

- Prior to implementation, make initial target livestock performance goals and mediation actions taken available to NRCS; including reasons for no action.

*The Initial target livestock performance goals should be included on the GanLab field sheet used when collecting samples. [GANLAB Sample Form](#), or the [GANLAB Sample Form \(Excel\)](#). Include information such as animal class, performance goals, desired body condition scores, desired average daily gain, stage in gestational cycle, breed attributes, etc.*

*Mediation actions should include plans for all supplementation (salt, minerals, protein and energy at key times of the year). If no supplements are expected to be provided, the report needs to include an explanation of why no supplements will be provided (livestock goals should be met with existing forage, livestock will be moved to other fields, destocking etc.)*

- Prior to implementation, obtain a written plan for collecting samples, sample analysis, and corresponding management recommendations as developed and provided by a Certified Range Management Consultant, Certified Professional in Range Management, Certified Forage and Grassland Professional, NRCS Technical Service Provider approved for CAP 110, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher level degree in forage agronomy, range science, animal science, animal nutrition or other closely-related plant science discipline and a minimum of five years' experience in grazing lands conservation planning and grazing animal nutrition.

\*\* CPS 159, Grazing Management Design and Implementation Activity, replaces CAP 110 as of October 2021.

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The plan should include the number of samples and timing of samples for each livestock class to adequately capture livestock health and productivity throughout the year. The flow chart below provides **suggestions** on number and timing of samples for different livestock classes. If fecal samples are collected, the samples need to be analyzed with Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS). If tissue samples are collected, the NutBal Pro Support software can be used through the conversion process outlined in New Mexico Range Technical Note 111 or the tissue samples can be analyzed by comparing the results to New Mexico Range Tech Note 112 the reference for the National Research Council's Nutrient Requirements for Beef Cattle (if for cattle).

- During implementation, keep records to annually document prescribed grazing requirements are met.

**The NM Supplement for 528 must be followed.** Proper grazing use must be met. In the event that sampled animals show nutritional deficiencies from the forage or if desired weight gains are not being met, a mediation report should be completed that identifies the most cost efficient supplement and the amount to be fed to overcome the deficiency. Mediation services are provided by the GanLab and through the NutBal Pro software. Feed labels should be sent in to the GanLab if they are requested for this service. They can be reached at:

Gan Lab - <https://cnrit.tamu.edu/ganlab/> 254-774-6134

Additional help may be found at NMSU:

- [Dr. Craig Gifford; 575-646-6482; cgifford@nmsu.edu](mailto:cgifford@nmsu.edu); Beef Specialist
- [Dr. Marcy Ward; 575-646-5947; maward@nmsu.edu](mailto:maward@nmsu.edu); Extension Livestock Specialist
- Cooperative Extension Service County Offices: <http://aces.nmsu.edu/county/>

- After implementation, make available documentation of protein and energy of consumed forages/browse based on a land grant university laboratory analysis. The analysis may be based on collected sample of the forage available to the livestock or fecal samples analyzed with appropriate Near- infrared spectroscopy (NIRS). This analysis needs to illuminate shortfalls and/or excessive amounts of protein and energy. **Samples must be submitted in a timely manner to allow for appropriate adjustments in management and/or supplementation.**

- After implementation, make grazing and supplementation records available for review by NRCS. *Implementation must be completed by September 30 of the scheduled year to earn the fiscal year annual payment.*

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**NRCS will:**

- Prior to implementation, assist the participant with development of a grazing plan if requested to do so.
- During implementation, as requested, assist the participant with adapting the grazing strategy and plan to current conditions.
- After implementation, review forage or fecal sampling schedule and corresponding management actions taken to determine if a supplementation plan was reasonably followed.

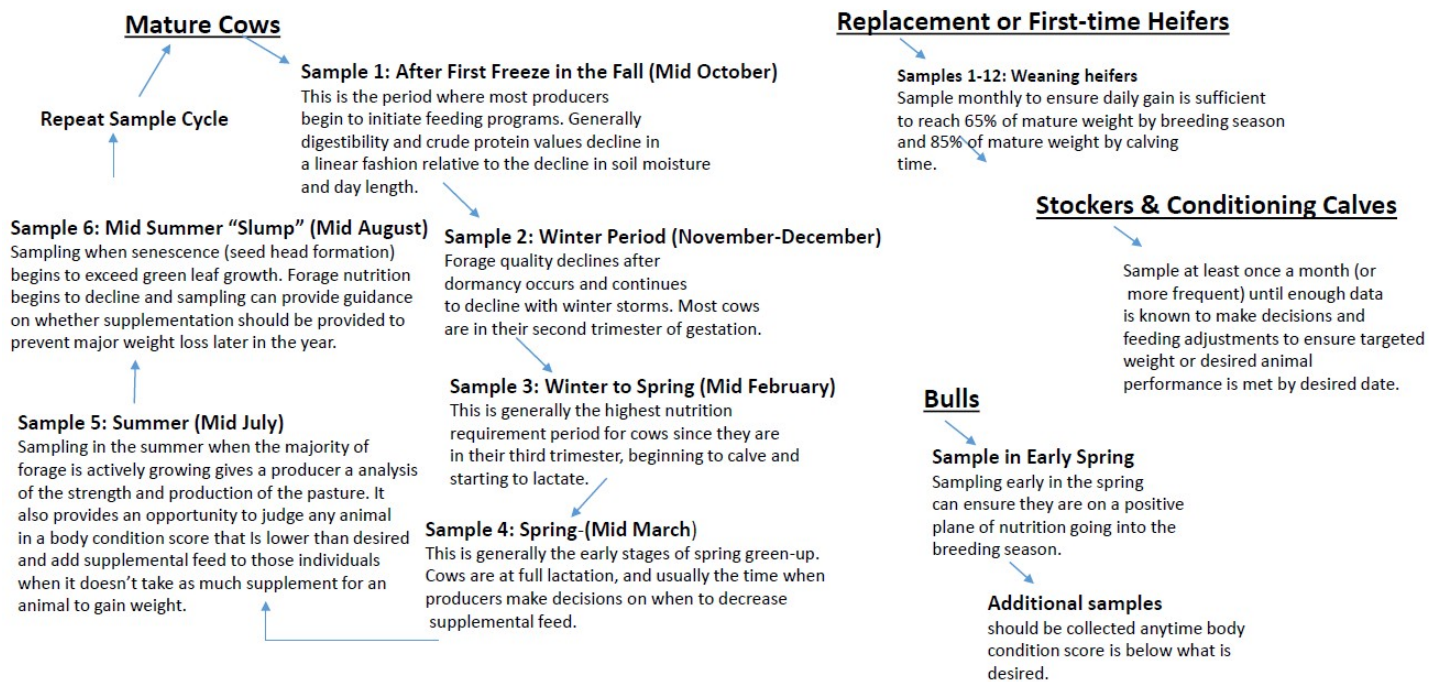
*If the supplementation recommendations by the qualified consultant were not followed, a NRCS range specialist will determine if the intent of the enhancement was met with implementation of the grazing plan and/or other management actions.*

- After implementation, annually review documentation provided indicating that prescribed grazing specifications have been met and to verify the enhancement has been implemented.

**New Mexico Supplemental Guidance:**

*The flow chart below may be used as a guide to determine how many samples are needed, the time of year or lifecycle stage of the livestock, and the fields where samples should be collected from.*

Guidelines for Forage and Fecal Sampling for Animal Health and Productivity for Beef Operations



Forage Tissue Sampling provided by most Land Grant Universities, see individual lab for specific instructions.

More information for NIRS can be found at: <https://cnrit.tamu.edu/ganlab/pagesmith/8>

