



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528K

# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Improved grazing management for soil compaction on pasture through monitoring activities

#### Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

**APPLICABLE LAND USE:** Pasture

**RESOURCE CONCERN:** Soil

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN:** 1 year

#### Enhancement Description

Manage the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals as adjusted when following recommendations of a qualifying professional, as detailed in the enhancement criteria, generated through pasture condition scoring (PCS).

#### Criteria

- A written plan for 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.
- Adjust intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing and/or browsing (providing sufficient recovery time to meet planned, written objectives) to meet the desired objectives for the plant communities and associated resources.
- Deferment (non-grazing period less than one year) and/or rest (non-grazing period equal or greater than one year) will be planned for critical periods of plant needs (such as post-planting or renovation, severe drought, etc.).

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- Manage grazing and/or browsing animals to maintain adequate cover on sensitive areas (such as riparian areas, wetlands, habitats of concern, karst areas, etc.)
- 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.
- Minimize concentrated livestock areas, trailing and trampling to reduce soil compaction, excess runoff and erosion. Manage grazing so as to maintain adequate ground cover, litter and canopy to maintain or improve infiltration and soil health.
- Follow these guidelines as recommended by a Certified Forage and Grassland Professional, Certified Range Management Consultant, or Certified Professional in Range Management, NRCS Technical Service Provider approved for CAP 110, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher level degree in agronomy, range science or other closely-related plant science discipline and a minimum of five years' experience in pastureland conservation planning, monitoring, and consulting regarding use of pastureland improvement practices generated through pasture condition scoring (PCS).



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## Documentation and Implementation Requirements

### Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, acquire a Grazing Management Plan with all the following components: (provide plan to NRCS for review and approval)
  - Producer goals, objectives and resource concerns
  - Forage-animal balance sheet
  - Location and condition of structural improvements
  - Grazing plan for livestock movement
  - Watering sites with availability, quantity and quality
  - Contingency plan
  - Forage inventory
  - Monitoring plan
- During implementation, secure a Certified Forage and Grassland Professional, Certified Range Management Consultant, Certified Professional in Range Management, NRCS Technical Service Provider approved for CAP 110, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher level degree in agronomy, range science or other closely-related plant science discipline and a minimum of five years' experience in pastureland conservation planning, monitoring, and consulting regarding use of pastureland improvement practices to:
  - 1) Select a monitoring site in each forage type or forage mixture on the enrolled acreage to assess with the Pasture Condition Scoring tool.
  - 2) Conduct assessments on those sites using the Pasture Condition Scoring tool and document the location.
  - 3) Develop a written recommendation including duration and intensity of grazing and/or browsing based on desired health and productivity objectives while addressing adequate cover, litter and canopy to maintain or improve infiltration, soil health and reduce soil compaction and other resource concerns identified during the assessment.
- During implementation, identify key grazing areas and key forage species and monitor pastures for grazing utilization.
- During implementation, keep pasture/herd in/out records.
- During implementation, complete forage utilization jobsheet at the end of the grazing season for NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (528).
- During implementation, document adjustments needed to maintain feed and forage balance.

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- After implementation, provide the following items for review by NRCS:
  - Pasture Condition Score Sheets with all field notes and locations.
  - Written documentation from professional with recommendations and any needed follow up actions.
  - Pasture/herd in/out dates.
  - Completed forage utilization jobsheet.
  - Animal/forage balance sheet.

**NRCS will:**

- As needed, provide technical additional assistance to participant as requested.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (CPS 528) as it relates to implementing this enhancement, including forage utilization jobsheet.
- Prior to implementation, provide soils information and/ or Forage Suitability Groups as requested.
- After implementation, review all Pasture Condition Score sheets and written recommendations made by professional.
- After implementation, verify implementation of the grazing management plan by reviewing grazing/herd in/out records, forage utilization jobsheet, animal/forage balance records and changes made to address resource concerns identified during the Pasture Condition Scoring assessments.

**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

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