



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E472A

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Manage livestock access to waterbodies to reduce nutrients or pathogens to surface water

Conservation Practice 472: Access Control

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial); Pasture; Range; Forest; Associated Ag Land; Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN: Water

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 10 years

Enhancement Description

Installation of structures and implementation of grazing management actions that restrict livestock access to waterbodies in order to reduce nutrient loading or reduce the introduction of pathogens from manure, bio-solids, or compost to surface waters.

Criteria

- Manage livestock access to provide positive benefits to surface water quality, resulting in better manure distribution and reduction of nutrient input into surface waters like streams, ditches and other waterbodies.
- Use-regulating activities (e.g., gates, fences, and other barriers) shall be implemented to eliminate livestock access to streams to reduce nutrients in surface water.
- Limit stream access to hardened stream crossings or water access points. Preferably, install alternative water sources away from water courses and waterbodies.
- Implement riparian area grazing management strategies, including herding and seasonal exclusion with a rotational grazing system.

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- Activities will complement the application schedule and life span of other practices specified in the conservation plan.
- Livestock activity will be monitored and regulated, and management plans will specify the intent, intensity, amounts, and timing of livestock exclusion access or exclusion from the target water course or waterbody. Activities may involve temporary or permanent livestock exclusion.
- Placement, location, dimensions, materials (e.g., gates), frequency of use (e.g., continuous), and frequency of monitoring shall be described for each activity,.





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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, obtain a written grazing plan with guidelines and recommendations for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand from a qualified professional.
- For riparian grazing management strategies, prior to implementation, provide a grazing plan that includes a written narrative describing planned season of livestock grazing use.
- During implementation, keep pasture/herd in/out records.
- After implementation, make the following items available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement:
 - Written grazing plan
 - Pasture/herd in/out records
 - Map showing locations of installed structures

NRCS will:

- As needed, provide additional technical assistance to the participant as requested.
- After implementation, complete forage utilization job sheet for NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528).
- After implementation, verify implementation of the written grazing plan by reviewing plan and pasture/herd in/out records kept during enhancement implementation.



SOUTH DAKOTA (SD) SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

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E472A

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Additional Criteria for SD:

In addition to the criteria specified in the national job sheet E472A, the following additional criteria apply in SD:

- Fencing livestock from the stream, ditch, and/or waterbody will be required. A minimum width of 2.5 times the stream or ditch width (based on horizontal distance between bankfull elevations) or 35 feet for waterbodies will be applied for this enhancement. Minimum stubble heights of 4 to 8 inches will be maintained at all times. Only exemption to fencing, would be if a herdsman is with the livestock at all times, then herding the livestock from the limited access area will be permitted.
- For additional information see the SD Prescribed Grazing Standard (528), the SD Access Control Standard (472), and the appropriate SD Range Technical Note.

Additional Documentation Requirements for SD:

In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E472A, the following additional documentation requirements apply in SD:

- Complete the SD Grazing Tool (SD-CPA-39 Forage/Animal Inventory, Grazing Schedule using the SD-CPA-15 or similar form, and SD-CPA-16 or similar grazing records document).
- Complete a drought contingency plan using the SD Drought Tool or provide the participant with a copy of the example drought contingency plan located within the SD Prescribed Grazing Technical Note 9.
- Photos of the stream, ditch, and/or waterbodies showing the vegetation height prior to grazing and at the end of the grazing period be provided as evidence of management. Photo points are encouraged to be established.