



**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
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## 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
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## SOUTH DAKOTA (SD) 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 SD:**

In addition to the criteria specified in the national job sheet E528F, the following criteria apply in SD:

- Pastures can be stockpiled during the entire growing season prior to and grazed during the dormant season. For the purposes of this enhancement, the growing season is considered April 1 to October 1.
- Ensure expected stockpiled forage supply is balanced with planned livestock demand. Utilization of stockpiled pastures will not exceed 60 percent (%).
- For additional information see the SD Prescribed Grazing Standard (528) and the appropriate SD Range Technical Note.
- This enhancement can also be used on hayland. Forage can be stockpiled in bales or swaths and grazed in the fall or over winter.
  - Make sure producer considers winter protection and watering facilities that can handle winter conditions.
  - Additional mineral supplementation may be needed depending on quality of forage. Consider completing some kind of forage test to determine forage quality prior to grazing.

##### **Additional Documentation Requirements for SD:**

In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E528F, 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).
- 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.