

What is it?

Grazing land supports vegetation that can be harvested by grazing animals. In North Dakota, grazing land could include rangeland, pastureland, or grazed cropland. As an owner or manager of grazing land, NRCS can help you maintain or improve your grazing land resources.

How?

First, you and the NRCS conservationist should visit your pastures to observe and discuss factors that affect grazing management. These include:

1. Identifying major plants that grow on your land.
 2. Discussing how these plants grow, how they respond to grazing, and how grazing can be managed to enhance the most productive plants to match forage production and nutrition to the animal requirements.
 3. Observing various plants to understand why some plants are grazed and why others remain ungrazed.
 4. Observing ecological sites (areas with specific characteristics that produce distinctive types and amounts of plants). Some sites have a higher potential to produce forage than other sites. Types of sites located on the ranch and their condition will influence the stocking rate.
 5. Evaluating the similarity index (or condition) of each ecological site. This will give you an idea of the site's present productivity and diversity as compared to its potential.
 6. Determining the trend of each ecological site. Trend indicates whether the rangeland is improving or deteriorating.
 7. Evaluating potential grazeable forage from tame pasture.
 8. Evaluating potential grazeable forage from cropland aftermath (aftermath and/or annual forages).
 9. Completing and evaluating a forage inventory of the ranch.
 10. Discussing the possible grazing management alternatives for improving production and species diversity.
 11. Developing prescribed grazing strategies and other grazing land management alternatives that will help you meet your goals.
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And Then?

You make all the decisions. The role of NRCS is to help you understand your grazing land resources and provide any technical assistance you request.



All programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

