



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528A (with Montana Supplement)

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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.

MT: Grazing management must be implemented under this enhancement for a minimum of 3 years in order to address the identified resource concern(s). If necessary, the first contracted year can be used to obtain the services and receive the products of the qualified range consultant (or equivalent), then, the following 3 years can be contracted for the implementation of the grazing rotation and monitoring.

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.

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- 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.).
- 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.
- **MT: If fecal analysis is participants chosen method, a minimum of six fecal samples per target herd must be collected and analyzed throughout each year. Refer to The Grazingland Animal Nutrition Lab website for more information on sampling protocol and sampling schedules. <https://cnrit.tamu.edu/>**
- **If forage analysis is participants chosen method, a minimum of 8 forage samples must be collected and analyzed throughout each year. Follow MontGuide Collecting a Forage or Feed Sample for Analysis 2/16 (MT201610AG).**



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, make initial target livestock performance goals and mediation actions taken available to NRCS; including reasons for no action.
- 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 certified for development of a DIA 159, 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 or a minimum of three years' experience in grazing lands conservation planning and grazing animal nutrition.

NRCS employees do not qualify as “non-affiliated consultants” regardless of their experience or education

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

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.

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

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