

GRAZING MANAGEMENT

It all begins with a farm visit!

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) makes farm visits, develops plans, and provides technical and financial support for individuals who want to manage their property for forage-based livestock production.

As your conservation decision partner, NRCS provides free assistance to landowners to reach land use and natural resource goals. Our local offices, staffed with conservation professionals with local knowledge, can help you make well-informed conservation decisions.

We love what we do!

That's working with farmers and forest landowners, like you, to improve or enhance your natural resources and put conservation practices in place that will benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and wildlife.

Getting Started with NRCS

Schedule a Farm Visit. Call or email your local USDA Service Center to set up a farm visit.

How to Prepare. What is your vision for your land and farm? What are your challenges? Prepare a list of questions and concerns for your NRCS conservation specialist.

What to Expect. An NRCS team member will visit your property and ask about your dreams and goals for your land and can help you develop a plan to obtain them. During our farm visit we can discuss conservation planning and what financial and technical support is available for you.



West Virginia
Natural
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Service

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Grazing Management

Grazing management is the combination of pasture, livestock, fencing, and grazing systems used to manage forage production and harvest. The development of a grazing management plan should be flexible and dependent on the livestock producer's goals and resources.

Rotational grazing is where livestock are moved between pastures during the grazing season, concentrating their feeding on one pasture for a few days and then moving them to a new field that is ready to graze. The grazed paddock is allowed to rest and regrow for a suitable length of time.



Why Manage? Many pasture problems such as slow growth, weed invasions, and bare ground, are caused by the pasture management methods being used. Good management is the key to healthy, productive pastures that lead to healthy, productive animals.



Soil Health Proper grazing management often leads to a more productive mix of plants, therefore soils are less compacted and more protected from the erosive forces of wind or water. The self-regenerative capacity of the land is improved. Collectively, this improvement is considered a gain in grazing land health.

Benefits of Grazing Management

- Decreased feeding of hay and silage
- Improved forage quality and quantity
- Enhanced manure distribution
- Decreased weeds
- Decreased soil compaction and erosion
- Improved animal health and productivity
- Potential increased number of animals supported

Our Conservation Partners



NRCS experts from many disciplines work together with state and local partners to ensure effective conservation practices. Individually the federal, state, and nonprofit groups that comprise our conservation partnerships

have a diversity of expertise in discipline, location/area, and focus. As partners in conservation, we share our unique areas of expertise to better put sustainable conservation on your land.

Partners NRCS frequently work with for Grazing Management include:

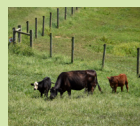
- WV Association of Conservation Districts
- WV Department of Agriculture
- WV Conservation Agency
- WVU Extension
- West Virginia University Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Various Non-Profit Organizations

Contact Us

WV USDA Service Centers

Beckley	681-220-5761
Buckeye	304-427-3006
Cross Lanes	304-776-5256 ext 108
Elkins	304-635-4399
Franklin	304-358-2285 ext 3019
Gassaway	304-364-5103 ext 4012
Huntington	304-697-6033 ext 8396
Keyser	304-788-2332 ext 108
Kingwood	304-441-3770
Lewisburg	681-318-4025
Martinsburg	681-247-3016
McMechen	304-238-5648
Middlebourne	304-758-2173
Moorefield	304-530-2825 ext 106
Mount Clare	304-566-3727
Parkersburg	304-422-9072 ext 111
Petersburg	304-257-4702 ext 117
Philippi	304-457-4516 ext 115
Point Pleasant	304-857-5101
Princeton	304-557-3128
Ranson	304-930-9043
Ripley	304-514-7171
Romney	304-822-3020 ext 101
Spencer	304-519-3007
Summersville	304-618-6126
Union	304-772-3006
Weston	681-533-4128
White Hall	304-368-6910

Common West Virginia Grazing Management Practices



Prescribed Grazing Prescribed grazing is the application of livestock grazing at a specified season and intensity to accomplish specific vegetation management goals. While traditional grazing practices are often blamed for promoting plant invasions, prescriptive grazing can be used to control invasive plant populations and enhance desirable vegetation conditions



Access Control and Fencing Access control includes temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and equipment from an area. Controlling access is often used to protect, maintain, or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources in an area. The purpose also includes aesthetic resources as well as human health and safety.



Watering Facilities A watering facility is used to provide livestock and/or wildlife with drinking water to meet their daily needs. The proper location of a trough improves animal distribution and vegetation associated with the watering facility. A watering facility is sometimes installed to keep livestock out of streams and other surface water areas where water quality is a concern.



Stream Crossing A stream crossing is a stabilized structure constructed across a stream to provide a travel way for people, livestock, equipment, or vehicles. Stream crossings can be used to provide access to another land unit, improve water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient loading of the stream, or reduce stream-bank and stream-bed erosion.



Spring Development A spring development can be installed where a spring or seep will provide a dependable supply of suitable water for the planned use. Springs are developed by removing obstructions to the flow and collecting the water. The type of collection system used for the spring development is dependent upon the type of spring and site geology.



Heavy Use Area Protection Heavy use areas or areas frequently and intensively used by people, animals or vehicles are stabilized by establishing vegetation cover, by surfacing with suitable materials, and/or by installing needed structures.

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