United States Department of Agriculture

CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

E472A

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.

- 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,.

North Dakota Sideboards:

The intent of this enhancement it to have the waterbody excluded to the extent possible and with limited access points to water, preferably an alternative water source away from the waterbody. Permanent or temporary fence may be used to exclude access. Documentation requirements for meeting the 528 practice must be implemented to fulfill the requirements of this enhancement. Refer to the 528 specification and the Statement of Work for guidance on meeting practice specification. See the below NDSU fact sheet for riparian grazing strategies. https://library.ndsu.edu/ir/handle/10365/16436

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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.

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NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and 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