



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E528107Z1

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Improved grazing management for soil compaction through monitoring activities

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Soil Quality Degradation

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals as adjusted when following recommendations of a Certified Forage and Grassland Professional, Certified Range Management Consultant, or Certified Professional in Range Management, NRCS Technical Service Provider approved for CAP 110, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher level degree in agronomy, range science or other closely-related plant science discipline and a minimum of five years' experience in pastureland conservation planning, monitoring, and consulting regarding use of pastureland improvement practices generated through pasture condition scoring (PCS).

Criteria

- A written plan for 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.
- Adjust intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing and/or browsing (providing sufficient recovery time to meet planned, written objectives) to meet the desired objectives for the plant communities and associated resources.
- Deferment (non-grazing period less than one year) and/or rest (non-grazing period equal or greater than one year) will be planned for critical periods of plant needs (such as post-planting or renovation, severe drought, etc.).



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- 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.
- Minimize concentrated livestock areas, trailing and trampling to reduce soil compaction, excess runoff and erosion. Manage grazing so as to maintain adequate ground cover, litter and canopy to maintain or improve infiltration and soil health.
- Follow these guidelines as recommended by a Certified Forage and Grassland Professional, Certified Range Management Consultant, or Certified Professional in Range Management, NRCS Technical Service Provider approved for CAP 110, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher level degree in agronomy, range science or other closely-related plant science discipline and a minimum of five years' experience in pastureland conservation planning, monitoring, and consulting regarding use of pastureland improvement practices generated through pasture condition scoring (PCS).

Documentation Requirements

- Pasture/herd in/out records.
- Forage utilization jobsheet (528-Prescribed Grazing) annually certified by NRCS.
- Pasture Condition Scoresheet for each forage type (or forage mixture) on enrolled acreage, and consultation narrative management recommendations completed by a Certified Forage and Grassland Professional, Certified Range Management Consultant, or Certified Professional in Range Management, NRCS Technical Service Provider approved for CAP 110, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher level degree in agronomy, range science or other closely-related plant science discipline and a minimum of five years' experience in pastureland conservation planning, monitoring, and consulting regarding use of pastureland improvement practices.