



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**  
**E528132Z2**

**CONSERVATION**  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
**PROGRAM**

Stockpiling cool season forage to improve plant productivity and health

**Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture**

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Degraded Plant Condition**

**PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year**

**Enhancement Description**

Grazing management employed will stop grazing events of selected paddock(s) to allow pasture forages to grow to maximum vegetative biomass accumulation before the end of the growing season.

**Criteria**

Additions to the current Prescribed Grazing Plan must include:

- A record of the pastures (or paddocks) and the acreage of each, where forage will be stockpiled.
- The acreage needed for stockpiled forage will be predetermined. For much of the eastern U.S., in the cool season forage areas, a ratio of one acre per animal unit will be the minimum needed.
- Stockpiled area will be fertilized at the beginning of the stockpiling period, according to a land grant university approved soil test, to achieve adequate forage growth.
- Livestock must be rotated into a new stockpiled paddock every 1-3 days to avoid damage to soil or forages; use temporary fencing to adjust strip size to match forage availability
- Do not allow livestock to access previously grazed stockpiled areas when spring regrowth begins until recommended forage heights exist



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- The NRCS Prescribed Grazing practice standard (528) must be followed on all pasture each year this enhancement is in effect. Note - leaving recommended residual forage heights, even though plants are dormant, are needed for erosion control and wildlife.
- Certification recorded that practice requirements have been met after grazing of stockpiled forages is complete before the new growing season begins.

### **Documentation Requirements**

- A copy of the operation's prescribed grazing plan
- Specified stockpiled acres designated on a map and in the prescribed grazing plan
- Photographs showing stockpiled forage for each pasture both before grazing of the stockpiled forage begins and after grazing will no longer be done before the next growing season.