



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E528133Z1

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Stockpiling cool season forage to improve structure and composition

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Associated Ag Land

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 designated paddocks and acreages to exclude grazing for a stated specified time period.
- Acreage needed will be calculated. For most of the eastern U.S. in the cool season forage areas using a ratio of one acre per animal unit would be needed.
- Stockpiled acreage will be supplied nutrients according to a land grant university approved soil test to achieve adequate forage growth at the beginning of the stockpiling period.
- 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.