



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**  
**E528140Z1**

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

Maintaining quantity and quality of forage for animal health and productivity

**Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range, Associated Ag Land**

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Livestock Production Limitation**

**PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year**

**Enhancement Description**

Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals for the purposes of maintaining desired pasture composition/plant vigor and improving/maintaining quantity and quality of forage for the animals' health and productivity.

**Criteria**

- A written plan 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.
- Deferments will be planned and implemented for critical periods of plant needs (such as post-planting or renovation, severe drought, etc.).
- 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.



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- Plan grazing and/or browsing to match forage quantity and quality goals of the producer within the capability of the resource to respond to management. Plan the intensity, frequency, timing, and/or browsing to reduce animal stress and mortality from toxic and poisonous plants.
- Supplemental feed and/or minerals will be balanced with the forage consumption to meet the desired nutritional level for the kind and class of grazing and/or browsing livestock.
- Dietary needs of livestock will be based on the National Research Council's Nutrient Requirements of Domestic Animals and appropriate adjustments made for increased energy demand required by browsing or grazing animals foraging for food including travel to and from pasture sites.

### **Documentation Requirements**

- Pasture/herd in/out records.
- Forage utilization job sheet (528-Prescribed Grazing) annually certified by NRCS.
- Documentation of protein and energy of consumed forages/browse based on a land grant university laboratory analysis. The analysis may be based on collected sample of the forage available to the livestock or fecal samples analyzed with appropriate Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS). This analysis needs to illuminate shortfalls and/or excessive amounts of protein and energy. Samples must be submitted in a timely manner to allow for appropriate adjustments in management and/or supplementation.
- Documentation of initial target livestock performance goals and mediation steps/actions taken to meet livestock nutrition needs and management nutritional goals including reasons for no action.