**Conservation Enhancement Activity**

**E472122Z**

**Manage livestock access to streams, ditches, and other waterbodies to reduce pathogens in surface water**

Conservation Practice 472: Access Control

**Applicable Land Use:** Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial); Pasture; Range; Forest; Associated Ag Land; Farmstead

**Resource Concern Addressed:** Water Quality Degradation

**Enhancement Life Span:** 10 years

**Enhancement Description**

Installation of structures and implementation of grazing management actions that restrict livestock access to streams, ditches, and other waterbodies in order to reduce the introduction of pathogens to surface waters.

**Criteria**

- Manage livestock access to provide positive benefits to surface water quality, especially due to better manure distribution and reduction of pathogen input into surface waters.
- Use-regulating activities (e.g., gates, fences, and other barriers) shall be implemented to eliminate livestock access to streams to reduce pathogens 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/exclusion from the target water course or waterbody. Activities may involve temporary to permanent livestock exclusion.

- Placement, location, dimensions and materials (e.g., gates), and frequency of use (e.g., continuous) shall be described for each activity including monitoring frequency.
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 a written narrative describing planned season of livestock grazing use must be included in grazing plan.

☐ 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:
  
  o Written grazing plan.
  
  o Pasture/herd in/out records.
  
  o Plan map showing locations of installed structures.

NRCS will:

☐ As needed, provide additional technical assistance to the participant as requested.

☐ After implementation, complete forage utilization jobsheet 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.
NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name ______________________________ Contract Number _______________

Total Amount Applied ______________________ Fiscal Year Completed ____________

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NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature Date