



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E528119Z**

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Grazing management that protects sensitive areas-ground water from nutrients

**Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range**

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Water Quality Degradation**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year**

**Enhancement Description**

Grazing management employed will provide cover and density needed in the watershed in order to protect sensitive areas such as sinkholes, streams, highly erodible areas, or locations with plants that cannot tolerate defoliation.

**Criteria**

- A written plan for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand by livestock and wildlife will be followed.
- Enhance diversity of plants to optimize delivery of nutrients to the animals by incorporating the intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing and/or browsing needed as determined by a planning process that includes: 1) Clear objectives, 2) A resource inventory including a forage inventory, structural improvements, and existing resource conditions, 3) Grazing plan, and 4) A contingency plan.
- 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.

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- Minimize concentrated livestock areas to enhance nutrient distribution and improve or maintain ground cover.
- Plan the intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing and/or browsing that will:
  - Minimize deposition or flow of animal wastes into water bodies or sinkholes,
  - Minimize animal impacts on stream bank or shoreline stability,
  - Provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve infiltration capacity and reduce runoff, and
  - Provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve filtering capacity of the vegetation.
- Livestock feeding and watering facilities will be located and designed/installed in a manner to improve livestock distribution and avoid overland flow to sensitive areas.
- When nutrients are applied on pastureland, soil testing and nutrient application will be done according to local land grant university guidance or the equivalent there of.



**Documentation and Implementation Requirements**

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Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, obtain a written grazing plan that identifies the following:
  - The goals and objectives of the plan
  - Forage/Animal Balance
  - A grazing plan narrative describing the basis for when livestock movement or rotation will occur.
  - Contingency plans for forage shortfalls.
  - Monitoring locations, key species, and monitoring techniques.
  - A map identifying all permanent pastures, water sources, and any riparian area or other sensitive areas improved or maintained by this management.
- Prior to implementation, a nutrient management plan will be developed if nutrients will be applied. The nutrient management plan will detail appropriate soil testing protocol and acceptable nutrient application amounts.
- Prior to implementation, a copy of the competed grazing plan will be submitted to NRCS for review and approval.
- During implementation, consult with NRCS or a qualified grazing professional to adjust and adapt the grazing plan to current conditions. Changes to the grazing plan will be documented in writing.
- After implementation, make all records available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, assist the participant with development of a grazing plan and/or nutrient management plan, as requested. If NRCS does not assist with plan development, review the plan for approval prior to implementation.
- During implementation, as requested, assist the participant with adapting the grazing strategy and plan to current conditions.

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- After implementation, review written grazing records provided by the participant to determine if the grazing plan was adequately followed to protect or enhance riparian areas, wetland areas, or overall watershed function.
- After implementation, if nutrients have been applied, soil testing and application records will be reviewed to determine if nutrients have been applied responsibly.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date