



Natural Resources Conservation Service - Maine

December 2015

Appropriate grazing management can greatly increase the amount of forage produced per acre, at the same time protecting water quality.

What is a GMP CAP?

A Grazing Management Plan (GMP) is a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) which documents how pasture land will be managed for forage production and to address resource concerns. Proper grazing management results in improved pasture forage yields, improved forage utilization by livestock, and protection of the natural resources. In addition, for organic producers needing to meet the Pasture Rule, a GMP will provide an estimate of the amount of pasture forage available to meet the pasture dry matter intake requirements.

Developing a GMP

Grazing Management Plans will be developed by an independent Technical Service Provider (TSP). You will be responsible for contacting and hiring the TSP. You can find the names of certified TSPs at <http://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or through your local NRCS office.

A GMP is developed in accordance with the NRCS Criteria outlined for this CAP. The plan includes:

- Producer Objectives
- Evaluation of existing resources, such as soils, pasture condition, current management, existing infrastructure (fence, laneways, watering system), and resource concerns
- Type, number and size or class of livestock grazing, and their daily dry matter intake needs
- Number of available grazing acres
- Contingency planning for mud, drought, and winter conditions
- Planned forage/animal balance
- Monitoring Plan
- Recordkeeping

In addition to Prescribed Grazing Management principles and practices, the plan may include other supporting conservation practices such as Fence, Watering Facility, Forage and Biomass Planting, and Nutrient Management. These practices can help you to better manage your pasture resources. They are potentially eligible for some funding in a future Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract.

Payment Information

The NRCS payments for a GMP are fixed, regardless of what a TSP charges for the plan. Participants are responsible for paying the difference. The current rates for a GMP are:

| Component | 2016 Payment Rate General / HU* |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| < 100 acres | \$933 / \$1,120 |
| 100 - <1,500 acres | \$2,449 / \$2,939 |
| 1,500 - 5,000 acres | \$4,082 / \$4,898 |
| >5,000 acres | \$5,248 / \$6,297 |

Applications are being accepted on a continuous basis.

Need More Information? Contact:

Androscoggin/Sagadahoc Counties

254 Goddard Road
Lewiston, ME 04241
(207) 753-9400

Aroostook County:

Central Aroostook
735 Main Street, Suite #3
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 764-4153

Southern Aroostook
304 North Street
Houlton, ME 04730
(207) 532-2087

St. John Valley
139 Market Street, Suite 106
Fort Kent, ME 04743
(207) 834-3311

Cumberland and York Counties

306 U.S. Route 1, Suite A1
Scarborough, ME 04074
(207) 883-0159

Franklin County

107 Park Street
Farmington, ME 04938
(207) 778-4767

Hancock County

1423 Broadway, Suite #4
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 947-6622 ext. 5

Kennebec and Lincoln Counties

Central Maine Commerce Center
21 Enterprise Drive, Suite #1
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-7847

Oxford County

17 Olson Road
So. Paris, ME 04281
(207) 743-5789

Penobscot County

1423 Broadway, Suite #2
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 947-6622

Piscataquis County

42 Engdahl Drive
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
(207) 564-2321

Somerset County

70 East Madison Road
Skowhegan, ME 04976
(207) 474-8324

Waldo and Knox Counties

46 Little River Drive
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-1964

Washington County

8 M & M Place, #5B
Machias, ME 04654
(207) 255-3995