



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E528A**

**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: Animals**

**ENHANCEMENT 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 following the recommendations of a qualifying professional, as detailed in the documentation and implementation requirements.

**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.).

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- 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.
- 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.
- The Certified Consultant provided recommendations or qualified, non-affiliated consultant (see documentation requirements) will be based on the National Research Council's Nutrient Requirements of Domestic Animals.



**Documentation and Implementation Requirements**

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**Participant will:**

- Prior to implementation, make initial target livestock performance goals and mediation actions taken available to NRCS; including reasons for no action.
- Prior to implementation, obtain a written plan for collecting samples, sample analysis, and corresponding management recommendations as developed and provided by a Certified Range Management Consultant, Certified Professional in Range Management, Certified Forage and Grassland Professional, NRCS Technical Service Provider certified for CAP 110, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher level degree in forage agronomy, range science or other closely-related plant science discipline and a minimum of five years' experience in grazing lands conservation planning and grazing animal nutrition.
- During implementation, keep records to annually document prescribed grazing requirements are met.
- After implementation, make available 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.**
- After implementation, make grazing and supplementation records available for review by NRCS.

**NRCS will:**

- Prior to implementation, assist the participant with development of a grazing plan if requested to do so.
- During implementation, as requested, assist the participant with adapting the grazing strategy and plan to current conditions.
- After implementation, review forage or fecal sampling schedule and corresponding management actions taken to determine if a supplementation plan was reasonably followed.

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- After implementation, annually review documentation provided indicating that prescribed grazing specifications have been met and to verify the enhancement has been implemented.

**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