New Mexico Supplemental Criteria and Documentation Requirements For



# E528140Z1 Maintaining quantity and quality of forage for animal health and productivity

## **Additional Documentation Requirements for New Mexico**

National job sheet E528140Z1 requires documentation of the 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.

The following additional documentation requirements apply in New Mexico:

The grazing plan must document the number, timing and fields that the samples will be collected from in order to adequately identify the key times of year where shortfalls and/or excessive amounts of protein and energy need to be known. The number, timing and field locations are to be determined by NRCS and the participant based on the type of livestock operation and the management goals of the participant. The amount, timing and locations can change in different years if the enhancement is contracted for more than one year. If contracted for more than one year the grazing plan in the following year will need to consider the sample results from the previous year.

The flow chart below can be used as a guide to determine how many samples are needed, the time of year or lifecycle stage of the livestock and the fields were samples should be collected from.

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The contract participant will be required to provide documentation that shows the initial target livestock performance goals, steps/action that were taken to meet livestock needs and management nutritional goals based on the sample results including the reasons for no action when there was no change in management or supplementation from the previous years.

# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Guidelines for Forage and Fecal Sampling for Animal Health and Productivity for Beef Operations

# **Mature Cows**

#### Sample 1: After First Freeze in the Fall (Mid October)

Repeat Sample Cycle

This is the period where most producers begin to initiate feeding programs. Generally digestibility and crude protein values decline in a linear fashion relative to the decline in soil moisture and day length.

#### Sample 6: Mid Summer "Slump" (Mid August)

Sampling when senescence (seed head formation) begins to exceed green leaf growth. Forage nutrition begins to decline and sampling can provide guidance on whether supplementation should be provided to prevent major weight loss later in the year.

#### Sample 5: Summer (Mid July)

Sampling in the summer when the majority of forage is actively growing gives a producer a analysis of the strength and production of the pasture. It also provides an opportunity to judge any animal in a body condition score that Is lower than desired and add supplemental feed to those individuals when it doesn't take as much supplement for an animal to gain weight.

#### Sample 2: Winter Period (November-December)

Forage quality declines after dormancy occurs and continues to decline with winter storms. Most cows are in their second trimester of gestation.

#### Sample 3: Winter to Spring (Mid February)

This is generally the highest nutrition requirement period for cows since they are in their third trimester, beginning to calve and starting to lactate.

#### Sample 4: Spring-(Mid March)

This is generally the early stages of spring green-up. Cows are at full lactation, and usually the time when producers make decisions on when to decrease supplemental feed.

Forage Tissue Sampling provided by most Land Grant Universities, see individual lab for specific instructions.

#### **Replacement or First-time Heifers**

#### Samples 1-12: Weaning heifers

Sample monthly to ensure daily gain is sufficient to reach 65% of mature weight by breeding season and 85% of mature weight by calving time.

#### **Stockers & Conditioning Calves**

Sample at least once a month (or more frequent) until enough data is known to make decisions and feeding adjustments to ensure targeted weight or desired animal performance is met by desired date.

#### Bulls

#### Sample in Early Spring

Sampling early in the spring can ensure they are on a positive plane of nutrition going into the breeding season.

### Additional samples

should be collected anytime body condition score is below what is desired.

More information for NIRS can be found at: https://cnrit.tamu.edu/ganlab/pagesmith/8

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