



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528F (With Montana Supplement)

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

Stockpiling cool season forage to improve structure and composition or plant productivity and health

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture; Associated Agricultural Land; Crop (Perennial); Crop (Annual and Mixed)

RESOURCE CONCERN: Plants

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Grazing management employed will stop grazing events of selected paddock(s) to allow pasture forages to grow to maximum vegetative biomass accumulation before the end of the growing season.

Criteria

Additions to the current Prescribed Grazing Plan must include:

- A record of designated paddocks and acreages to exclude grazing for a stated specified time period.
- The acreage needed for stockpiled forage will be predetermined.
- Stockpiled acreage will be supplied nutrients according to a land grant university approved soil test to achieve adequate forage growth at the beginning of the stockpiling period.
- Stockpile will be grazed in a manner that maintains specified minimum forage heights in the grazing plan to avoid damage to soil or forage

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- Do not allow livestock to access previously grazed stockpiled areas when spring regrowth begins until recommended forage heights exist.
- The NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) must be followed on all pasture each year this enhancement is in effect. Note - leaving recommended residual forage heights, even though plants are dormant, are needed for erosion control and wildlife.
- Certification recorded that practice requirements have been met after grazing of stockpiled forages is complete before the new growing season begins.
- **MT: A set amount of pastureland acreage, determined by the local NRCS, specific to the producer’s operation, must be left un-grazed for the entire growing season, defined by Montana as April 1st to October 1st. After October 1st, the stockpiled forage can be grazed to the appropriate stubble height for the species present (as per the Montana Prescribed Grazing and Forage Harvest Management Specifications).**
- **Recommended amount of stockpiled forage is 3-weeks or more for the herd(s) being grazed. NRCS planners will need to use discretion to determine if the stockpiled amount makes sense within the grazing plan and meets the intent of the enhancement, which is to extend the grazing season and use less hay. It is recommended that the area where forage is stockpiled is rotated from year to year.**

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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Y Prior to implementation, develop a prescribed grazing plan including a plan map that delineates where forage stockpiling will occur. Make these materials available to NRCS for review.
- Y After implementation, make grazing records and photo documentation of stockpiling and level of use available to NRCS.

NRCS will:

- Y Prior to implementation, review grazing plan and maps provided by participant.
- Y During implementation, as requested, assist the participant with adapting the grazing strategy and plan to current conditions.
- Y After implementation, review records and photos provide to confirm adequate stockpiling and acceptable levels of grazing use.

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

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