



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528I

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Grazing management that protects sensitive areas-surface or ground water from nutrients

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range

RESOURCE CONCERN: Water

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.
 - 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 thereof.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

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 completed 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.
- Prior to implementation, review the plan(s) if not developed by NRCS.
- Prior to implementation, review soil test analysis

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- During implementation, as requested, assist the participant with adapting the grazing strategy and plan to current conditions.
- 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 other sensitive areas.
- After implementation, review the nutrient management plan and application record to ensure nutrients were applied according to the plan.

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

North Dakota Sideboards: Eligible acres for this enhancement are only the riparian paddock acres. The USA Topo Maps in the base map gallery in CD can be used to identify those acres. Dotted and solid blue lines will be eligible as riparian corridors. Documentation requirements for meeting the 528 practice must be implemented to fulfill the requirements of this enhancement. Refer to the 528 specification and the Statement of Work for guidance on meeting practice specification. To meet this enhancement, riparian paddock residual stubble will be no less than 4." For monitoring instructions you can refer to Appendix A of the 528 specification as well as this link from NDSU.

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/livestock/the-north-dakota-grazing-monitoring-stick-a-way-to-measure-range-and-pasture-utilization>

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