

Animal Enhancement Activity - ANM29 – On-farm forage based grazing system



Enhancement Description

A forage based grazing system that supplies all roughage (forage and hay) requirements for a livestock operation.

Land Use Applicability

Pastureland, rangeland and forestland.

Benefits

Forage based grazing systems reduce the time that livestock are confined resulting in less manure to store and allows manure to become a fertilizer instead of a pollutant. Management of perennial grass and forb ground cover improves nutrient and water cycling, soil structure and increases organic matter. Energy conservation is achieved by reducing annual cropping, transport of feed and less reliance on synthetic nitrogen.

Criteria

1. A forage based grazing system is used to provide all livestock feed and nutrient needs for the duration that the animals are on the producers land.
2. Livestock operations include those that produce cattle, sheep, goats, etc.
3. Manage pasture grazing and rest periods to follow NRCS Prescribed Grazing practice standard (528) criteria for recommended maximum (begin) and minimum (end) grazing heights by forage species or Ecological Site Description interpretations. Begin and end grazing heights are followed to maximize forage quality and palatability and promote rapid recovery and forage regrowth.
 - a. Maintain a livestock watering system that accommodates an appropriate grazing strategy through several different pastures or paddocks during the grazing season.
 - b. Follow NRCS practice standard criteria for Prescribed Grazing (528), Watering Facility (614), Pipeline (516), or other related standards for appropriate supply and travel distance to water.
 - c. Use fencing that is permanent, semi-permanent, and/or temporary to facilitate pasture rotation and/or livestock distribution improvement. Follow the NRCS Fence practice standard (382).

Documentation Requirements

1. Provide a written grazing plan following the 'Plans and Specifications' guidelines in the Prescribed Grazing standard. Include time and timing of grazing, minimum and maximum grazing heights, season of use, grazing records and monitoring plan of pastures/paddocks in the grazing plan, as appropriate for the landuse.

NRCS Pasture Notes, graziers notebooks, or other record keeping systems for pasture livestock operations can be used to facilitate record-keeping.