



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Animals Enhancement Activity – ANM02-Defer Crop Production on Temporary and Seasonal Wetlands



Enhancement Description

Deferring crop production on temporary and/or seasonal wetlands until after spring migratory bird season to promote early successional wetland habitat.

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable on cropland

Benefits

Undisturbed temporary and seasonal wetlands provide cover and food for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wetland-dependent wildlife species. Delaying the physical disturbance of temporary and seasonal wetlands allows migratory species to reach nesting grounds in better physical condition and improves hatching success.

Criteria for Deferred Crop Production

Temporary and seasonal wetlands in cropland will be left undisturbed until after dates established by NRCS State Offices. Herbaceous vegetation may be manipulated a maximum of once every five (5) years to maintain the desired plant community.

Requirements for Wetland Defer Crop Production on Temporary and Seasonal Wetlands

- ◆ This enhancement can be used to protect temporary and seasonal wetlands on all cropland acres.
- ◆ Refrain from cultivating the entire temporary/seasonal wetland until after the dates established for this enhancement.
- ◆ Haying, grazing, prescribed burning, and light disking can be used to manipulate the herbaceous vegetation after the established dates.
- ◆ For implementation of this enhancement, production should be deferred on at least 1% of cropland.

Documentation Requirements

- An aerial photograph showing the areas where deferred cropping takes place
- A schedule showing when crops were planted on the deferred areas



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NH State Supplement

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Criteria

Manipulation of vegetation may occur in seasonally ponded grasslands after August 15th. This date allows enough time for grassland/shrubland birds and amphibians to successfully complete their lifecycles. Migratory waterfowl nest in the spring in NH and a fall manipulation of vegetation will not effect their migration south.