



EQIP 528 PRACTICE GUIDELINES: Rotational Feeding Incentive

EQIP FY 2008 Cost list item: 528--Prescribed Grazing—Alternative Feeding (\$1,000 per existing denuded feeding area--\$3,000 maximum incentive per operation)

- This practice must be implemented for three years as part of a livestock grazing system that meets NC NRCS standard 528, prescribed grazing. A producer may receive cost-share for the basic prescribed grazing practice (or enhanced PCS incentive) and the rotational feeding incentive.

Name/EQIP contract number: _____



Round bale unroller being used to spread hay over large feeding area.

Rolled out hay being protected from cattle traffic with the use of a single electric wire

Purposes of incentive practice:

- To improve water quality by reducing concentrated nutrient loading
- To reduce pasture fertilization inputs through improved uniformity of livestock manure and urine distribution—thereby reducing energy costs.
- To eliminate or reduce the need for permanently constructed heavy use areas
- To eliminate soil erosion from bare ground caused by excessive animal traffic near feeding sites
- To improve forages by better utilizing a prescribed grazing (rotational) system
- To improve animal health through reducing the mud and unsanitary conditions associated with most winter feeding sites

Conditions for practice eligibility: To be eligible for this practice, a producer must have a minimum of one denuded concentrated feeding area that is creating a resource concern such that “traditional” heavy use area protection may have been considered a solution. Conservation planners must ensure that a sufficient number of potential rotational feeding sites exist prior to contract approval.

DC initials

Practice Requirements:

- Existing, long-term concentrated feeding sites must be revegetated/stabilized using NRCS standard 342, critical area planting. Cost-sharing may be used in combination with this incentive to reestablish existing feeding areas.

- Feeding should not take place on the same site for more than 4 days. Spread hay within the feeding area using a portable hay ring, feeding wagon, rolled out bales, etc.
- Feeding sites may be located no closer than 100 feet from another feeding site or closer than 100 feet to watering sites, other surface water, wetlands, or sinkholes. (The 100 feet from other feeding sites condition is waved if unrolling hay is the feeding method used)
- Feeding sites will be located on sites with slopes less than 15 percent
- Feeding sites will not be located in areas of concentrated flow
- Feeding sites may not be reused during a single feeding season.
- Feeding may not occur on the original denuded feeding site for at least one year after vegetation establishment

Considerations for further improved forage utilization:

- Participants are encouraged to further improve their forage system in order to maximize grazing use. Use the Pastureland Conditioning Scorecard to advise and monitor improvements on grassland. The PCS Scorecard, as well as other prescribed grazing information, is available at the NC NRCS Technical Resources website: <http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/TechRef/techref-animals.html>
- Participants are encouraged to start supplemental feeding in the fall to provide time and acreage for “stockpiling” fall forage growth to be grazed during the traditional winter feeding months. This would lessen the potential environmental impacts of supplemental feeding during extreme winter weather conditions.
- Fall fertilization of pastures, based on soil tests and the NRCS 590 Nutrient Management standard, would be necessary to encourage maximum growth of forages during the “stockpile” period.

Certification Checklist of Practice Outcomes:

- Existing denuded permanent feeding areas are vegetated and stabilized.
- Livestock trails to denuded permanent feeding sites are recovering
- Prescribed grazing is being followed, thus improving utilization of grassland (prescribed grazing checklist must be completed)
- Evidence of rotational feeding is apparent (multiple feeding sites visible, lack of mud on old concentrated sites, etc.)

(Year 1) I certify that the rotational feeding incentive has been completed per practice guidelines and the NRCS prescribed grazing standard.

Designated conservationist

Date

Year 2
certification

Year 3
certification