

# Prescribed Grazing

## Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet 528



**Definition**

Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals.

**Criteria**

Remove herbage in accordance with site production limitations, rate of plant growth, the physiological needs of forage plants and the nutritional needs of the animals.

Supply adequate quantity and quality drinking water at all times during period of occupancy.

Adjust intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing and/or browsing to meet the desired objectives for the plant communities and the associated resources, including the grazing and/or browsing animal.

Manage kind of animal, animal number, grazing distribution, length of grazing and/or browsing periods and timing of use to provide grazed plants sufficient recovery time to meet planned objectives. Plan deferment or rest for the critical needs of plants.

Provide deferment or rest from grazing or browsing to ensure the success of prescribed fire, brush management, seeding or other conservation practices that cause stress or damage to key plants.

Manage grazing and/or browsing animals to maintain adequate vegetative cover on sensitive areas (i.e. riparian, wetland, habitats of concern, karst areas).

Manage livestock movements based on rate of plant growth, available forage, and allowable utilization target.

Develop contingency plans to deal with expected episodic disturbance events e.g. insect infestation, drought, wildfire, etc.

Any additional criteria listed in the 528 practice standard that apply to this specific plan should be included here:

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**Operation and Maintenance**

**Operation.** Prescribed grazing will be applied on a continuing basis throughout the occupation period of all planned grazing units.

Adjustments will be made as needed to ensure that the goals and objectives of the prescribed grazing strategy are met.

**Maintenance.** Monitoring will include an annual walkover for visual evaluation documented by a pasture condition score sheet to insure that objectives are being met. Based on the evaluation, any necessary changes must be written into an updated prescribed grazing plan to meet objectives.

Move livestock to a feedlot or designated sacrifice area in times of drought or very wet soil conditions to protect the integrity of the pasture sod.

Renovate and/or re-seed pastures if the stand is undesirable or unable to meet system needs.

Soil test all pastures and hay fields (minimum every 3 years) and maintain adequate nutrient

and pH levels based on soil test results to achieve expected forage productivity and persistence.

All facilitating and accelerating practices (e.g. *Fence* (382), *Pest Management* (595), *Brush Management* (314), *Pasture Planting* (512) (etc.) that are needed to affect adequate grazing and/or browsing distribution as planned by this practice standard will be maintained in good working order and operated as intended.

Additional Operation and Maintenance requirements specific to this plan:

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Producer \_\_\_\_\_ Farm # \_\_\_\_\_ Tract # \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office \_\_\_\_\_ Contract # \_\_\_\_\_

Producer's Purpose
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve or maintain desired species composition and vigor of plant communities. <input type="checkbox"/> Improve or maintain quantity and quality of forage for grazing and browsing animals' health and productivity. <input type="checkbox"/> Improve or maintain surface and/or subsurface water quality and quantity. <input type="checkbox"/> Improve or maintain riparian and watershed function. <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce accelerated soil erosion, and maintain or improve soil condition. <input type="checkbox"/> Improve or maintain the quantity and quality of food and/or cover available for wildlife. <input type="checkbox"/> Manage fine fuel loads to achieve desired conditions.
Practice Specifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief description of the benchmark forage/livestock system is included in the grazing plan:   <input type="checkbox"/> Yes       <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>• Existing resource concerns identified in grazing plan:   <input type="checkbox"/> Yes       <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>• Opportunities for resource enhancement listed in grazing plan:   <input type="checkbox"/> Yes       <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>• Producers goals outlined in grazing plan:   <input type="checkbox"/> Yes       <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>• Completed PCS sheet included in grazing plan:   <input type="checkbox"/> Yes       <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>• Benchmark forage and livestock information:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total grazeable acres: _____</li> <li># of existing paddocks: _____</li> <li># of herds managed separately in system: _____</li> <li>Overall stocking rate: _____ acres/au</li> <li>Estimated average grazing period and efficiency:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous:   <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy           <input type="checkbox"/> Lax</li> <li>Rotational:   <input type="checkbox"/> 1-4 day       <input type="checkbox"/> 5-14 days       <input type="checkbox"/> 15-21 days</li> </ul> </li> <li>Forage-livestock balance:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forage D.M. produced _____ tons/ac</li> <li>Forage D.M. required _____ tons/ac</li> <li>Amount of extra hay or feed needed to meet herd requirement _____ D.M. tons</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Final forage and livestock information:

Total Grazeable Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  
 # of existing paddocks: \_\_\_\_\_  
 # of herds managed separately in system: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Overall stocking rate: \_\_\_\_\_ acres/au

Estimated average grazing period and efficiency:

Continuous:  Heavy  Lax  
 Rotational:  1-4 day  5-14 days  15-21 days

Forage-livestock balance:

Forage D.M. produced \_\_\_\_\_ tons/ac  
 Forage D.M. required \_\_\_\_\_ tons/ac  
 Amount of extra hay or feed needed to meet herd requirement \_\_\_\_\_ D.M. tons

- Grazing guidelines outlined in grazing plan (includes minimum grazing heights and suggested rest periods based on forage species) :  Yes  No
- Contingency plan included in grazing plan:  Yes  No
- Updated grazing plan map included with grazing plan:  Yes  No  
 (Including farm, tract, and field #'s, grazing unit layout, acres, fencing, water system, and sacrifice area)
- Soil sample results and fertilizer/lime recommendations for complete pasture system within the last 3 years is included in the grazing plan:  Yes  No
- Soils map (with pasture system outline), pasture productivity rating by mapping unit, and basic soil description included as supplemental plan information:  Yes  No

**Planner Certification**

This Prescribed Grazing plan meets the requirements of NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 528.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature Title Date

**Certification of Practice Completion**

This Prescribed Grazing Plan has been completed and maintained according to NRCS plans and specifications. (Indicate in Practice Specifications if there were any changes to the planned practice and acreage.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature Title Date

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"= \_\_\_\_\_ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")


**Additional Specifications and Notes:**

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