

## Pasture

### Planning Resource Management Systems

Successful resource management on pasture is the correct application of a combination of practices that will meet the needs of the pasture ecosystem (soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources) and the objectives of the land user.

Quality criteria that must be met on pastureland for each of the resource concerns is explained in Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide.

In planning a pasture Resource Management System (RMS), the vegetative management practice Prescribed Grazing - 528A is the foundation on which the RMS is built and is ESSENTIAL to the proper management of pasture. A grazing management plan that balances the forage and feed to the animal numbers and describes the animal movement through the pastures that meets the needs of the plants, animals, soil, water, and air is basic to the formulation of a RMS on pasture. Nutrient Management and Pest Management are ESSENTIAL to management fertility and pest problems. Water for the animals of concern must be provided, thus making natural water or watering facilities ESSENTIAL to a pasture RMS.

All other practices to establish, renovate, more intensively manage, or treat other identified resource problems are NEEDED practices. These NEEDED practices are planned when necessary to facilitate or enhance the vegetative management practices or treat specific resource problems to meet the quality criteria.

Resource Management Systems include combination of practices that are:

1. ESSENTIAL - A vegetative management practice and livestock water are essential to successful pasture management and are always planned in the RMS.
2. NEEDED - These practices are planned when necessary to establish, renovate, more intensively manage, or treat specific resource problems to meet the RMS criteria.

An RMS is developed by selecting a combination of the ESSENTIAL, plus the NEEDED practices, or both, whose combined effects will meet the quality criteria for each resource (soil, water, air, plant, and animal) and the objectives of the land user. The following is a list of ESSENTIAL and NEEDED practices applicable to pastureland.

#### ESSENTIAL Practices

Prescribed Grazing - 528A  
Nutrient Management - 590  
Pest Management - 595  
Water\*

## **NEEDED Practices\*\***

Access Road - 560  
Animal Trails and Walkways - 575  
Critical Area Planting - 342  
Diversion - 362  
Fence - 382  
Grade Stabilization Structure - 410  
Heavy Use Area Protection - 561  
Land Clearing - 460  
Pasture & Hayland Planting - 512  
Pipeline - 516  
Pond - 378  
Prescribed Burning - 338  
Spring Development - 574  
Stream Crossing - 728  
Streambank and Shoreline Protection - 580  
Trough or Tank - 614  
Well - 642  
Wildlife Upland Habitat Management - 645

\*There must be water for animal use in a pasture. This could be provided by pond, spring development and trough, or natural stream.

\*\*Other practices may be required to treat specific resource problems to meet the RMS criteria.