United States Department of Agriculture
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Prescribed Grazing

Job Sheet (528)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Kentucky February, 2012

Client's Name _____

Farm # _____ Tract #_____

Purpose

This job sheet will be used in the management and controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing or browsing animals.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

On all lands where grazing land/or browsing animals are managed.

Prescribed Grazing Management

Forage utilization will be managed based on the potential production, current rate of growth, management goals, and the physiological needs of forage plants. Refer to the attached grazing plan portion of the "Kentucky Graze" spreadsheet as a reference in determining the suggested number of grazing animals, timing of use, length of grazing periods, and the deferment periods required to maintain a desirable, productive plant community consistent with the prescribed grazing heights listed below: *(from 528 Standard, table 3)*

Field	Forage Crop	Begin Grazing Height	End Grazing Height
____	_____	____	____
____	_____	____	____
____	_____	____	____
____	_____	____	____
____	_____	____	____
____	_____	____	____
____	_____	____	____

Prescribed Grazing Plan

The forage inventory, forage-animal balance, and grazing plan is attached to this job sheet. Guidelines are listed in the Prescribed Grazing Standard (Code 528) and are usually developed with "Kentucky Graze" graze.xls spreadsheet. *(attach plan/Kentucky Graze spreadsheet)*

The contingency narrative below details potential problems (severe drought, flooding, wet and warm winters, etc) that you as the producer anticipate. Those problems will require some adjustment to this grazing prescription to avoid resource degradation and accompanying economic erosion. Adequate stubble heights (listed on the left) should be employed on the majority of all pastureland throughout the livestock occupation period.

As decision maker, you may need to graze one pasture close (sacrifice one paddock) to protect other pastures from being overgrazed, to aid in maintenance of legumes, to control weeds, or to provide high quality forage at a later date. However, at any one time, no more than 20 percent of the total grazing acreage should be grazed lower than the "End Grazing Height" (listed above in "Prescribed Grazing

Management”). In order to accomplish this, you will want to plan ahead for potential problems or pitfalls. Many producers determine ahead to: (1) Move or rotate livestock to another pasture, (2) Feed hay or other supplemental feed, (3) Reduce the number of animals on-site, (4) Lease additional pasture, (5) Fertilize when moisture is available or seed annual forages, (6) Strategically confine and feed livestock, (7) Maintain stockpiled “emergency” grazing reserves in the form of wildlife sanctuaries, or various combinations of these and other emergency opportunities. Remember, a contingency plan can often position you to take advantage of market swings when grazing reserves are down everywhere.

Contingency Narrative (or attached)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Certifications			
Job Sheet	Prepared by:	Title:	Date:
	Approved by:	Title:	Date:
Installation	Meets NRCS standards and specifications.		
	Certification by:	Title:	Date:

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.