



Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL19 – Transition to organic grazing systems

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA) with the following clarifications:

- To assist with formulating and evaluating the alternatives, the following forms can be used (or other forms that gather the same type of information):
 - Livestock Inventory and Forage Balance Worksheet ([NE-ECS-61](#)) 1 – current and for each alternative
 - Prescribed Grazing Schedule ([NE-ECS-62](#)) 1 – current and for each alternative
 - Maps identifying the facilitating and accelerating practices – current and for each alternative
- If livestock are on the operating unit, then prescribed grazing should be scheduled and applied from the beginning. If fencing and water development must be installed before applying the prescribed grazing plan, then they should normally be installed next.
- Water developments generally are installed before fences because the specific locations of planned ponds, wells, and pipelines may need to be moved to a new location, which may affect the location of the planned fence. Once the water developments are applied, then the fencing can be installed without worry of whether the pond can be built or the planned well will yield a sufficient water supply.
- After the fences and water distribution are installed, the prescribed grazing plan can be initiated. Accelerating practices, such as brush management, range planting, prescribed burning, and critical area treatment, can now be performed as fencing and water development will allow the needed grazing management to be applied. Each operating unit will have its unique set of circumstances that dictate the schedule of application. A major point to remember is that grazing management is the key to the success of all accelerating practices.



Documentation Requirements (SEE NATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY JOBSHEET)
Additional Documentation Requirements

Complete the Table below:

| Tract & Field#(s) | Total Acres | Management: Rotation or Non-Rotation ¹ | Number of Livestock and Class of Livestock ² | Date In | Date Out | Forage use level (%) or residue height (in.) ³ |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|---|---------------|----------------|---|
| <i>EX. T1234 R1</i> | <i>80</i> | <i>Non-Rotation</i> | <i>40 Yearlings</i> | <i>5/1/09</i> | <i>9/15/09</i> | <i>Heavy >60%</i> |
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¹**Rotation** – A grazing method utilizing recurring periods of grazing and rest between paddocks or grazing units. Livestock are rotated through multiple grazing land units/paddocks during the grazing season.
¹**Non-Rotation** – Cattle are not rotated to other grazing land units/paddocks during the grazing season.
²**Livestock Class** – cow/calf, yearlings, bulls, heifers, dry cows, horse, sheep, goats, etc.
³**Forage Use** - Record percent (%) use for current year in air-dry weight of forages at the end of the growing season: Light = 25-39%, Moderate = 40-60%, Heavy = >60%, or record residue height in inches of remaining forage at the end of the growing season.

I certify that the enhancement criteria have been met and the required documentation provided to NRCS.

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____

References

Written documentation on the following forms or equivalents: [NE-ECS-528](#) Prescribed Grazing Jobsheet; [NE-ECS-60](#) Forage Inventory; [NE-ECS-61](#) Livestock Inventory and Forage Balance Worksheet; [NE-ECS-414](#) Proper Grazing Use Worksheet; [NE-ECS-62](#) Prescribed Grazing Schedule; and [NE-ECS-64](#) Actual Grazing Use Report.