



Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM64 – Managing livestock parturition to coincide with forage availability

State Criteria:

Warm Season Forage Species or Mixed Season Forage (Typical grazing Season is May 1 – October 1).

To meet the criteria of the enhancement, 50 percent of the breeding females will be required to give birth on or after April 1 by the third year of the contract, and 75 percent of the females will be required to give birth on or after April 1 by the fourth year of the contract.

If the criteria above is already being met, this enhancement could also be applied if 50 percent of the breeding females can be shifted to give birth two-weeks later by the third year of the contract, and 75 percent of the breeding females can be shifted to give birth two-weeks later by the fourth year of the contract, providing that this two-week shift does not extend beyond June 1.

Cool Season Forage Species (Typical grazing Season is April 1–July 1 and September 1–October 31).

For herds primarily utilizing cool-season perennial forages:

1. With forage species capable of producing significant amounts of quality forage in both the spring and fall growing seasons, split parturition can be planned.
2. Spring birthing herds should begin parturition no earlier than March 1 and be completed by April 30.
3. Fall birthing herds should begin parturition no earlier than August 1 and be completed by September 30.

Documentation Requirements (SEE NATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY JOBSHEET)

Additional State Documentation Requirements:

Complete the Table below:

To be completed by NRCS and Producer during planning			To be completed by Producer during certification				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Tract	Field	Acres Planned	Acres Applied	Projected parturition dates (start→end)	Actual parturition dates (start→end)	Number of births	Type of forage
<i>Ex. T1001</i>	<i>R1</i>	<i>640</i>	<i>640</i>	<i>06/11/2014-07/25/2014</i>	<i>06/25/2014-07/11/2014</i>	<i>100</i>	

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-3 NRCS COMPLETES, COLUMNS 4-8 PRODUCER COMPLETES



Approximate dates for forage readiness, in order for the producer to plan approximate birthing dates, can be inferred for common range and pasture species in Nebraska based on NRCS Prescribed Grazing practice specifications Table 3 (see below).

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

Certified by: _____ Date: _____

^{1/} **Table 3. Recommendations for Beginning and Ending Grazing (Heights and Dates) for Nebraska Pastures**

Species	Begin Grazing		End Grazing	
	^{2/} Minimum Height of Vegetative Growth (inches)	Approximate Date*	^{2/} Minimum Residual Height (inches)	^{2/} Minimum Residual Height Before Killing Frost (inches)
Alfalfa, Alsike & red clover	6	May 15	3	6
Big & Sand bluestem	10	June 1	6	10
Birdsfoot trefoil	6	June 1	3	6
Cicer milkvetch	8	May 20	5	8
Creeping foxtail	6	May 1	3	6
Crested wheatgrass	4	April 20	3	6
Eastern gamagrass	18-20	June 1	8	10
Indiangrass	10	June 1	4	10
Intermediate wheatgrass	6	May 1	5	8
Meadow brome	6	May 1	5	6
Orchardgrass	6	May 1	5	8
Pubescent wheatgrass	6	May 1	5	6
Reed canarygrass	8	May 1	4	8
Russian wildrye	6	May 1	3	4
Smooth brome	6	May 1	4	7
Switchgrass	10	June 1	6	10
Tall fescue	6	May 1	3	6
Tall wheatgrass	7	May 1	4	8
Timothy	6	June 1	4	5
Western wheatgrass	6	May 1	3	6

^{1/} Height is the average height when **leaves** are lifted in a vertical position. ^{2/} In Vegetative Zone I, the Panhandle of Nebraska, all heights listed in Table 3 should be adjusted downward by 25% for all species.