Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT16 – Intensive management of rotational grazing

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)

Additional State Criteria and State Clarifications

Implementation of this enhancement **requires** development and implementation of a prescribed grazing plan that includes rotational grazing to address the following:

1. The intensity and frequency will allow for the recommended residual forage heights for common pasture species in Nebraska based on NRCS Prescribed Grazing practice specifications (528S) Table 3:
2. The minimum days of rest per paddock will be 30 days.
3. The minimum number of paddocks per herd will be 4.
    a. Implementation of this enhancement will require increasing the existing number of paddocks by at least two. (For example, if current system includes 3 paddocks, after implementation of this enhancement the number of paddocks in use will be 5 or more.)
    b. Use of temporary fencing such as polywire and step in posts may be utilized to achieve the required number of paddocks.
    c. The rotational grazing system must alternate which paddocks are grazed first and rotate the order of sequence in each subsequent year.
    d. Utilize Nebraska Planned Grazing Tool or equivalent for planning the rotational grazing system.
4. Rangeland will typically be a once through grazing system while introduced pastures may be grazed multiple depending on residual height.
5. Provide a sufficient quantity of high quality drinking water based on livestock requirements for each paddock. This may require increasing the number of watering points, movable water or temporary/permanent alleyways.

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

1. Provide the following items: Forage Inventory, Livestock Inventory, and Forage Balance using Nebraska Prescribed Grazing Tool or equivalent.
2. Provide a map or aerial photo showing the paddock(s) making up the system prior to implementing this enhancement and following implementation.
3. Planned grazing sequence of paddocks in each grazing system on Grazing Schedule (NE-528 JS – Schedule Option 1, 2, 3 or 4) located within the Nebraska Prescribed Grazing Tool or equivalent.
4. Post-grazing photographs of vegetation following the livestock occupation.
5. Measurements of key forage plant heights (before and after grazing) on Table 1 of following page.
6. Document number of paddocks before and after implementation on Table 2 of following page.

Table 1: Data Collection Form For Key Forage Plant Heights Before and After Grazing:

Paddock	Key Forage Plant	Livestock In Date	Key Forage Plant Height Before Grazing	Livestock Out Date	Key Forage Plant Height After

Table 2: Documentation of existing and planned paddocks

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
Tract	Field(s)	Herd Size/type	Existing number of paddocks for herd	Acres & Number of paddocks Planned	Acres & Number of paddocks Applied
EX. 1	*R1-10*	*100/cow-calf*	*4*	*160acres with 10 paddocks*	***160 acres with 10 paddocks***

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-5 NRCS COMPLETES DURING PLANNING, COLUMN 6 PRODUCER COMPLETES AFTER IMPLEMENTATION

I certify that the following information meets specifications and have been provided to NRCS:

1. Prescribed grazing plan that addresses the criteria listed for this enhancement, Nebraska Prescribed Grazing Jobsheet (NE-ECS-528) found in the Nebraska Prescribed Grazing Design Tool or equivalent.
2. Map or aerial photo showing the pastures/paddocks making up the rotational grazing system including changes in pasture(s)/paddock(s) as a result of this enhancement.
3. Planned grazing sequence on Nebraska Prescribed Grazing Jobsheet-Grazing Schedule (NE-ECS-528) found in the Nebraska Prescribed Grazing Design Tool or equivalent.

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 bromegrass	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.*