



Soil Quality Enhancement Activity – SQL14 – Integrate grazing into crop and forest systems

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)

Additional State Criteria and State Clarifications for Nebraska

1. **Grazing Management Plan:** Implementation of this enhancement requires development and implementation of a written prescribed grazing plan that identifies the grazing unit(s) and acres to be deferred each year.
 - a. The prescribed grazing plan must include the eight items listed on the National enhancement worksheet. See Nebraska NRCS Prescribed Grazing Specifications ([528S](#)) for additional information about developing a prescribed grazing plan. The [Nebraska Prescribed Grazing Tool](#) can be used to document the grazing plan.
 - b. An equivalent plan that includes all 9 items listed on the National enhancement worksheet may be used.
 - c. Sensitive areas (wetlands, riparian areas and other areas of concern) should be identified and addressed in the prescribed grazing plan.
2. For cropping systems, high residue crops (for example: corn, milo, small grains, sorghum/sudan) can be grazed. Low residue producing crops (for example: soybeans, field beans, potatoes, sunflowers) can not be grazed.
3. Cover crops can also be added to an existing crop rotation to facilitate grazing on croplands. Refer to the Nebraska Cover Crop standard ([340](#)) and the [Cover Crop Worksheet \(NE-CPA-7\)](#) to develop seed mixes.
4. For cropped fields which are designated Highly Erodible Land (HEL), adequate residue must remain to control wind, water and ephemeral gully erosion.
5. For forestland, the recommended utilization levels and harvest efficiency should be similar to that for rangeland and can be found in Table 1 of the Nebraska NRCS Prescribed Grazing Specifications ([528S](#)).

Documentation Requirements (SEE NATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY JOBSHEET):

1. Provide map detailing cropland and forestland field and acres, watering locations, and fences.
2. Provide a copy of the grazing management plan. A grazing management plan includes:
 - a. Clearly stated goals and objectives
 - b. Resource inventory which identifies existing resource conditions and concerns; ecological site or forage suitability group, and identifies opportunities to enhance resource conditions.
 - c. Forage inventory
 - d. Animal inventory
 - e. Forage-animal balance
 - f. Grazing plan (periods of grazing/browsing, deferment, rest and other treatment activities)
 - g. Contingency plan
 - h. Monitoring Plan
 - i. Management utilized to maintain adequate vegetative cover on sensitive areas, riparian areas, wetlands and other habitats of concerns.
 - j. Type of crop grazed and residue remaining after grazing.



3. Complete the following table.

1	2	3	4	5
Tract	Field	Planned Acres	Land Use	Applied Acres
<i>EX.101</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>27.0ac</i>	<i>Cropland</i>	<i>27.0 ac</i>

NRCS will complete columns 1-4 at the time of planning. Participant will complete columns 5 after enhancement has been completed.

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

1. Completed [Cover Crop Worksheet \(NE-CPA-7\)](#).
2. Completed Prescribed Grazing Plan – NE-ECS-528 Cover Crops (found in the [Nebraska Prescribed Grazing Tool](#)) or equivalent.

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____