

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM09 –Grazing Management to Improve Wildlife Habitat



Enhancement Description:

Implement a grazing management plan that will allow for rest periods to provide adequate residue for nesting and fawning cover and increase diversity of vegetation structure to benefit a variety of wildlife species.

Land Use Applicability

Pasture land and rangeland

Benefits

Wildlife habitat can be greatly improved through proper grazing management. Proper grazing management is essential to healthy wildlife populations because plants supply many species of birds and animals with food and cover for nesting, fawning, loafing, roosting, travel and escape from predators and adverse weather. These include song birds, quail, turkey, pheasants, deer, and rabbits to name just a few. Some species of ground nesting grassland birds are in decline and others have become uncommon. Healthy stands of forage can be managed to provide habitat for a wide array of wildlife.

Criteria for Grazing Management to Improve Wildlife Habitat.

1. Defer one third of grazing land from grazing during the nesting/fawning season each year.
2. Prepare a written grazing management plan that identifies
 - a. wildlife management objectives for grazing land.
 - b. targeted wildlife species
 - c. nesting or fawning dates,
 - d. the location and number of acres to be deferred each year
 - e. a schedule for the year of deferment.
 - f. stocking rates that will allow proper forage utilization while maintaining proper plant heights that provide food and shelter for wildlife and maintain plant health.

Documentation Requirements for Grazing Management to Improve Wildlife Habitat.

- A schedule of when grazing activities occurred documenting that grazing activities were deferred on a minimum of 33% of the available acreage.
- A map showing the acreage where these activities are applied.



United States Department of Agriculture
 Natural Resources Conservation Service

NE-ANM09

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State Criteria

Primary nesting and fawning season is May 1 through July 15.

The wildlife management objectives for most grazing management plans using this enhancement will include one or more of the following groups of targeted wildlife species:

- Grassland-dependent Songbirds – including species that prefer tall, dense structure such as Henslow’s sparrow, chestnut-collared longspur, common yellowthroat, dickcissel, and bobolink.
- Upland Game Birds – including species that need undisturbed nesting habitat such as Northern bobwhite quail, greater prairie chicken, plains sharp-tailed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, and wild turkey.
- Waterfowl and Water Birds (for grasslands in proximity to wetlands and other water features) – including species such as mallard, blue-winged teal, Northern pintail, etc.

Identify wildlife management objectives: _____

Identify targeted wildlife species (circle group or species noted above or note other species): _____

Document the grazing management plan details in the table below:

Tract	Pasture	Total Acres	Acres Deferred	Year of Deferment
100	R1 – 4	240	Approx. 80	R1-2010, R2-2011, R3-2012, R4-2013, R1-2010

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

1. Map with total grazing management system clearly identified and showing areas to be deferred – by year (highlighted, outlined, etc.).

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____