



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

CSP Job Sheet H-5

HABITAT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT

February 2006

NEBRASKA

Name: _____

Deferred grazing on pasture/rangeland for nesting habitat (July 15-April 30)

Payment = \$2.00 / acre / year for deferring livestock grazing (or other forage removal) between July 15 and April 30 of the following year. Payment is made each year of the contract – not just during the years when grazing is deferred. All applicable pasture or rangeland acres are eligible for payment – not just those acres which receive deferred grazing (provided the 20% average is met).

The intent of this enhancement is to provide adequate residual cover (previous year’s growth) to serve as nesting cover for grassland birds for the following spring. Many grassland birds begin selecting nest sites prior to spring green-up. Therefore, it is important to maintain residual cover from the previous year to attract nesting birds. In addition, native warm-season grasses often receive disproportionate grazing pressure during the mid-summer months which can favor exotic cool-season grasses such as smooth brome or Kentucky bluegrass. Deferred grazing during the peak growing period for warm-season grasses will improve their vigor and provide for greater residual cover levels the following spring.

Required Elements:

- No grazing of livestock (or other forage removal) can occur between July 15 and April 30 of the following year on the appropriate area.
- An average of 20% (not less than five contiguous acres) of the total available pasture or rangeland must be deferred during each year of the contract.
- Ideally, the deferred area would be rotated each year to a different unit (pasture) so that all pasture acres are deferred at least once during a five year period.

Note: This enhancement cannot be used in conjunction with the “Deferred Grazing Enhancement” as noted under the Grazing Management Enhancements (G-10).

