



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

CSP Job Sheet H-6

HABITAT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT

April 2006

NEBRASKA

Name: _____

Light grazing on pasture/rangeland for vegetative structure (less than 40% use)

Payment = \$1.00 / acre / year for implementing light grazing where the utilization rate is at 40% or less. Payment is made each year of the contract – not just during the years when light grazing occurs. All applicable pasture or rangeland acres are eligible for payment – not just those acres which receive light grazing (providing the 20% average of the total available pastureland or rangeland is met).

The intent of this enhancement is to provide diversity of vegetative structure (height and density of grasses and forbs) which is needed to benefit a variety of grassland birds which have specific vegetative structure needs to meet their life requisites. In some cases, higher levels of vegetative structure (resulting from light grazing) are required by certain species of grassland birds but are lacking on grazed pasture and rangeland. The areas with light grazing will compliment the diversity of vegetative structure relative to adjacent areas which receive higher utilization rates by livestock.

Required Elements:

- Livestock grazing must be managed to only allow 40% (or less) utilization (use) of current year's growth on the appropriate area.
- A utilization cage must be installed within a key wildlife area (adjacent to streams, wetlands, native woodlands, woody draws, etc.) and be used to estimate utilization rates.
- An average of 20% (not less than five contiguous acres) of the total available pasture or rangeland must receive light grazing during each year of the contract.
- The lightly grazed area may be the same from year to year. However, ideally, the lightly grazed area would be rotated each year to a different unit (pasture) so that the total area would be lightly grazed once during a five year period.

