

2016 NRCS New Jersey Prescribed Grazing Guidance Document

This guidance document is designed to provide planners with a means to properly plan and contract applications that include prescribed grazing and associated practices. This document pertains to EQIP – Livestock applications only. Consult with your Biologist for guidance on prescribed grazing associated with EQIP – Wildlife or Bog Turtle applications.

Definitions:

Pasture – Land where desirable forages (for the intended grazing species) are grown, or will be grown, for the main purpose of providing in-field forages to the animals AND has less than 25% tree/shrub *canopy*.

Animal Feeding Operation – Lot or facility where animals have been, are, or will be stabled, confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period and where vegetation or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.

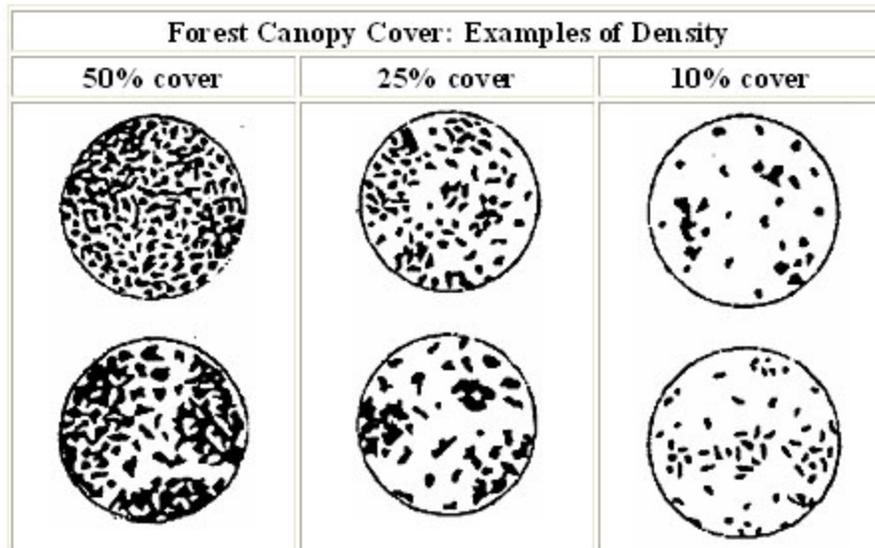
General Guidance:

1. The animal unit documentation worksheet must be used to document the animal units supported by the Prescribed Grazing System.
2. The Graze 5 worksheet must be run for all operations. Realistic yields, animal numbers and weights, and confinement periods must be used. The Graze 5 worksheet is found on the NJ SharePoint > Resources > Livestock and Grazing > Graze5_locked_1-21-15.
3. Confinement operations are not eligible for prescribed grazing and associated practices for exercise lots/sacrifice areas unless 25% of yearly forage requirements are met from grazing.
 - a. Confinement operations are still eligible for HUAP, waste storage, and other associated practices.
 - b. Fencing may be planned for confinement operations only if the fence is being used to exclude animals from a sensitive area.
4. The maximum allowable amount of contracted acres is dependent on management objectives and the number of AU's the system can handle. Based on the Graze 5 worksheet, only the acres needed to provide between 25% and 115% of the yearly forage needs can be contracted. If the producer requests to contract acres in support of a system providing more than 115% of the yearly forage needs, a waiver can be requested and must be signed by the State Resource Conservationist and Grazing Specialist before the contract is obligated. A template waiver is available for use, see Attachment A: 2016 Prescribed Grazing Program Waiver.
5. For operations with less than 1 ac/AU, the pasture nutrient balance calculator must be run to determine if the prescribed grazing plan will be limited by the nutrient budget or forage budget.
6. All operations that meet the definition of an animal feeding operation (or if the pastures cannot support 100% grazing), must have a designated sacrifice area (non-contracted), or a Heavy Use Area Protection and/or Waste Storage can be contracted. Sacrifice areas must be sized, sited, and able to contain animals during periods when the pastures are either not growing (except for stockpiled pastures) or need rest. The acreage needed for the sacrifice area will be excluded from the available grazing acres.

7. Operations that have existing sacrifice areas or HUAPs, and cannot support 100% pasture time, will be limited to the amount of animals the existing facility can hold, unless the producer agrees to expand their facility.
8. For all grazing applications that will include a HUAP, a CAP 104 - Nutrient management plan will be needed.
9. For all grazing applications that will include a Waste Storage Facility, a CAP 102 – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, or a combination of a CAP 104 plan, a NRCS engineer’s I&E, and a NJ Certified Conservation Planner’s conservation plan is required

Determining Eligibility for a Grazing Application

1. The areas that will be included in the grazing system must be identified as pastureland - forestland is not eligible for grazing.
2. The Graze 5 worksheet must be run using planned animal numbers and types.
3. The Graze 5 worksheet must show that at least 25% of the yearly forage needs are supplied by the pasture.
4. Any operation that does not meet the 25% yearly forage requirement will not be eligible for financial assistance for grazing practices under EQIP – Livestock. The 25% yearly forage requirement is based on the forage balance of the planned system as agreed-to by both the conservation planner and the producer.
5. Pastures that have more than 25% canopy cover will not be eligible for a grazing contract. Canopy cover can be determined by using the most current GIS imagery (leaf-on photography) or by in-field estimations. Below is a visual example of canopy cover at 10, 25, and 50%. For cases where the canopy cover percentage cannot be determined, request assistance from your Biologist.



Determining the Limiting Factor for the Prescribed Grazing Plan

1. Using the same numbers for determining eligibility, determine if the ac/AU is 1 to 1.
2. If the ac/AU is less than 1:1, run the Pasture Nutrient Balance Calculator (found in the eFOTG > Section IV > Conservation Practices > Prescribed Grazing > Pasture Nutrient Balance Calculator) to determine if the system will be forage based or nutrient based.
3. Nutrient deposition during grazing periods on non-pastureland acres (i.e. woodland) is not allowed to be accounted for when determining if the system is nutrient or forage limited.
4. If no current soil tests are available, assume the system will be phosphorus based when running the Pasture Nutrient Balance Calculator. If a current soil test (from the past 3 years) is available, the Pasture Nutrient Balance Calculator will be run based on results of the P-Index.
5. Input the same information from the Graze 5 Worksheet in the Pasture Nutrient Balance Calculator.
6. If the nitrogen balance or P removal balance (depending on if the system is nitrogen based or phosphorus based) is negative, the grazing system will be nutrient based.
7. Adjust the animal numbers, duration of grazing, or acres until there is no excess nutrients being applied. The prescribed grazing plan will be based on the management that was entered into the Pasture Nutrient Balance Calculator.

Guidelines for Sizing and Siting Sacrifice Areas

1. If the planned grazing system requires periods where the livestock are to be excluded from the pastures, and the producer does not wish to include an HUAP in the contract, a sacrifice area must be planned. Sacrifice areas do not correlate with any Conservation Practice Standards (CPS) in New Jersey, and so, will not be included in the contract under a CPS. Supporting practices needed to define and protect the sacrifice area and surrounding areas such as fence, filter strip, etc. can be included in the contract. The sacrifice area must be shown on the Conservation Plan Map.
2. The sacrifice area acres will be excluded from the available grazing acres.
3. Refer to Table1: Recommended Sizing for Sacrifice Areas Based on Animal Type and Weight, to determine the approximate amount of space needed for the number and type of animals the operation will support.
4. The New Jersey Animal Waste Management Restrictions apply to sacrifice areas. The following requirements must be met by the grazing system:
 - a. No farm shall allow livestock in confined areas to have access to waters of the state.
 - b. If manure will be stored on the sacrifice area at any point in time, the sacrifice area must be located at least 100 feet from surface waters of the State.
5. The sacrifice area must be sited away from potential surface water flows.

Table1: Recommended Sizing for Sacrifice Areas Based on Animal Type and Weight										
Animal	Horse	Beef Cow	Dairy Cow	Goat	Pig (Sow/Boar)	Pig (Wean to Finish)	Pig (Nursery)	Sheep	Hen/Broiler	Turkey
Typical Weight (lbs.)	1,000	1,000	1,400	170	350	150	50	170	4	20
					$Ft^2 = .2167 \times BW$					
Area Needed (ft ²)	400	75-100	75-100	50	76	33	11	20-25	3-4	6
Typical Area Needed/AU (ft ² /AU)	400	75 - 100	105 - 140	9	27	5		3.5 – 4.25		

References:

New Jersey Department of Agriculture. 2011. Chapter 91 Animal Waste Management. New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

Seavey, D. and J. Porter. 2009. Housing and Space Guidance for Livestock. University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension.

Terry, R. and G Chillinger. 1955. A Guide to Agroforestry in British Columbia. Society of Economic Paleontologist and Mineralogist in the Journal of Sedimentary Petrology 25(3): 229–234

Williams, C., personal communication, 2015

New Jersey Prescribed Grazing Waiver

This is a waiver to request consideration for the following planned conditions that are outside of the 2016 NRCS New Jersey Prescribed Grazing Guidance Document.

Applicant Name:	
Application Number:	
Reason For Requesting A Waiver	
	The applicant would like to receive payment for practices that support a grazing system that will provide over 115% of the needed forage. See explanation below.
	Other – See explanation below
Justification for the Need of This Waiver	

The following section will be completed by the applicant	
<p>I _____ understand (print name)</p> <p>I am requesting a waiver to allow for planning practices outside of NRCS New Jersey’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) policies and I have accurately and honestly represented the need for waiver in the above justification. I also understand this waiver is only valid for the above listed application and on the land associated with such application.</p>	
Applicant Signature	Date

**This waiver shall be completed and approved prior to the contract being obligated*
***When the waiver has been signed by all required parties and approved, the District Conservationist will keep the original copy in the six part folder and a copy will be given to the producer. A note in the CPA—6 will be made with the date the producer was given a copy of the waiver.*
****If the District Conservationist/Planner or the Grazing specialist does not agree a waiver should be granted for the justification explained above, the waiver will be signed by the reviewer and placed in the file. The waiver does not need to be sent to the next reviewing party.*

The following section will be completed by the District Conservationist or Conservation Planner

I agree the circumstances of this application justifies a waiver to the EQIP policy and that all planning options within the policy have been discussed and have been found to be infeasible to meet the management objectives of the applicant and this office.

I do not agree this application justifies a waiver to the EQIP policy for the following reason(s):

District Conservationist/Conservation Planner Signature

Date

The following section will be completed by the NRCS NJ Grazing Specialist

I have reviewed the circumstances of this application and concur with the District Conservationist/Conservation Planner that a waiver to the EQIP policy is justified and that all planning options within the policy have been discussed and have been found to be infeasible to meet the management objectives of the applicant and this office.

I do not agree this application justifies a waiver to the EQIP policy for the following reason(s):

NRCS NJ Grazing Specialist Signature

Date

The following section will be completed by the State Resource Conservationist

I have reviewed the justification for this waiver and have approved the waiver for this application.

I have reviewed the justification for this waiver and do not agree this application justifies a waiver to the EQIP policy. The waiver is denied for the following reason(s):

State Resource Conservationist Signature

Date