

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
NEW YORK CONSERVATION PRACTICE GUIDELINE**

PRESCRIBED GRAZING

(ACRE)

CODE 528A

REFERENCES

National Handbook of Conservation Practices - Code 528A - Prescribed Grazing.

Commonly Associated Processes or Practices

The following conservation practices are commonly used in conjunction with this practice to address natural resource concerns and opportunities in New York. This does not imply that any or all of the listed practices must be included or that others may not be included in a conservation management system (CMS). Consult Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide for assistance in developing CMS.

Note: To determine whether a National or New York Conservation Standard applies to this and any other associated practices, check the following website: www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov. Click on the "eFOTG" icon, and look for the Conservation Standards in Section IV.

Table A: Processes or Practice Standards

Number	Name	Job/Engineering Sheets
NY312	Waste Management System	
314	Brush Management	
338	Prescribed Burning	
378	Pond	
382	Fence	
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	
460	Land Clearing	
472	Use Exclusion	
511	Forage Harvest Management	
512	Pasture and Hayland Planting	
516	Pipeline	
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	
574	Spring Development	
575	Animal Trails and Walkways	
587	Structure for Water Control	
590	Nutrient Management	
595	Pest Management	
606	Subsurface Drainage	NY ENG 28 and 29
614	Watering Facility	
633	Waste Utilization	

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642	Well	
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	
NY748	Record Keeping	

OTHER REFERENCES

1. New York Grazing References:

- 1.1. Hoffman Sullivan, K., De Clue, R., and D. Emmick. 2000. **Prescribed Grazing and Feeding Management for Lactating Dairy Cows**. New York State Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Syracuse, NY.
- 1.2. Emmick, D. L., and Fox, Dr. D. G. 1993. **Prescribed Grazing Management to Improve Pasture Productivity in New York**. U.S. Department of Agriculture - Soil Conservation Service, Syracuse, NY and Cornell University - Department of Animal Science, Ithaca, NY.

This publication is available on-line at the following website:

<http://www.css.cornell.edu/forage/pasture/index.html>

2. Field Office Technical Guide Section I, References-Grasslands.
3. Field Office Technical Guide Section II - Soils.
4. RUSLE manual and software for erosion benefits.
5. Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management.
6. Commercial References:
 - 6.1. Seed Manuals.
 - 6.2. Pesticide Guides.
7. Prescribed Grazing Management Plan Jobsheet No. 25.
8. Cornell Beef Production Manual.
9. Technical Specialists:
 - 9.1. State Grazing Land Management Specialist.
 - 9.2. State Animal Scientist.
 - 9.3. Soil and Water Conservation District (Contact Local SWCD for information).
 - 9.4. Cornell Cooperative Extension County Field Crop Agent.
 - 9.5. Grazing Advocates.
 - 9.6. Area Resource Conservationist.
10. National Pasture and Rangeland Handbook.
11. Cornell University forages website: <http://www.css.cornell.edu/forage/forage.html>
12. Forage Species Selection Tool: <http://www.forages.org/>
13. NRCS - Engineering Field Handbook (EFH). Although there are no applicable sections for the 528A standard, there may be a need to consult the appropriate EFH chapters, standards, specifications, guidelines, and job sheets for any associated practices.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resource reviews will be conducted for all ground disturbing practices, components, or other activities, as per the State Level Agreement between NRCS and the New York State Historic Preservation Officer.

INVENTORY AND EVALUATION

1. Use "Prescribed Grazing Management to Improve Pasture Productivity in New York", to determine forage demand and number of paddocks. Refer to Appendix 1, Pages 39-40, for rotational stocking. Refer to Appendix 2, Pages 41-42, for continuous stocking.
2. Develop plan maps with delineated fields, land use, tract numbers, highly erodible and wetland fields.
3. Obtain and utilize the soil maps and descriptions for the planned grazing site. Refer to the Forage Suitability Groups for the soils found on site.
4. Inventory the existing infrastructure and incorporating landowner goals and objectives, identify needed components for the overall prescribed grazing system.
 - 4.1. Fencing (perimeter and internal)
 - 4.2. Farm lanes (livestock and equipment access)
 - 4.3. Stream crossings and Livestock access
 - 4.4. Barnyard layout and Livestock holding areas
 - 4.5. Buildings
 - 4.6. Livestock handling facilities
 - 4.7. Livestock watering facilities
5. Consider other resource concerns or opportunities on site, such as:
 - 5.1. Hydrologically sensitive areas;
 - 5.2. Wildlife habitat;
 - 5.3. Current management systems on other land uses on the farm.

PLANNING AND DESIGN PROCEDURES

1. Refer to:

Emmick, D. L., and Fox, Dr. D. G. 1993. **Prescribed Grazing Management to Improve Pasture Productivity in New York**. U.S. Department of Agriculture - Soil Conservation Service, Syracuse, NY and Cornell University - Department of Animal Science, Ithaca, NY.

Prescribed Grazing Management to Improve Pasture Productivity in New York, Pages 34-37 for important considerations on field layout. Develop site plan map showing proposed infrastructure (fencing, watering facilities, laneways) and proposed paddock layout.
2. Determine the need for additional practices required to meet resource concerns, management, objectives and landowner needs.
3. Review the nutritional requirements for the livestock. Refer to the following for dairy systems:

Hoffman Sullivan, K., De Clue, R., and D. Emmick. 2000. **Prescribed Grazing and Feeding Management for Lactating Dairy Cows**. New York State Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Syracuse, NY.

4. If additional information is needed, refer landowner to the State Animal Scientist or a qualified livestock nutritionist for a supplemental feeding strategy for the livestock and the grazing system.
5. Record landowner decisions through the development of the Grazing Plan, the Contingency Plan, and the Monitoring Plan as referenced in the Conservation Standard.
6. Determine your level of Job Approval Authority for the design class of this project, and obtain approval from the appropriate individual, if not qualified.
7. Assemble a design and information package for all facilitating practices to be provided to the landowner.
8. Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan (O&M) for the grazing system.

PERMITS AND NOTIFICATIONS

All permits, easements, and rights-of-way are the responsibility of the landowner as advised by their Technical Professional. **Dig Safely NY** (formerly the Underground Facilities Protection Organization, or UFPO) will be contacted according to the time required before construction or installation of any associated practices, to mark all applicable facilities in the construction area. This is the responsibility of the landowner and contractor.

Identification and the location of all other underground or overhead facilities not covered by **Dig Safely NY** is the responsibility of the landowner.

CONSTRUCTION LAYOUT

1. Provide copies of any applicable construction specifications and drawings to the landowner. Explain all aspects of the job before a contractor is secured. Review the O&M plan with the landowner, to assure proper maintenance of the completed practice or practices.
2. Thoroughly review the job with the landowner and contractor prior to construction. Insist on a follow-up on informing the utilities of the proposed construction. The landowner/contractor must call **Dig Safely NY** (formally UFPO) at least 2 working days prior to any ground disturbance.
3. Schedule the construction start with the landowner and the contractor. Initial input on a project is important at the start. Plan the start of construction such that the completion time will permit optimal establishment of vegetative cover.

CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION

1. Document the progress of the installation of the system in the Cooperator Assistance Notes (NRCS-CPA-6/6A) or a similar job log to provide a level of inspection and documentation that insures the practice meets standards and specifications. In addition, photographs documenting construction progress are useful, although not required.
2. Provide regular follow-up support as needed by the landowner.

FINAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

All properly planned, designed, and installed conservation practices require documentation in the appropriate case file. Documentation must be sufficient to show:

1. The design conforms to the applicable standard;
2. The prepared construction drawings and specifications accurately reflect the design or layout;
3. The installed practice(s) meets the requirements of the applicable construction drawings and specifications as needed; and
4. The "As Built" condition of any installed practice. All drawings shall be identified "As Built" as drawn in red, and all changes shall be made in red.

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REPORTING

Enter all documentation on the Conservation Plan (NRCS-CPA-68), Conservation Assistance Notes (NRCS-CPA-6/6A) and the contract document (NRCS-LTP-11), if applicable.

Report the practice and applicable components in the NRCS progress reporting system. Be certain to report benefits for all applicable resources and resource concerns as allowed in the NRCS progress reporting system.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Facilities, structure, and practices must be operated and maintained to ensure proper function and longevity. Develop an operation and maintenance plan with the design and provide it to the landowner. Periodic follow-up with the landowner is essential to ensure that all operation and maintenance (O&M) requirements are understood and followed.