

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE**

PRESCRIBED GRAZING

**(Acre)
CODE 528A**

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- A. SD Specification Sheet CPA-39, feed and forage balance, for present conditions.
- B. SD Specification Sheet CPA-39, feed and forage balance, for planned conditions will be completed if present conditions show a shortage of feed and/or forage and conservation plan calls for increasing available feed and forage through seeding, grazing management or other conservation measures. Must also be completed if livestock kind or numbers will change when compared to present conditions.
- C. SD Specification Sheet CPA-15a and/or 15b, grazing management schedules and plans.
- D. SD Specification Sheet CPA-16, record of livestock grazing.
- E. For rangeland - SD Specification Sheets ECS-12, apparent trend determination. (SD-ECS-11, rangeland health evaluation may be substituted for the trend assessment)
- F. For rangeland - SD Specification Sheets ECS-13 or 14, determination of similarity index.
- G. For pastureland - SD Specification Sheet ECS-15, pasture condition score sheet.

OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS

- A. At each key management site (where trend, similarity index, and pasture score were actually measured) annually take photographs showing a close-up and panoramic view of vegetation.

PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

- A. Document historical grazing and livestock management including rotations, stocking rates, husbandry and supplementation programs, and identified resource concerns in conservation assistance notes or other resource inventory form.
- B. On either the "Plan Map" or "Resource Inventory Map" complete the following:
 - Individually delineate and label all ecological sites (rangeland) and forage suitability groups (pasture) or list the ecological sites and forage suitability groups found in each field with the percentage that each site occupies.
 - For rangeland, show the current measured or estimated similarity index and trend direction in comparison to the "Interpretive (Historic)" plant community for each ecological site.
 - For rangeland, delineate any dramatic changes in similarity index or trend (condition breaks).
 - For rangeland, delineate the location of the key management sites where trend and similarity indexes were actually measured.
 - For pastureland indicate the management specie(s) for each field.
 - For pastureland, delineate the location where the pasture condition score sheet was completed.
- C. On the plan map delineate all existing and planned improvements (fences, ponds, tanks etc.) that are required to apply prescribed grazing.
- D. For rangeland, at a minimum of two key management sites, determine a similarity index rating (SD-ECS-13 or 14) and trend rating (SD-ECS-12). The interpretive (historic) plant community will be used to determine similarity index and trend. A rangeland health assessment (SD-ECS-11) may be substituted for the trend assessment if desired.
- E. For pastureland, at a minimum of one key management site, determine a pasture condition score (SD-ECS-15).
- F. Provide cooperators with a copy of a drought contingency plan and provide assistance in tailoring it to the planning unit as requested.

PERFORMANCE

- A. Annually conduct a field check of 50 percent (minimum) of the fields to determine average utilization levels on rangeland and average leaf length on pasturelands and to assess practice performance.
- B. Annually complete SD-CPA-16 Specification Sheet for both range and pasture land uses.
- C. Every three years and at the end of the technical assistance period complete a new similarity index rating (SD-ECS-13 or 14) a new trend rating (SD-ECS-12) (SD-ECS-11 if health was measured in lieu of trend) and a new pasture condition score (SD-ECS-15) at the same location as the original measurements.