United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2016 – 1
2017 – 1 Renewal

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM63 – Harvest crop in a manner that allows wildlife to flush and escape

Enhancement Description
Harvest crops (hay or small grains) using conservation measures that allow wildlife to flush and escape. These measures include timing of haying to avoid periods when upland wildlife are nesting or fawning, idling land during the nesting or fawning period, and applying harvest techniques that reduce mortality to wildlife.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland

Benefits
Many species of birds and animals use crop lands (hay or small grains) as cover, to find food, nesting areas, and rearing their young. Examples include song birds, quail, turkey, pheasants, deer, and rabbits. Some species of ground nesting birds are in decline and others have become uncommon. Managing harvesting techniques can be beneficial to the survival of ground nesting birds and other wildlife species. Altering harvesting routes can provide escape routes for hens, hens with broods and hiding fawns. Delaying harvests or leaving portions of a field unharvested provide nesting habitat.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies
This enhancement applies to crop land use acres producing cereal grains, or any annual planted or perennial hayland acres (a sub-component of the crop land use).

Criteria
Use one of the following techniques (A or B) to protect wildlife during haying activities.

A. Defer haying. The producer *will apply and maintain at least two of the following* management actions specifically for improving or protecting grassland functions for the state identified targeted wildlife species.
   1. Do not cut hay on at least 1/3 of the hay acres each year. Idle strips or blocks must be at least 30 feet wide.
   2. For at least 1/3 of the hay acreage, hay cutting must be either before and/or after the primary nesting or fawning seasons based on state established dates for the targeted species.
   3. Increase forage heights after mowing to state specified minimum heights for the targeted species on all hayed acres.

B. For all harvest activities that will be conducted during the nesting/fawning season the producer will implement *at least two of the following* to flush wildlife from during the harvest operation:

1. Attach a flush bar on the mower/harvest equipment.
2. Conduct all harvest/mowing during daylight hours.
3. The harvest pattern will either:
   a. Begin on one end of the field and work back and forth across the field, or
   b. Begin in the center of the field and work outward

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when either technique A or B from the criteria above has been implemented.

Documentation Requirements

1. Map showing the fields that were treated
2. Option A
   a. Map delineating the deferred acres
   b. A picture showing residual heights of hay after mowing
3. Option B
   a. Photo showing the flush bar attachment
   b. Photo of the harvest pattern

References

Greene, C. 2007. Reducing Mortality of Grassland Wildlife During Haying and Wheat-Harvesting Operations. Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma State University, OSU Extension Wildlife and Forestry, NREM-5006. http://www.okrangelandswest.okstate.edu/files/wildlife%20pdfs/NREM-5006.pdf

USDA-NRCS. 2010. Management Considerations for Grassland Birds in Northeastern Haylands and Pasturelands by Noah Perlut, Allan Strong and Therese Donovan. Wildlife Insight No. 88. Washington, D.C. http://directives.nrcs.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=27175.wba

Utah State Supplement 2015 for ANM63

Notes: When using a flush bar do not harvest hay faster than 6 mph.

Enhancement Name	Enhancement Code	Potential Duplicative Practices (code)	Incompatible Enhancements
Harvest crop in a manner that allows wildlife to flush and escape	ANM63	Check the 2015 Duplicative Practices document	Check the 2015 Incompatible Practices document

Operations & Maintenance, Conservation Measures, and Client Acknowledgement

Operation and Maintenance
Operation: Maintenance:
Conservation Measures
Actions that must be implemented by the landowner/manager during practice implementation:
Client's Acknowledgement Statement
The Client acknowledges that: a. They have received a copy of the enhancement and understand the contents and requirements. b. It shall be the responsibility of the client to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice. **Cooperator:** _____ **Date:** _____ **Planner:** _____ **Date:**