

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
FOR
PRESCRIBED GRAZING (528)**

Landowner/user:

Date:

Address:

A properly operated and maintained **Prescribed Grazing Plan** is an asset to your farm operation and your agricultural land. Implementation of a Prescribed Grazing plan may provide many benefits including: improved forage productivity, reduced soil erosion and runoff, reduced production costs associated with machinery and fuel, improved soil and livestock health and reduced costs for nutrients, pesticides and labor.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements of the operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

Lifespan 1 Year

Operation:

1. Prescribed Grazing will be applied on a continuing basis throughout the occupation period of all planned grazing units.
2. Annual plan review or re-evaluation to determine if adjustments or modifications to the plan are needed. Plans should be reviewed and revised as necessary when changes occur regarding animal numbers, grazing land acreage or location changes, etc. Adaptive management decisions will be made as needed and documented within the plan to ensure that the goals and objectives of the prescribed grazing strategy are met.
 - Adjustments to the plan may include; changing length of grazing and rest periods, changing paddock sizes, moving watering facilities, and improving access or travel lanes.
3. In-season evaluations of the current feed and forage supply should be made. Evaluations may include:
 - Determining excess pasture growth and adjusting managed grazing plan accordingly or applying other harvest techniques,
 - Determining if there is a shortage of pasture growth and adjust managed grazing plan accordingly or apply supplemental feeding techniques,
 - Determining if quality of the pasture stand meets the production goals and adjusting the managed grazing plan accordingly or, and
 - applying forage improvement methods such as frost seeding or inter-seeding.

Maintenance:

4. All facilitating and accelerating conservation practices (e.g., CPS Fence (Code 382), Pest Management (Code 595), Brush Management (Code 314), Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512), etc.) that are needed to effect adequate grazing and/or browsing distribution as planned by this practice standard will be maintained in good working order and operated as intended. Additional practices requiring maintenance include but are not limited to: Livestock

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Pipeline (Code 516), Watering Facility (Code 614), Trails and Walkways (Code 575), Spring Development (Code 574).

5. Maintain records to document grazing plan implementation. Monitoring data and grazing records will be used on a regular basis within the prescribed grazing plan to ensure that objectives are being met, or to make necessary changes in the prescribed grazing plan to meet objectives. As applicable, records will include:
- Livestock Type and Number
 - Field or Paddock Number and Acres,
 - Date when livestock were moved into and out of the paddock,
 - Narrative description of the grazing season as it relates to forage density and height changes over the paddock rotations in that grazing system.

Specific Additional Requirements for Your Practice: