

Prescribed Grazing (528) Requirements 2012 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Eligible lands: Pasture and other land that is used for both pasture and hay, not land just used for hay production.

Develop a conservation plan with a grazing component for the land with NRCS assistance. (Producer may need to over-seed with legumes and/or grasses as needed in order to maintain the desired stand.)

Balance forage. Completion of a livestock and forage balance is required. Adjust livestock numbers, fertilizer rates, or purchased feed in order to meet livestock forage needs. No more than 33% of livestock diet should be feed (hay, silage, distillers, gluten, hulls, grain etc.).

Choose a Prescribed Grazing plan:

- **Basic:** Four or five paddock rotation per herd (three or more paddocks recovering at any one time *April through October*)
- **Basic plus Rotational Feeding:** Four or five paddock rotation all year rotating feeding site locations to improve soil and water quality. Feeding sites locations do not have to be Heavy Use Areas. (three or more paddocks recovering at any one time *all year*)
- **High Intensity:** More than five paddocks per herd (Five or more paddocks recovering at any one time *April through October*)
- **High Intensity- Stockpiling:** More than five paddocks per herd (Five or more paddocks recovering at any one time *April through November*). A half acre or more of pasture will be stockpiled per animal unit (not grazed September thru November).
- **High Intensity Rotational Feeding:** More than five paddocks per herd (Five or more paddocks recovering at any one time *all year*). A half acre or more of pasture will be stockpiled per animal unit (not grazed September thru November). Feeding site locations will be rotated to improve soil and water quality. Feeding site locations do not have to be Heavy Use Areas.

In times of drought or extreme wet conditions livestock may be held on one paddock to protect other paddocks from overgrazing. The paddock livestock are held on will not have sensitive areas without a buffer. Sensitive areas include wells, depressions, sinkholes, and all water areas.

Do not graze forages lower than the minimum grazing height. Graze no more than 20 percent of the acreage to less than the minimum grazing height. Adjust stocking rate, management or inputs as needed to manage for minimum grazing heights April through October.

- 2" for bermudagrass, ryegrass
- 3" for cool season grasses (e.g. tall fescue, orchardgrass, cereal grains)
- 6" for tall upright grasses (e.g. native grass, millet, sorghums)

Recordkeeping is needed in all agricultural operations; livestock production is no exception. See the sample record keeping sheet (Pasture Record for Prescribed Grazing Incentive) on this web site.

Minimum records required for each grazing rotation are:

- Field/Paddock Number
- Number of animals/pounds (average weight)
- Date beginning grazing
- Beginning grazing height
- Ending grazing height
- Number of days grazed

Payments for prescribed grazing will be made at the end of the rotational grazing season. In Tennessee, the growing season extends from April-October, thus cost-share should not be made until the end of the growing season (i.e. the middle of September to the end of October). Records of rotational grazing must be submitted with receipts and request for payment.