

Grazing Management Enhancements



Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Minnesota, 2006

Utilize crop residues for fall grazing to extend rest, particularly in the fall, allowing the pasture forages to build up root reserves for winter survival and for a healthier stand.

Definition

This enhancement includes utilizing cropland residues by grazing livestock to reduce grazing pressure on pastures.

Purpose

The purpose of this enhancement is to extend the rest period for pastures, particularly in the fall, allowing the pasture forages to build up root reserves for winter survival, and for a healthier, more vigorous stand.

Where Used

This enhancement is used in all prescribed grazing systems where cropland areas are accessible to grazing livestock.

Operation and Maintenance

The following criteria must be met:

- Livestock must be grazed on cropland residues and annually planted crops as they become available.
- A minimum of 50% of the pasture acres must be rested during the months of September and October. These acres must be rotated from one year to the next so that the entire pasture gets extended fall rest during a two year period.
- Water must be provided in a manner so that livestock do not need to have access to any part of the pasture for water.

Payment Rate

The payment rate is an annual per acre payment for pasture.

Documentation Required

A map outlining the pasture area and indicating the locations of cropland acres grazed by the livestock, and showing the location of the watering facility that is used when the cropland residues are grazed. The area of the pasture that received extended rest will be outlined. This documentation is required each year of the contract.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the above information is correct and that, if requested, I will provide additional documentation to support the above information.

Signature _____ Date _____