

### Utilization of NUTBAL – Grazing Management Enhancement #7

**DESCRIPTION** – This enhancement is to encourage the use of (NUTBAL) Nutritional Balance Analyzer, a computerized assessment tool used to determine forage quality and animal nutrition to make grazing management decisions. Fresh (<24 hrs old) fecal samples are collected in the pasture and sent to the Grazingland Animal Nutrition Lab (GAN Lab) at Texas A&M University. Using near infrared reflectance spectroscopy, the quality of the forage the animals have consumed is determined. Crude protein, digestible organic matter, fecal nitrogen and fecal phosphorus are analyzed. The second part of the program provides information regarding animal attributes, environmental conditions, pasture conditions, feeding program and metabolic modifiers. From the information you supply, the software determines if the animals are on a positive or negative nutritional plane, daily weight gain and the most cost effective feeding options if supplementation is needed.

### Enhancement Requirements

The CSP Participant will collect fecal samples 3 times a year and use the Nutritional Balance Analyzer (NUTBAL) computerized assessment tool to determine forage quality and animal performance. The technical reference is available at: <ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/GLTI/technical/publications/nutbal-tech-support.pdf>



This enhancement is an annual activity. Contact the GAN Lab or visit their website to obtain a starter kit that includes a Styrofoam box with ice substitute, sample sheets, instructions for collecting the fecal sample and completing the sample sheet. Contact information for the lab is:

GAN LAB, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
2126 TAMU  
COLLEGE STATION, TX 77843-2126  
979-845-5838  
[ganlab@cnrit.tamu.edu](mailto:ganlab@cnrit.tamu.edu)  
<http://cnrit.tamu.edu/ganlab>

### Performance Requirements

The CSP Participant will certify this activity annually by signing an annual payment certification letter and submitting it to the NRCS office servicing the contract.

Payment for this enhancement will be per year. The activity and payment will commence at the end of the first grazing season or with the first year contract payment if it is already in place.