

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL18 – Non-chemical pest control for livestock



Enhancement Description

Apply management techniques, devices, and biological agents that control external pests and internal parasites of livestock without the use of synthetic pesticides.

Land Use Applicability

Pastureland, rangeland and forestland (if the forest is grazed)

Benefits

Environmental benefits will be operation specific. Benefits may include, but are not limited to improved animal health, reduced risk to humans and improved water quality.

Pests and parasites can have a significant impact on the economic viability of livestock operations by affecting the performance and health of animals. The use of synthetic chemical treatments poses risks to water quality through animal contact and runoff. Farm workers are also exposed by handling chemicals and livestock. An alternative non-chemical pest control option can address these concerns and provide adequate pest/parasite control in many situations. Non-chemical control may also require increased monitoring and enhanced management applications which can affect a higher overall level of management efficiency.

Criteria

1. Prepare a written plan addressing basic management considerations, including:
 - a. Pests/parasites to be controlled, including correct species identification
 - b. Monitoring process (jug traps, baited cards, on-livestock counts, fecal egg counts, FAMANCHA, etc) to determine when control is needed and to monitor control effectiveness
 - c. Sanitation, cleaning feed/hay sites, and manure removal to reduce breeding sites
 - d. Rotational grazing and how it will be used to disrupt pest life cycles, minimum residual forage height to reduce parasite ingestion
2. Incorporate two or more of the following applications into the plan as appropriate:
 - a. Release of wasps that are parasitic to flies or the release of hister beetles
 - b. Traps for house and stable flies such as fly tape, paper, ribbons, etc.
 - c. Traps for biting flies or face flies
 - d. Walk through fly traps for horn flies
 - e. Fly vacuums
 - f. Bug zappers

