

Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT02 – Monitoring key grazing areas to improve grazing management



Enhancement Description

Adjust grazing management based on monitoring data. Monitor key grazing areas to determine if current grazing management is meeting management goals and objectives. A key grazing area is a small area of a grazed field that is identified as being representative of the entire field.

Land Use Applicability

Pastureland, Rangeland, Forestland

Benefits

Proper grazing management will maintain and improve vegetation and soil conditions, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. Monitoring can be utilized to determine if current grazing management actions are having the desired effect on natural resources. Monitoring enables managers to make decisions and adjust management strategies as needed.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to all acres in the operation for the selected land use.

Criteria

1. Key grazing areas will be established for each grazed field
2. Each key grazing area will be monitored based on the frequency of grazing once established (i.e., more than annually if grazed multiple time per year)
3. Monitoring will include a photo for each pasture of key grazing area and use of one or more of the following techniques:
 - a. Plant productivity determinations
 - b. Measurements of key forage plant heights (before and after grazing) at least once per period
 - c. Locally applicable methods such as those described in “Monitoring for Grasslands, Shrublands and Savanna Ecosystems” available at http://usda-ars.nmsu.edu/monit_assess/monitoring.php
4. Each grazed field will follow a written grazing plan which meets NRCS requirements

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when there is documentation that monitoring data has been collected and used to adjust the objectives in a grazing management plan.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2012 Ranking Period 1

Documentation Requirements

1. A written grazing plan which meets NRCS requirements,
2. A map showing the location of each key grazing area,
3. Photographs from the fixed photo location points for each monitoring time,
4. Written documentation of the monitoring data collected, and
5. Written documentation of how monitoring data was used to adjust grazing management plans including modifications and objectives.

Indiana CSP Enhancement Supplemental Information

PLT02 – Monitoring Key Grazing Areas to Improve Grazing Management:

- Minimum grazing heights will be the decisive monitoring method for compliance of this Enhancement and shall be maintained on a minimum of 80% of the grazing system. (see “Remove Livestock Height):

Species	Start Grazing	Start Grazing Regrowth	Remove Livestock Height	Rest Period	When to Cut for Hay, Silage or Balage	Over-Wintering Height	Approximate Date to begin Rest for Winter Protection ³	
	(inches)	(inches)	(inches)	(days)		(inches)	(North)	(South)
Kentucky Bluegrass, Perennial Ryegrass	4-6	4-5	2-3	14-30	Boot	2-3	N/A	N/A
Orchardgrass, and other non-jointed grasses	6-8	6-8	3-4	14 spring 30--45 summer	Boot & Peak re-growth	3-4	4	4
Tall Fescue (See restrictions in General and Fish & Wildlife Criteria before using)								
Smooth brome, Timothy, and other jointed grass	8	8	4	14 spring 30--45 summer	Boot & Peak re-growth	5-6	9/1-10/1	9/20-10/20
Reed Canarygrass (See restrictions in General and Fish & Wildlife Criteria before using)								
Alfalfa	12	8-10	3-4	24-32	Late bud to early bloom	6	9/1-10/1	9/20-10/20
Birdsfoot Trefoil	10-12	10-12	5-6	24--45	¼ bloom to full bloom	5	9/1-10/1	9/20-10/20
White Clover	6-10	8-10	2	24-32	Early to ½ bloom	4	9/1-10/1	9/20-10/20
Red & Alsike Clover	10-12	8-10	3-4	24-45	Early to ½ bloom	5	9/1-10/1	9/20-10/20
Sudangrass	18-20	18	8-10	14-30	Boot	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sorghum-Sudangrass Hybrid	24-30	24	8-10	14-30	Boot	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pearl Millet	8-10	8-10	4-6	14-30	Boot	N/A	N/A	N/A
Japanese Millet	12-18	12-18	4-6	14-30	Boot	N/A	N/A	N/A
Small Grains	8-10	8	2-3		Early head	4-6	10/15-11/1	11/1-11/15
Switchgrass, Big Bluestem and Indiangrass	12-18	12-18	8 ¹	21--45	Boot to early head	8-12	9/1-10/1	9/20-10/20
Little Bluestem & Sideoats Grama	12-14	12-14	6-8 ^{1,5}	21--45	Boot to early head	6-10	9/1-10/1	9/20-10/20
Brassicas	12-14	12	4-6	14--45	N/A	N/A		
Annual Lespedeza	6-8	6-8	3-4	14-30	Early bloom	²	9/1-10/1	9/20-10/20
N/A – Not Applicable								
¹ Leave an 8-10 inch stubble at end of season until after killing frost.								
² Allow to set seed during season.								
³ Protection from fall grazing is recommended. WSG's can have limited grazing after killing frost when applicable.								
⁴ No restrictions with fescue and orchardgrass.								
⁵ 4 inches above lowest node best indicator.								

- NRCS Pasture Notes, grazers’ notebooks, or other record keeping systems for pasture livestock operations can be used to facilitate monitoring.

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