**alliance practice worksheet**

MINNESOTA

PRESCRIBED GRAZING (528)

*The conditions and specifications below are adapted from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Producers who are installing these practices under the Alliance will use the conditions and implementation guides below but are exempt from NRCS verification and certification. Completing the Purposes and Practice Specifications on this document is sufficient to self-verify practice installation and completion.*

# Farm Info

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| County | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Alliance Contract Number | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Field Number(s) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Tract Number(s) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Practice Area | Click or tap here to enter text. |

# PRACTICE: PRESCRIBED GRAZING (528)

**DEFINITION:**Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals with the intent to achieve specific ecological, economic, and management objectives.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES:** This practice applies to all lands where grazing and/or browsing animals are managed.

See <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/1252/___> to access the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard.

**NOTE:** *Prescribed Grazing payments are based on animal units. This practice has a lifespan of one year according to NRCS. Because forage availability and livestock class and numbers must be evaluated and adjusted annually and continually adapted throughout the year, it is eligible for enrollment in the Alliance pilot regardless of previous adoption.*

**AT A MINIMUM, PRODUCERS WILL PROVIDE A RECORD OF THE FOLLOWING:**

Prepare a prescribed grazing plan for all planned conservation management units where grazing and/or browsing will occur according to State standards and specifications. Prescribed grazing plan will include:

* Goals and objectives clearly stated.
* Resource inventory that identifies:
	+ Existing resource conditions and concerns.
	+ Ecological site or forage suitability group.
	+ Opportunities to enhance resource conditions.
	+ Location and condition of structural improvements such as fences, water developments, etc., including seasonal availability and quality of watering sites.
* Forage inventory of the expected forage quality, quantity, and species in each management unit(s)
* Forage-animal balance developed for the grazing plan that ensures forage produced or available meets forage demand of livestock and/or wildlife.
* Grazing plan developed for livestock that identifies periods of grazing and/or browsing, deferment, rest, and/or other treatment activities for each management unit that accommodates the flexibility needed for adaptive management decisions as supported by the contingency plan and monitoring plan in order to meet goals and objectives.
* Contingency plan developed that details potential problems (i.e., drought, flooding, and insects) and serves as a guide for adaptive management decisions in grazing prescription adjustments in order to mitigate resource and economic effects. strategy is resulting in a movement toward meeting goals and objectives.
* Monitoring plan developed with appropriate protocols and records that assess whether the grazing strategy is adequate in meeting the goals and objectives of the conservation practice standard. Short-term and long-term monitoring may be needed to determine outcomes and support timely adaptive management decisions. Identify the key areas, key plants, or other monitoring indicators that the manager should evaluate in making grazing management decisions. Identify the key areas, key plants, or other monitoring indicators that the manager should evaluate in making grazing management decisions.

# GENERAL CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO ALL PURPOSES

* Manage stocking rates and grazing periods to adjust the intensity, frequency, timing, duration, and distribution of grazing and/or browsing to meet the planned objectives for the plant communities, and the associated resources, including the grazing and/or browsing animals.
* Remove forage in accordance with site production limitations, rate of plant growth, the physiological needs of forage plants, and the nutritional needs of the animals.
* Provide desired grazed/browsed plants sufficient recovery time from grazing/browsing to meet planned objectives. The recovery period can be provided for part or all of the growing season of key plants. Deferment and/or rest will be planned for critical periods of plant or animal needs.
* Manage livestock movements based on rate of plant growth, available forage, and identified objectives such as utilization, plant height or standing biomass, residual dry matter, and/or animal performance.
* Manage grazing and/or browsing animals to maintain adequate vegetative cover on sensitive areas (i.e., riparian, wetland, habitats of concern, and karst areas).
* Provide adequate quantity and quality of drinking water during period of occupancy.
* Develop contingency plans to deal with expected episodic disturbance events (e.g., drought, wildfire, insect infestation, etc.).
* Develop monitoring plans that directly support adaptive management decisions based upon identified ecologic triggers and thresholds to optimize the conservation outcome for the selected purposes.
* Conform to all applicable Federal, State, Tribal and local laws. Seek measures to avoid adverse effects to endangered, threatened, and candidate species and their habitats.

# GRAZING PLAN DOCUMENTATION

[ ]  Practice 528 grazing planner tool or equivalent has been completed.

[ ]  All identified supporting practices within the grazing plan have Implementation Requirements and an engineering design completed and attached.

# Required permits

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Permit Type** | **Entity to Contact** |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

# operation and maintenance plan

[ ]  A monitoring plan has been developed to assess whether the grazing management is meeting the producer’s goals and objectives.

[ ]  Management of livestock is being completed according to the prescribed grazing plan on all included lands.

[ ]  Adaptive management decisions will be made as needed and documented within the plan to ensure that the goals and objectives of the prescribed grazing plan are met.

[ ]  All facilitating conservation practices that are needed to implement a prescribed grazing plan are maintained in good working order (check all that apply). Additional payment will not be provided for facilitating conservation practices.

[x]  315 – Herbaceous Weed Treatment

[ ]  314 – Brush Management

[ ]  382 – Fence

[ ]  472 – Access Control

[ ]  512 – Pasture and Hay Planting

[ ]  516 – Pipeline

[ ]  533 – Pumping Plant

[ ]  561 – Heavy Use Protection

[ ]  595 – Pest Management Conservation System

[ ] 590 – Nutrient Management

[ ] 614 – Watering Facility

[ ] 642 – Water Well

[ ] Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

|  |
| --- |
| Notes:Click or tap here to enter text. |

# PRODUCER SELF-CERTIFICATION

By signing below, I certify that I have reviewed all required documentation and have implemented the practice and met all criteria and requirements as defined in the Natural Resources Conservation Service **PRESCRIBED GRAZING (528)** standard and specifications for the identified acres or animal units.

Further, I agree that:

[ ]  I am not currently receiving a payment for this conservation practice on these fields and acres from another USDA Conservation Program, another USDA Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities grant partner, or a state cost-share program.

[ ]  I will retain all practice documentation to support this certification for up to 12 months following practice adoption and will provide this documentation to the Alliance if selected for a spot check. *(Up to 10% of enrolled Alliance participants will be randomly selected for spot checks).*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Participant Name:*** | Click or tap here to enter text. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Participant Signature:*** | Click or tap here to enter text. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Date:*** | Click or tap to enter a date. |