

# TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

NCDA & CS Ballentine Building Conference Room  
2109 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh NC

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/structural/direction.htm>

August 26, 2014

Teleconference phone number: (919) 733-2429

To join the Connect Pro meeting: **NEW LINK:** <https://ncag.adobeconnect.com/trc/>

**TRC Business Meeting** – Kelly Ibrahim, Chair  
9 am

## DRAFT AGENDA

Welcome

### Reports

1. District BMP- Clearing & Snagging

Caldwell SWCD,  
Pam Steuer

### Action Items

1. Consideration of changes to Prescribed Grazing
2. Consideration of changes to Contract Lengths
3. Consideration of changes to Well

Ken Parks, Ralston James  
David Williams, Kelly Ibrahim  
Kelly Ibrahim, Julie Henshaw

### Discussion items (continued)

1. Work group reports
  - a. Precision Farming – David Williams
  - b. Aquaculture – Natalie Woolard
  - c. Integrated Pest Management – Davis Ferguson
  - d. Pasture BMPs – Ralston James/Matt Flint
  - e. Compost Workgroup – Lisa Fine
  - f. Conservation Effects Workgroup – Kelly Ibrahim
  - g. Christmas Tree/Orchard Workgroup – Davis Ferguson
  - h. Enhanced Water Management Workgroup – Kelly Ibrahim
  - i. Animal Waste Policy Workgroup-Julie Henshaw
  - j. Enhanced Cover Crop – Kelly Ibrahim
2. Member/guest comments

## Prescribed Grazing

### Definition/Purpose

Prescribed Grazing involves managing the intensity, frequency, duration, timing, and number of grazing animals on pastureland in accordance with site production limitations, rate of plant growth, physiological needs of forage plants for production and persistence, and nutritional needs of the grazing animals. The goal of this practice is to reduce accelerated soil erosion and compaction, to improve or maintain riparian and watershed function, to maintain surface and/or subsurface water quality and quantity, to improve nutrient distribution, and to improve or maintain desired species composition and vigor of plant communities. Productive pastures maintain wildlife habitat and permeable green space.

### Policies

1. This practice must be in a separate stand alone contract. This practice must be maintained on the same pasture acres for three consecutive years.
2. The cooperator can receive incentive of up to the amount listed on the NCACSP average cost list per year for up to 3 years, not to exceed a lifetime cap of \$15,000 per applicant.
3. The cooperator must consistently manage fertility, stocking rates, and stop/start grazing heights (shown in the Target Grazing Height table); to minimize the potential for cost shared fields to be overgrazed and to ensure that a good stand of annual or perennial pasture vegetation is maintained.

### Perennial examples

Species	Growth Periods	Target Grazing Height -----inches-----	
		to start	to stop*
Bermudagrass: Common, hybrid & seeded varieties	Apr-Sep	4-6	2-3
	Frosted	3+	2-3
Bluegrass, Kentucky with White Clover	Mar-May	4-6	2-3
	Jun-Aug	6-8	2-4
	Sep-Oct	6-8	2-3
	Nov-Feb	4-6	2-3
Fescue or Orchardgrass with/without Ladino Clover	Feb-Mar	4-6	2-3
	Apr-Jun	6-8	2-3
	Jul-Aug	6-8	3-4
	Sep-Oct	6-8	2-3
Red Clover and mixtures with cool-season grasses	Nov-Jan	4-6	2-3
	Apr-May	6" to bud	3-4
	Jun-Sep	10" to bud	3-4
Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Big Bluestem	Nov-Dec	Frosted	2-3
	Apr-Jun	14-18	5-7
	Jul-Aug	18-22	5-7
	Sep-Oct	16-20	8-12

Annual examples

The list follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Growth Period</u>	<u>Start Grazing Height</u>	<u>Stop Grazing Height</u>
<u>Summer Annuals</u>			
<u>Millet</u>	<u>May – Oct</u>	<u>12” - 24”</u>	<u>5” – 8”</u>
<u>Sorghum</u> <u>Sudangrass</u>	<u>May – Oct</u>	<u>12”- 24”</u>	<u>5”- 8”</u>
<u>Crabgrass</u>	<u>Jun – Sep</u>	<u>8”- 18”</u>	<u>2”- 4”</u>
<u>Winter Annuals</u>			
<u>Small grains</u>	<u>Oct – April</u>	<u>6” – 8”</u>	<u>3”- 4”</u>
<u>Ryegrass</u>	<u>Apr – Jun</u>	<u>6” – 8”</u>	<u>3” – 4”</u>

- \* Up to 10% of the prescribed grazing area may fall below the recommended forage grazing stop heights during dormant periods or declared natural disaster to allow external feeding and further regrowth of remaining acreage. This sacrifice grazing area should be identified as part of a plan on the least environmentally sensitive part of the prescribed grazing area. Vegetation shall be re-established as quickly as possible.

~~4. Stocking rate for available land must be balanced such that no more than 30% external feed (non-grazing land) is needed based on NRCS C-Graze software.~~

~~4. Develop a grazing plan using utilizing C-GRAZ (or other approved tool or method) to calculate and document the estimated balance between forage produced or available in the grazing management unit and livestock herd nutritional requirements in the current and planned pasture management system.~~

5. The cooperator must agree to manage the seasonal and periodic movement of grazing animals to ensure effective forage utilization and improve distribution of excreted nutrients (including placement /provision of drinking water sources).

6. The cooperator must agree to exclude livestock from surface waters and to implement stream protection system components necessary to protect water quality (should we add if they are doing permanent cross fencing that it needs to be in place as well) prior to implementation of a prescribed grazing plan.-

7. Existing feeding, handling, and watering areas must be located as far from streams as practical, but no closer than 30 feet from streams, unless it is technically impractical. To the extent practical, feeding areas for external feed should be moved frequently to improve the distribution of excreted nutrients.

8. Other sacrifice areas shall be located as far from streams as practical, but no closer than 100 feet from streams, unless it is technically impractical.

9. The cooperator must apply nutrients in accordance with a nutrient management plan based on realistic yield expectation and a soil test report within the last two years, taking into consideration the excreted nutrients from livestock.

~~10.~~ Additional cost share funds can be provided in conjunction with this practice to:

a-10. ~~i~~ Install necessary temporary or permanent interior fencing to facilitate effective rotation of grazing animals (should there be an extra requirement if we pay for interior fencing).

~~b. Install fencing to exclude livestock from surface waters~~

~~c. Provide sufficient drinking water in each paddock of the grazing system~~

~~d. Install other necessary stream protection components.~~

11. BMP soil and phosphorus impacts are required on the contract. Include the planted acreage as well. Refer to the Minimum NCACSP Effects Requirements table later in this section for the correct methods of calculation.

### Specifications

North Carolina NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Code #528 (Prescribed Grazing)

(September 2008; ~~revised~~ September 2009, revised September 2014)

Four year contract?

Ask SWCC for division authority to extend prescribed grazing and precision nutrient mgmt. (other three year payment BMPs)

## Stream Protection Well

### Definition/Purpose

A Well means constructing a drilled, driven or dug well to supply water from an underground source as part of a stream protection. (DIP)

### Policies

1. Installation of the well must include wellhead protection.
2. Average cost for pumps for wells include all costs associated with installation and is based on actual cost.
3. Pumps, Solar Pumps, Wells & Windmills must have a qualifying statement that they will be used for agricultural use only. Wells must include well head protection. The cost for the pump includes all costs associated with pump installation, including the cost of getting electricity to the pump.
4. The solar powered pump installation is limited to sites where, due to the topography, property lines, etc., it is not possible to locate the tank or trough such that water may be supplied by gravity. The pump cost includes a submersible pump, photovoltaic panels, control box, support structure, pump cable, drop pipe, and fittings to make up plumbing at pump.
5. Permits are a cost-shareable component for this practice in counties where agricultural wells are not exempt from permit fees. A copy of the permit, receipt of the permit fee, and any supporting water quality reports associated with the permit are required to be kept in the district's contract file.
6. Cooperators are responsible for obtaining and complying with all required permits and local requirements as applicable.
7. Repairs of an existing well that is part of a new stream protection system is cost sharable, including pump if needed, and must be completed by a certified well contractor.
8. New wells and pump installation must be completed by a well contractor certified by the North Carolina Well Contractors Certification Commission. A NC certified well contractor is allowed to sign as Job Approval Authority within their approved level of certification.
9. Replacement of a previously cost shared pump cannot receive additional cost share.
10. Where the certified well contractor determines alternative casing is required by 15A NCAC Subchapter 02C Well Construction Standards the additional cost is eligible for cost share assistance.
11. Life of the BMP is ten (10) years.

### Specifications

North Carolina NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Specification # 642 (Water Well)  
(Revised November 2010)