

ISSUE: Rotational/Prescribed Grazing (PA)

revisit the criteria for this practice to incorporate state regulatory and / or state technical standards as a means of determining implementation

BACKGROUND:

Approved by WQGIT (2010)

[Developing a Protocol for Development and Review of Reduction Efficiencies for Best Management Practices: Test Case of Pasture Management, 2010](#)

Definition

Prescribed Grazing (PG): **a range of pasture management and grazing techniques** to improve the quality and quantity of the forages grown on pastures and reduce the impact of animal travel lanes, animal concentration areas or other degraded areas. PG can be applied to pastures intersected by streams or upland pastures outside of the degraded stream corridor (35 feet width from top of bank). The modeled benefits of prescribed grazing practices can be applied to pasture acres in association with or without alternative watering facilities. They can also be applied in conjunction with or without stream access control. **Pastures under the PG systems are defined as having a vegetative cover of 60% or greater.** Other benefits of this pasture management system include improved infiltration/runoff characteristics, healthier grass stands, reduced need for fertilizers or other inputs, and reduced erosion.

Precision Intensive Rotational Grazing (PIRG): **utilizes more intensive forms of pasture management and grazing techniques** to improve the quality and quantity of the forages grown on pastures and reduce the impact of animal travel lanes, animal concentration areas or other degraded areas of the upland pastures. PIRG can be applied to pastures intersected by streams or upland pastures outside of the degraded stream corridor (35 feet width from top of bank). The modeled benefits of the PIRG practice can be applied to pasture acres in association with or without alternative watering facilities. They can also be applied in conjunction with or without stream access control. This practice requires intensive management of livestock rotation, also known as Managed Intensive Grazing systems (MIG), that have very short rotation schedules. **Pastures are defined as having a vegetative cover of 60% or greater.** Other benefits of this pasture management system include improved infiltration/runoff characteristics, healthier grass stands, reduced need for fertilizers or other inputs, and reduced erosion.

Effectiveness Estimates

The modeled nutrient and sediment effectiveness values of PG and PIRG are currently equal due to the current unavailability of scientific data within the region documenting nutrient and/or sediment differences between PIRG versus PG grazing systems.

TN: 9-11% (depending on hydrogeomorphic region)

TP: 24%

TSS: 30%

Land Use: Pasture

Possible NRCS codes:

528 - Prescribed Grazing

382 – Fence (not exclusive to this practice)

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Interested party provide presentation and discussion to the AgWG on suggested change in implementation tracking, comparing CBP practice definition to regulatory and/or state technical standard.

CHALLENGE:

Ensuring that regulatory and/or state technical standards align with current CBP definition of rotational and prescribed grazing.

LEAD:**TIMELINE:**

CAST-21 (Sept 2021)

Discussion: Yes

Change: Possible, pending AgWG discussion & approval

CAST-23 (Sept 2023)

Discussion: Yes

Change: Possible, pending AgWG discussion & approval

Future Watershed Model?

Discussion: Yes, as part of full review of ag inputs, BMP tracking methods & modeling approaches.

Change: Possible

TASK GROUP:

Tracking & Reporting

WIP III SNAP SHOT:**Prescribed Grazing**

State	2019 Progress % Implementation	WIP 2025 % Implementation (ac)
DE	1	1.7 (139)
MD	7	16.1 (19983)
NY	10.9	20.1 (45741)
PA	6.6	50.2 (221851)
VA	18.6	33.8 (335236)
WV	9.9	24.1 (73063)