AG. WATER QUALITY ACT

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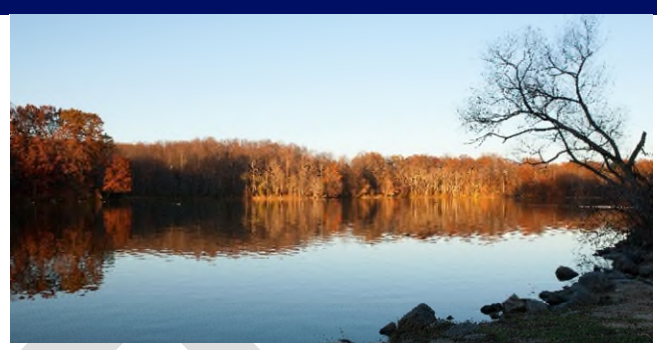

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE | **FUNDING ASSISTANCE** | **IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

PROPER STOCKING DENSITY

LIVESTOCK BMP #2

Photo courtesy of USDA ARS

Description:
Graze at an intensity that will maintain enough cover to protect the soil and maintain or improve the quantity and quality of desirable vegetation and crop residues.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:
Apply practices that will keep pastures growing and vigorous over as long a period as possible. This includes grazing and pasture management practices that improve the quantity and quality of the forages and to maintain adequate vegetative cover. The amount of animal waste and nutrients reaching streams will be reduced by the filtering effects of the vegetation slowing runoff and by the increased uptake of nutrients. Identify the kinds of soils and the adapted plant species. Estimate the forage yield or the pasture carrying capacity. Make a realistic estimation of the kinds and numbers of livestock on the farm and their estimated pastureland and hayland needs.

Recommendations:
Utilize NRCS KY Graze Worksheet, available at your local NRCS/Conservation District office. When vegetation cannot be maintained, consider implementing conservation buffers, such as filter strips, grass waterways, riparian area buffers, etc. to filter contaminants.

Technical References

University Publications
- ID-74 Planned Fencing Systems for Intensive Grazing Management
- AGR-191 Using a Grazing Stick for Pasture Management
- AGR-222 Estimating Carrying Capacity of Cool-Season Pastures in Kentucky Using Web Soil Survey
- AEN-105 Pasture Feeding, Streamside Grazing, and the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Plan

USDA/NRCS Publications
- Practice Code 528- Prescribed Grazing
- Economics of Improved Grazing Management Calculator

Funding Assistance Options

State Cost Share
- See your local Conservation District to apply.

Kentucky Ag. Development Fund (KADB/KAFC)
- Select from available program options here.

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Select from available program options here.

Important Considerations

Water Quality Benefit (💧-💧💧💧💧): 💧💧

Wildlife Benefits
- Contact the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife's Habitat Improvement Program how to improve wildlife habitat with select BMPs (1-800-858-1549).