



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NE-FPP02-1 2011 Ranking Period 1

FPP02 – On-Farm Pilot Project 1 - Bale Grazing as a Tool to Reduce Nutrient Loss from Feed Fed and Efficiently Capture Nutrients for Subsequent Forage Production

Availability: Banner, Cheyenne and Kimball Counties, NE.

Criteria/Requirements for Pilot Project 1

- Operator must have concurrence of Aaron Berger, University of Nebraska Extension Educator, 209 East Third, Kimball, NE prior to scheduling initiated demonstration or on farm research.
- Operators are responsible for any fees and negotiating terms with University of Nebraska Extension.
- Access to the pilot project site must be provided for follow-up educational program or tours.
- Provide annual report according to University of Nebraska Extension requirements to verify that the project is established and being carried out adequately in order to certify this each fiscal year.
- The pilot/research/demonstration cannot be used to promote a commercial product or process. It must focus on demonstrating the strength and weaknesses of a management practice or technology.
- Land requirements: 10-15 acres.
- Maximum number of participants: 1.
- Length of Pilot Project: 3 years.

Specific Requirements:

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension would be conducting the on farm demonstration project.

Many producers in this region feed hay in corrals to cows prior to calving. The nutrients from hay feeding in these corrals are frequently then hauled out of the corrals and placed on pasture or crop ground. Recent research has shown that feeding cattle on the site where manure is going to be spread is much more energy efficient than feeding cattle in a corral and then hauling the manure to the site to be spread. Less equipment and energy is used when manure and urine is “naturally” spread on the site by the cattle. Also a significantly higher amount of the nitrogen from the feed fed is captured by the soil and available for use in subsequent crops when feed on the site where the manure is to be spread. Research shows that significant nitrogen loss occurs from manure and urine due to volatilization when it accumulates in a corral setting over the winter and spring months. Feeding cattle on native rangeland can also be a source for weed growth as nutrients from the feed, weed seed in the feed, and equipment traffic on the rangeland can provide an opportunity for weeds to establish and grow.

The national focus that would be being addressed would be **Energy and Soil Quality**.

Energy would be addressed through reducing the energy used to haul manure out of corral areas. Energy would also be addressed through improving the utilization of nutrients through reducing loss and more efficiently utilizing these nutrients. Energy would also be addressed through reducing the use of fossil fuels in a bale grazing setting where temporary fence is used to ration out bales as opposed to starting a tractor daily to feed cattle.



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Soil Quality would be addressed through improving soil organic matter and the cycling of soil nutrients.

A participant in the demonstration project would need to provide approximately 10-15 acres of crop ground, equipment for preparing the soil and planting subsequent forage crops, assistance with the collection of soil samples and soil testing as well as the collecting of forage samples and forage testing. The participant will also need to provide cattle for grazing of the grown annual forages, temporary fencing materials, bale rings and labor for the management of the cattle. Ideally these demonstration projects take place over a three year period to account for variation that occurs in weather conditions.

Additional State Documentation Requirements for pilot, research and demo project (prior to initiating CSP contract)

1. Copy of project proposal as agreed to with University of Nebraska Extension
2. Agreement or documentation of concurrence with University of Nebraska Extension
3. A map showing fields where the enhancement will be applied



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In addition, complete the Table below:

Tract	Field(s)	Acres Planned				Acres Applied (completed by operator)
<i>EX. 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>20</i>				<i>20 acres</i>

I certify that the following information meets specifications and has been provided to NRCS:

1. Complete the table above and provide a map with delineation of the area where the enhancement was applied including partial fields.
2. Photographs of a representative number of fields showing demonstration or research.
3. Annual report based on University of Nebraska Extension Service that documents accomplishments (required each year before certified).

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____