



## **The Importance of Rotational Grazing Systems in the Implementation of NRCS Conservation Policies and Programs**

William Puckett and Dennis W. Thompson; USDA-NRCS; Contact Author Email: [dennis.thompson@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:dennis.thompson@wdc.usda.gov)

Although controversial in terms of the ecological impacts, rotational grazing systems are an important component of NRCS technical assistance to private landowners. Applications vary from relatively simple two pasture systems to highly complex intensive grazing management systems. Particular implementation details are dependent on the landowner's objectives and site-specific resource concerns. While our experience is that landowners are relatively well-satisfied with the interactions of rotational grazing systems and management plans and have provided a variety of anecdotal support, NRCS is also interested in objective assessments of impacts on ecological and management variables. These impact assessments are critical in the identification and transfer of technology that is consistent and cost-effective. In particular, the Conservation Effects Assessment Program (CEAP) requires that NRCS have objective estimates of the effects of common conservation practices on the nation's natural resources. NRCS is interested in and supportive of the effort to enhance quantitative understanding of rotational grazing system impacts on soil, water, air, plant and animal resources.

2009. 62nd Society for Range Management Annual Meeting. Paper No. 21-2.