Grassland Law of the PRC

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Unofficial English translation prepared for reference only. The official Chinese text prevails.

Contents

Table of Contents 1

Chapter I — General Provisions 2

Chapter II — Grassland Ownership and Use Rights 2

Chapter III — Grassland Planning 2

Chapter IV — Grassland Construction 2

Chapter V — Grassland Utilization 2

Chapter VI — Grassland Protection 2

Chapter VII — Supervision and Inspection 2

Chapter VIII — Legal Liability 2

Chapter IX — Supplementary Provisions 2

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Effective: March 1, 2003 (revision); December 28, 2013 (latest amendment)

Table of Contents

- Chapter I — General Provisions
- Chapter II — Grassland Ownership
- Chapter III — Grassland Planning
- Chapter IV — Grassland Construction
- Chapter V — Grassland Utilization
- Chapter VI — Grassland Protection
- Chapter VII — Supervision
- Chapter VIII — Legal Liability
- Chapter IX — Supplementary Provisions

Chapter I — General Provisions

Article 1 — This Law is enacted for the purposes of protecting, building, and rationally utilizing grasslands, improving the ecological environment, maintaining biodiversity, developing modern animal husbandry, and promoting sustainable economic and social development.

Article 2 — This Law applies to the planning, protection, construction, utilization, and management of grasslands within the territory of the People's Republic of China. "Grasslands" as used in this Law means natural grasslands and artificial grasslands.

Chapter II — Grassland Ownership and Use Rights

Article 3 — Grasslands shall be owned by the state, except for those grasslands that are owned by collectives as provided for by law. State-owned grasslands may be used by collective economic organizations in accordance with the law. Grassland use rights may be transferred in accordance with the law.

Chapter III — Grassland Planning

Article 4 — The state shall implement a system of unified planning for the protection, construction, and utilization of grasslands. Grassland protection, construction, and utilization plans shall be incorporated into the national economic and social development plans.

Chapter IV — Grassland Construction

Article 5 — The state shall encourage and support grassland construction. People's governments at or above the county level shall increase investment in grassland construction and support the construction of artificial grasslands, improved grasslands, and forage production and processing bases.

Chapter V — Grassland Utilization

Article 6 — Grassland contractual operators shall rationally utilize grasslands and shall not exceed the approved livestock-carrying capacity. Grassland contractual operators shall adopt a combination of rotational grazing, rest grazing, and prohibition of grazing, to achieve a balance between grassland and livestock.

Chapter VI — Grassland Protection

Article 7 — The state shall implement a system of basic grassland protection. Important grasslands such as natural grasslands used primarily for grazing, grasslands used for forage seed collection, and grasslands that play a special role in regulating climate, conserving water, preventing wind erosion, and fixing sand shall be designated as basic grasslands for strict protection.

Chapter VII — Supervision and Inspection

Article 8 — The competent administrative department for grasslands under the State Council and the competent administrative departments for grasslands of local people's governments at or above the county level shall be responsible for the supervision and inspection of grasslands.

Chapter VIII — Legal Liability

Article 9 — Where grasslands are illegally occupied, reclaimed, or overgrazed, the competent administrative department for grasslands shall order the violator to cease the illegal act and restore the vegetation within a prescribed time limit, and shall confiscate the illegal gains and impose a fine.

Chapter IX — Supplementary Provisions

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Article 10 — This Law shall come into force on March 1, 2003.

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