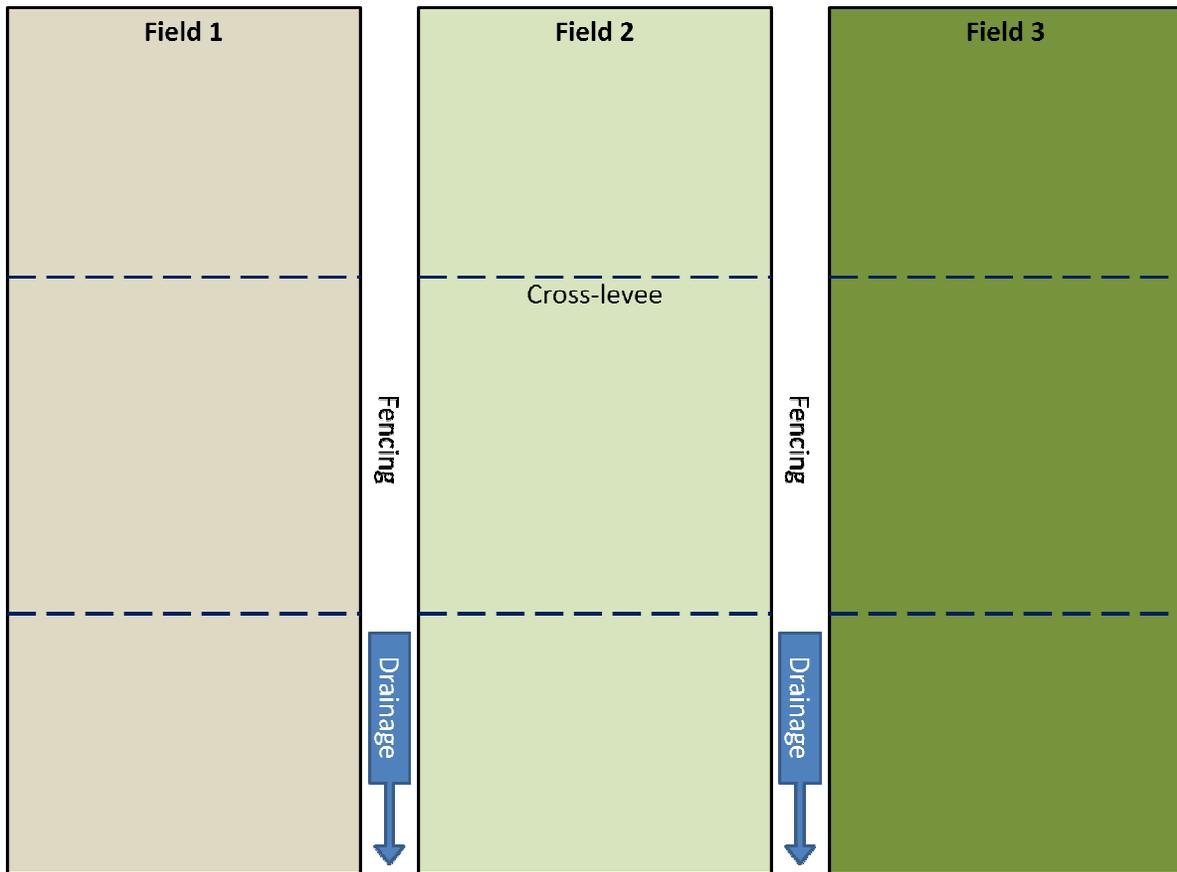


Wetland Conservation and Management for the Texas Central Coast

Wetland Complex Management

Example A – Wetland management rotation in a rice production and cattle grazing system



	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Field 1	Rice cultivation – Flood (6-18") 50% or more for migratory waterfowl after harvest. Maintain flooded conditions through winter.	1 st idle year – Slow drawdown (1-2 months) beginning in March. No grazing. Flood a portion of field in late August for teal. Flood additional acres in Oct-Nov for wintering waterfowl.	2 nd idle year – Drawdown beginning in March or later for cattle grazing and preparation for rice cultivation the following spring.
Field 2	1 st idle year – Slow drawdown (1-2 months) beginning in March. No grazing. Flood a portion of field in late August for teal. Flood additional acres in Oct-Nov for wintering waterfowl.	2 nd idle year – Drawdown beginning in March or later for cattle grazing and preparation for rice cultivation the following spring.	Rice cultivation – Flood (6-18") 50% or more for migratory waterfowl after harvest. Maintain flooded conditions through winter.
Field 3	2 nd idle year – Drawdown beginning in March or later for cattle grazing and preparation for rice cultivation the following spring.	Rice cultivation – Flood (6-18") 50% or more for migratory waterfowl after harvest. Maintain flooded conditions through winter.	1 st idle year – Slow drawdown (1-2 months) beginning in March. No grazing. Flood a portion of field in late August for teal. Flood additional acres in Oct-Nov for wintering waterfowl.

The above management rotation schedule and diagram are conceptual, provided here to be used as a guide by wetland managers who desire to manage their property for waterfowl and other wetland birds in an effective and efficient manner. Wetland systems are dynamic and no generic management recommendations can be written to account for all possible environmental scenarios.



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