

<h1 style="margin: 0;">Management Intensive Grazing</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Conservation Activity Job Sheet (NJGrazing03)</h2>

Participant _____ Crop Year _____

A grazing system is perceived to be intensively rotated when rations for mature animals consist of a minimum of 80% forage, either pasture or dry hay. Livestock are rotated at a minimum of every 2 days, and a lactating dairy herd is rotated at least every 24 hours.

Pastures must receive adequate rest periods based on predominant forage species.

Suggested rest periods are as follows: (circle the period used)

Season	Weather Conditions	Growth Rate	Rest Period
Spring	Cool, moist	Fast	10-14 days
Spring	Warm, dry	Medium	14-20 days
Summer	Hot, moist	Slow	30-35 days
Summer	Hot, dry	Very slow	40-60 days
Fall	Cool	Medium	14-20 days

Paddock systems should be broken down into a series of smaller management units or cells, allowing strip grazing with the use of temporary, movable fencing that is relocated every time the animals are moved. Back-fencing should also be incorporated to prevent animals from continuing to graze on pasture already grazed.

Supplemental forages must be made available to extend the grazing system into the winter and/or provide alternative grass sources during the intense summer months. Planning year-long plant productivity can be done using any or all of the following:

- Supplemental annuals (summer or winter)
- Fall stockpiling
- Grazing row crop residue
- Bale-grazing during winter

Pasture and dry forage testing are required within the first 12 months to more accurately balance the feed ration.

Documentation Required: Records of a prescribed grazing schedule for all pastures that incorporates any additional feed supplementation. Use the attached Grazing Worksheet or similar format. The schedule will include the following information:

1. Documentation of the forage quantity and quality for each management unit(s), i.e., pastures during the grazing season.
2. Documentation of the number of domestic livestock by kinds and class, and the number of grazing/browsing wildlife of concern within the management unit(s).
3. Documentation of nutritional surpluses and deficiencies from the forage resources for each kind and class of livestock and grazing/browsing wildlife of concern in the management unit(s).
4. Supplemental feed requirements needed to meet the desired nutritional level for the kind and class of livestock and grazing/browsing wildlife of concern in the management unit(s).
5. Documentation of the actual grazing schedule for livestock which identifies periods of grazing, resting, and other treatment activities for each management unit(s).
6. Nutrient management techniques used within the pasture system. Soil testing is required once every 3 years.
7. Calculation of the average AUM (animal unit month), AUD (animal unit day), and animal body condition score for the year.
8. Forage test results for fiber, protein and energy.
9. Use of an appropriate record keeping format to assess whether the grazing strategy is meeting objectives.

I certify that I complied with the requirements for Management Intensive Grazing for my pasture operation.

Signature

Date

PRESCRIBED GRAZING MANAGEMENT PLANNING WORKSHEET

For Use With The Rotational Stocking Method

NAME _____

DATE _____

STEP 1. Estimate the Forage Demand:

The forage demand is the amount of forage dry matter (DM) required to feed the herd/flock for one-day. It is calculated based on the rule of thumb that grazing animals require an amount of forage DM equal to about 2.5 to 3.0% of their body weight per day. For lactating animals and growing stock use 3.0% of body weight. For all other classes of livestock use 2.5%.

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Average weight/animal} \quad \times \quad .025 \text{ or } .03 = \text{lbs DM/head/day} \\ \times \quad \text{\# of animals} = \text{Total Forage Demand} \quad \text{lbs/day} \end{array}$$

STEP 2. Estimate the Forage Supply:

This is the amount of forage dry matter that is estimated to be available for grazing after a 15 day growth period in the spring and a 30 day growth period in the summer and fall.

****NOTE**** These numbers are for planning purposes only.

Unless actual measured yields are available, use estimated yields from NRCS Land Classification data. Use the following table to convert seasonal yields to forage availability on a rotational basis.

Forage Availability Estimates

Hay Yield	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5
tons/acre/year							
Forage	2200	2000	1800	1600	1400	1000	
Availability					1200		
lbs/acre/rotation							
Forage Supply	_____						
lbs/acre/rotation	_____						

STEP 3. Select Residency Period:

One half to 1 day residency periods are recommended for lactating dairy cows. Residency periods of 2 to 7 days may be used for all other livestock.

****NOTE**** For maximizing harvest efficiency, use the shortest residency period possible.

Residency Period = _____ Days

STEP 4. Determine Paddock Size:

Paddock size is based on meeting the total forage demand for the herd or flock for the number of day of grazing indicated by the residency period.

$$\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Forage Demand}} \div \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Forage Supply}} = \text{_____}$$
$$\text{X } \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Residency Period}} = \text{Paddock Size } \text{_____} \text{ Acres}$$

STEP 5. Calculate the Number of Paddocks:

The number of paddocks required is based on the meeting the longest regrowth interval recommended, i.e. 30 days.

$$30 \div \text{by } \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Residency Period}} = \text{_____} + 1 = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Number of Paddocks}}$$

STEP 6. Estimate the Total Number of Acres:

$$\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Paddock Size}} \text{ X } \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Number of Paddocks}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Acres Planned}}$$

****NOTE**** This planning procedure is designed to balance the forage supply with the forage demand during the mid-summer period when forage growth rates are generally 50% less than what they are during an average spring. As a result, during the spring and early summer, only about 40 to 60% of these planned acres will be required for grazing. The remaining 40 to 60% should be mechanically harvested or planned to be grazed by another group of livestock following their own prescribed grazing management plan.