

Grazing Plan

The Grass Whisperer Method

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"Getting in the ballpark = Close is good enough!"

Name: _____ Date: _____

- Note: DM = dry matter = grass, forage, hay bale

1a. How much dry matter do grazing animals eat, roughly?

$$\frac{\text{average weight of animal}}{\text{Lbs DM/head/day}} \times 3\% = \frac{\text{Lbs DM/head/day}}{\text{\# of animals}} = \text{unadjusted daily forage demand}$$

1b. Adjust for Supplemental (non-grazed) Feed

$$\text{unadjusted daily forage demand} - \text{Lbs of supplemental feed} = \text{adjusted daily forage demand}$$

$$\frac{\text{Lbs / DM / Day}}{\text{Lbs / DM / Day}} - \frac{\text{Lbs / DM / Day}}{\text{Lbs / DM / Day}} = \frac{\text{Lbs / DM / Day}}{\text{Lbs / DM / Day}}$$

2a. Estimate the Forage Supply - Look at your feet!

	Pounds of Dry Matter / Acre Inch = per rotation			
Lbs DME/Ac-In	0	100	200	300
Rating	none	fair	average	good
Example Below	still none	600lbs	1200lbs	1800lbs

2b. Acres Required / Day = _____

1b. Forage demand = 2b. Acres required/ day

2. Forage supply

3. Days In One Paddock

Residency period = $\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Days}}$

Residency period = time spent in a paddock

Usually pick - 7,3,1 (once a week, twice a week, daily)

Generally 3 days or less, want to move before the second bite, have to do what is right for you (labor)

4. Determine Ideal Paddock Size

$\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Forage demand}} + \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{forage supply}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{acres required/day}} \times \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{residency period}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{paddock size (Ac)}}$

5. Determine Number of Paddocks Based On Recovery Time

$\frac{\text{XX}}{\text{Days rest}} / \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Residency period}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{_____}} + 1 = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{number of paddocks}}$

Spring - 20 days

Early Summer - 30 days

Mid-Late Summer - 45 days

Early Fall - 60 days

6. Estimate Total Acres Needed

Use step 5 to complete step 6.

$\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Paddock size}} \times \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{\# of paddocks}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{acres needed for XX days rest}}$

20 days

30 days

45 days

60 days

What You Need - Everything to this point is theory

What You Have - When the hooves hit the grass

7. Determine The Number Of Actual Acres Planned

$$\frac{\text{Paddock size}}{\text{Ac needed/day}} = \frac{\text{days available}}{\text{days available}}$$

In the example

8. Now start to plan using the Grazing Chart