

## **Possible Grazing System Goals:**

Below is a list of possible grazing goals and supporting objectives that would help accomplish the goals. This list is not all inclusive but rather a list of practical goals that can be used stand alone or in combinations of one or more together as they fit a planning situation and the realistic goals of a farmer. It is not required to have multiple objectives under a specific goal, they can be matched differently as the situation dictates. This is provided as a starting point to help better define the goals, objectives to accomplish the goals and possible practices to implement the plan after visiting with the farmer.

Increase profitability of your forage/livestock operation.

- increase grazing days and decrease hay feeding days
- manage 30+% legumes in the pasture stand for improved calf performance
- implement complete system management to increase pasture carrying capacity

Extend the grazing season to decrease the number of hay/supplemental feeding days

- implement rotational grazing (528)
- use internal cross fencing to subdivide pastures (382)
- utilize warm season forages (512)
- stockpile tall fescue for winter strip grazing (new 528)
- increase forage diversity with plants from different functional groups (512)

Improve manure/urine distribution and nutrient utilization

- implement rotational grazing and increase stocking density (528)
- shorten grazing period, increase rest/regrowth period (528)
- adjust pH by adding lime according to soil test results (590)

Decrease the need for fertilizer N on pasture land

- increase legume content above 30% of pasture mix (512)
- manage for legume persistence in pasture sward by using rotational grazing (528 & 590)

Increase utilization of pasture forage by grazing animals

- implement rotational grazing increase stocking density (528)
- shorten grazing period, increase rest/regrowth period (528)

Improve stand density, vigor, quality and production

- implement rotational grazing, and increase stocking density (528)
- commit to sufficient forage rest/regrowth periods (528)
- control undesirable weeds and brush (314, 595) (if a serious problem exists)

Improve forage diversity to fill in the gaps of the production system

- inter-seed clovers into pastures
- warm season forages (NWSG's, or bermudagrass)
- cool season forages (alfalfa, brassicas, chicory, cereal crops to be used for high calf growth)

Decrease soil erosion (stream bank, shoreline, gulley, sheet on pasture)

- control livestock access to surface water bodies (472)
- install stream bank stabilization (580)
- utilize internal fencing and implement a rotational grazing system (382)
- stabilization of heavy use areas (561, 575)
- stabilize critically eroding areas (342)

Improve surface water quality

- control livestock access to surface water bodies (472)
- install riparian herbaceous or forested buffers (390, 391)
- implement rotational grazing (improves forage stand, thickness, vigor, OM input and infiltration of rainwater)

Improve livestock health and productivity

- develop a clean, reliable, evenly distributed drinking water supply (642, 614, 578, 574, 533, 516,)
- provide clean, reliable water sources strategically located in pastures for minimizing the distance livestock need to travel for water
- ensure good quality forage is available longer throughout the growing season (528)

Improve forage persistence and productivity through times of drought

- implement a rotational grazing system
- commit to recommended forage grazing heights and allowing sufficient rest periods for proper forage regrowth
- use a designated sacrifice area for confining livestock and feeding during periods of insufficient forage growth