UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
Cooperative Extension Service
University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture, and County Governments Cooperating

Improving Grazing Management

300 Day Grazing – Emphasis Program

Objective:

Demonstrate the benefits of improved utilization of forage, fertilizer and land associated with rotational grazing.

Methods & Procedures:

- Soil test pastures
- Conduct forage inventories
- Rotational graze one field and continuous graze similar field
- Design and implement a rotational grazing system to optimize use of available forage and water resources
- Record rainfall events and amounts or utilize local weather station data
- Record the number of acres, stocking rate, grazing method and turn in and turn out date.

Data Analysis:

1. Determine cost and time associated with electric fencing.
2. Determine number of grazing days for rotational and continuous grazing system.
3. Determine economic cost difference between rotational grazing vs. continuous grazing system.

Outcomes:

1. Number of grazing days extended by rotational grazing
2. Number of days spent on rotationally grazed pasture.
3. Number of days spent on continuous grazed pasture

Outputs:

1. Number of producers reached through field days, news letters and presentations.
2. Number of producers adopting the practice

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Rotationally Grazed

Agent Name: _____
Producer Name: _____

Field
Acres _____
Soil Test _____
Forage Inventory *forage inventory sheet included*

Fertilizer
Type _____
Date Applied _____
Rate per acre _____
Cost Per Ton _____
Total Cost _____

Grazing Period
Beginning Date _____
Ending Date _____

Grazing Method
Strip – How often were cattle moved _____
Continuous _____

Rainfall
Record Daily Amounts _____

Livestock
Type _____
Number _____
Estimated average weight _____

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Continuous Grazed

Agent Name: _____
Producer Name: _____

Field
Acres _____
Soil Test _____
Forage Inventory *forage inventory sheet included*

Fertilizer
Type _____
Date Applied _____
Rate per acre _____
Cost Per Ton _____
Total Cost _____

Grazing Period
Beginning Date _____
Ending Date _____

Grazing Method
Strip – How often were cattle moved _____
Continuous _____

Rainfall
Record Daily Amounts _____

Livestock
Type _____
Number _____
Estimated average weight _____

Forage Inventory Sheet

Name:	Date:
County:	
Field ID:	Number of Acres:

Species	**County**	**Total**	**%**	**Species**	**Count**	**Total**	**%**
Cool-Season Grasses				**Legumes**			
Fescue				White Clover			
Orchardgrass				Red Clover			
Ky Bluegrass				Annual Lespedeza			
Small Grain				Hairy Vetch			
Annual Ryegrass				Hop Clover			
Other Cool Season Grasses				Other Legumes			
Warm-Season Grasses				**Weeds/Other**			
Bermudagrass				Perennial Broadleaf Weeds			
Bahiagrass				Annual Broadleaf Weeds			
Dallisgrass				Perennial Grassy Weeds			
Crabgrass				Annual Grassy Weeds			
Other Warm Season Grasses				Sedge/Rush			
				Woody/Thorny Brush			
				Bare Ground			

To conduct a pasture inventory, walk a zip-zag pattern across a pasture and record what is found at the end of your toe on every 5th step. Record at least 50 tally marks—preferably 100 tally marks for each field.