

Grazing Management Parameters



Grazing?

- “Grazing” and “No Grazing”
- Grazing parameters are used to describe and define the type of grazing

Grazing?



Low Density
Long Duration
Extensive

Grazing?



Low Density
Long Duration
Extensive



High Density
Short Duration
Intensive



Grazing?

- Grazing Parameters

- Livestock Density

- Number of animals per acre
 - Animal Units (AU)/acre
 - 1 AU = 1 cow that weighs 1,000 lbs. and consumes about 26 lbs. of dry matter per day
 - 1 AU = 5 mature sheep

- Grazing Duration

- Number of days or months
 - Animal Unit Day (AUD), Animal Unit Month (AUM)

Grazing?



Winter and Spring
Grazing

Grazing?



Winter and Spring
Grazing



Summer Grazing



Grazing?

- Grazing Parameters
 - **Timing of Grazing**
 - Season
 - Plant's phenological stage
 - Bolting stage
 - Boot stage

Grazing?



Type of Animal



Grazing?

- Grazing Parameters
 - Livestock Density
 - Grazing Duration
 - Timing of Grazing
 - Type of Animal

Manipulated to achieve desired results.

A Closer Look At...

- **Livestock Density**
 - Low Density results in:
 - High selectivity
 - Uneven grazing/utilization
 - High Density results in:
 - Low selectivity
 - Even grazing/utilization

A Closer Look At...

- **Grazing Duration**
 - Will depend on:
 - Amount of vegetation
 - Livestock density
 - Window of opportunity

A Closer Look At...

- **Timing of Grazing**

- For weed control grazing must occur when:

- The target plant is vulnerable to grazing
 - The target plant is palatable to livestock

- For riparian areas grazing should occur when:

- Water runoff is minimal
 - Stream flow is minimal
 - Ground is not wet and vulnerable to damage

Stocking Rate & Carrying Capacity



Stocking Rate

- The number of specific kinds and classes of animals grazing or using a unit of land for a specified time period.
- May be expressed as animal-unit-months or animal-unit-days per acre, hectare, or section, or the reciprocal (area of land/animal-unit-month or day)

Stocking Density

- The relationship between number of animals and area of land at any instant of time.
- It may be expressed as animal-units per acre, animal-units per section or AU/hectare.

Carrying Capacity

- The maximum stocking rate possible that is consistent with maintaining or improving vegetation or related resources.
- It may vary from year to year on the same area because of fluctuating forage production.

Animal Unit

- Considered to be one mature cow of approximately 1,000 pounds, either dry or with a calf up to 6 months of age, or their equivalent based on a standardized amount of forage consumed.
- Animal-unit-day (AUD) = an allowance of 26 pounds dry matter consumed
- Animal-unit-month (AUM) = 30 days x 1 animal-unit-day