

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF A BASIC ROTATIONAL SYSTEM FOR A HORSE FARM IN DOLLARS AND SENSE?

ASSUME: 12 Acres of well drained soil with a pH 6.2 with good fertility
 6 horses / one fenced field / 1 watering system in place
 Cost of replacement forage is \$3.00 / small hay bale
 Established Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue and Kentucky bluegrass on all acres with an annual yield of 4.5 tons (9,000 lbs)/ acre

LET'S EVALUATE SOME KEY EXPENSES OVER 5 YEARS

1 Paddock System	2 Paddock System	6 Paddock System
Purchased hay \$10,440	Purchased hay \$7,200	Purchased hay \$ 000
Seeding costs 6,000	Seeding Costs 3,600	Seeding Costs 600
Temp. fencing 0	Temp fencing 300	Temp fencing 900
Watering system 0	Watering system 300	Watering system 600
System cost \$16,440	System cost \$11,400	System cost \$2,100
		Value of Forage Produced \$18,540

ROTATIONAL GRAZING DOESN'T COST IT PAYS!

Forage calculations were done using the NRCS Maryland Grazing Handbook and C-Graz Grazing Analysis Tool. Cost estimates were based on using basic portable fencing and watering systems.

Only about 25% of the forage yield potential will be realized due to regrazing of recovering grass plants. Grass quickly regrazed is high in sugar a concern with founder issues. Constant regrazing will cause rapid stand death.

Value of pasture forage is 45 small bales of hay / acre. Needed additional hay/acre: 58 small bales of hay costing \$174 an acre or \$2,088 a year or \$10,440 over a 5 year expected stand life in a 6 paddock rotation.

Annual reseeding costs \$100 an acre (seed only) or \$1200 per year.

SYSTEM ONE 12 ACRES

1 12 ACRE Paddock

Also suggest having a sacrifice area to prevent the worst compaction in wet field conditions.

To prevent grazing below recommended heights which will kill your grass, feed animals hay elsewhere when grass is below recommended grazing heights.

LEGEND

	GRAZING
	RECOVERY

0 Days in Recovery
 30 Days Grazing
 per paddock

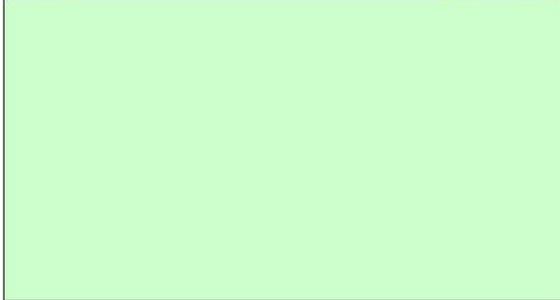
1 Paddock
 No Rotation

Only about 35% of the forage yield potential will be realized due to regrazing of recovering grass plants and constant stand decline, but better cover conditions. Grass quickly regrazed is high in sugar a concern with founder issues.

Value of pasture forage is 63 small bales of hay/acre. Needed additional hay/acre: 40 small bales of hay costing \$120 an acre or \$1,440 a year or \$7,200 over a 5 year expected stand life in a 6 paddock rotation.

Reseeding costs \$100 / acre (seed only) done every other year will cost \$1,200 every 2 yrs.

2 Paddock System 12 Acres
 2 6 Acre Paddocks
 Also suggest having a sacrifice area to prevent the worst compaction in wet field conditions.
 To prevent grazing below recommended heights which will kill your grass, feed animals hay elsewhere when grass is below recommended grazing

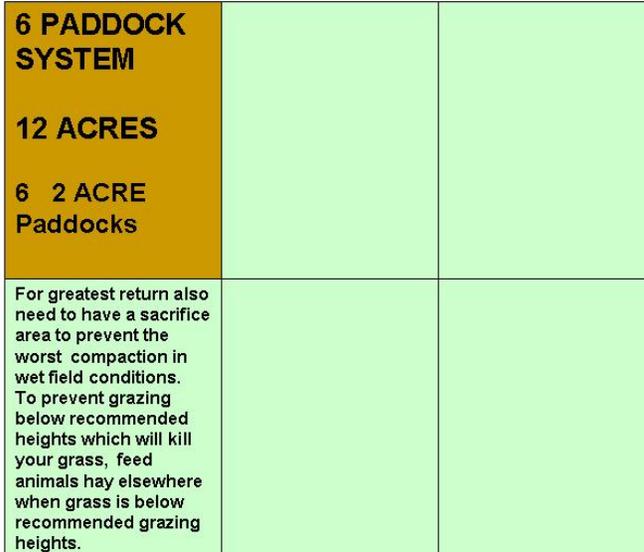


15 Days in Recovery
15 Days Grazing per paddock
 2 Paddocks
 30 Day Rotation

Age of forage should be good for horses, not too lush. About 58% of the forage yield potential will be realized due to some rejection and regrazing of grass plants, but grass recovery time is adequate for all purposes.

Pasture forage produced equals 103 bales/acre: Worth \$309 an acre or \$3,708 a year or \$18,540 over a 5 year expected stand life in a 6 paddock rotation since basic grass needs are met.

Annual reseeding costs for spot treatments should be less than \$10 /acre or \$120/yr (seed only).



30 Days in Recovery
6 Days Grazing per paddock
 6 Paddocks
 36 Day Rotation