Grazing Plan

Date:

Name:

Address:

Home Telephone:

Mobile Telephone:

County:

Region:

Planner:

Notes:

Brief Description of Forage-Livestock Operation

Resource Concerns and Enhancement Opportunities

Producer Goals and Objectives

Practice and Facility Implementation Schedule

Practice Code	Description of Practice	Date to be Implemented

Note Important: The practices listed in the schedule above should be implemented according to the dates indicated. If these practices are not implemented according to schedule, please contact the Planner responsible for developing this grazing plan.

Grazing Guidelines

Manage livestock on paddocks and closely monitor the forage height. The herd should be rotated to a new paddock when grazing efficiency goals have been achieved. Grazed forage should be given a sufficient rest to achieve optimum regrowth before allowing to be grazed again. For site specific grazing guidance on recommended grazing heights and recovery periods, refer to the **C-Graz Grazing Guidance Summery Report** that is attached.

Flash Grazing is defined as a short duration weed/vegetation control practice in which livestock are used to reduce growth instead of mechanical equipment. The time frame is typically a matter of hours, not days. If flash grazing is used as part of the grazing system the following stipulations must be implemented:

- Begin grazing when palatable immature weeds/vegetation reaches 6 to 12 inches in height
- Cease grazing when weeds/vegetation is grazed uniformly to a minimum height of 4 inches
- Minimum of 30 days rest and recovery period before regrazing is permitted
- NO grazing is permitted prior to May 1 or after September 15
- Avoid grazing during and immediately following storm events

Forage and Animal Inventory

The forage inventory is an estimate of the annual dry matter forage production that might be expected on the farm using the assumptions made while entering data into C-Graz during the planning process. The Forage Inventory by Field is a very gross estimate of the dry matter utilized by the grazing animal, and it can vary widely depending on soil type, local weather patterns (moisture and temperature stress), grazing management practices, fertility practices, pest outbreaks, and many other factors that the manager may or may not be able to control. This inventory is an estimate of the dry mass only, and does not infer any specific "nutritive value" of the dry matter.

The herd forage requirements show the monthly and annual livestock feed demand based on assumptions outlined during the planning process. It is essential for YOU to realize that these estimates of demand are grossly based on the dry matter needs of animals in the various stages of lactation or production. Nutritive value of forage that is grazed or harvested is assumed to be sufficient to meet the nutritional needs of animals during the respective stages of lactation, growth or maintenance.

General Seasonal Considerations

April – June

Cool season grasses and legumes are rapidly growing during this period of the year. Soil moisture conditions could allow for shorter rest periods between grazing events in April and early May due to quick regrowth of cool season forages.

July – September

Cool season forages are typically dormant during the summer season. Do not graze forages too low during this period and allow for extended rest periods between grazing events. If, warm season grasses are an option, focus on grazing those paddocks.

October – December

Stockpiled forages may last until January, but additional feed sources should be available, if needed; until spring growth is available for grazing. Cool season forages should meet the needs of the herd throughout the fall.

January – March

Supplement feed maybe needed during these months to meet the animals' needs.

Contingency Plan

There are elements that can occur that could cause extreme limitations in forage growth and therefore could affect feed supply. The producer should have a plan in place if these situations should occur.

<u>Drought</u>

- Sufficient hay/feed should be provided as necessary to meet the nutritional requirements of the herd.
- If forage growth is limited, animals should be placed in sacrifice areas to minimize damage to the pastures.

Feed Supply

- Sufficient hay/feed should be provided as necessary to meet the nutritional requirements of the herd.
- Winter feeding sites should be rotated, to minimize damage to pastures.
- If pastures are excessively wet, animals should be placed in sacrifice areas to minimize damage to the pastures.

Operation and Maintenance

You are responsible for the safe operation and maintenance of this grazing plan. To execute this plan in an effective way will require a continuing effort, making adjustments as needed to ensure that the objectives are met. All facilitating practices (i.e. fence, watering, trails, and pest management) that are needed to affect adequate grazing distribution as planned will be maintained in good working order.

Apply Lime and Fertilizer or Manure according to soil test reports from samples taken to a depth of 3-4" every two to three years.

Clip and Drag Pastures as Needed to initiate vegetative regrowth and/or control undesirable plant species and better distribute nutrients and destroy rejection area.

Kill and reseed or if no options exist renovate pastures as necessary to introduce and or maintain desired forage species, especially legumes. Before reseeding pastures, it is highly recommended that producers address the soil pH and any fertility deficiencies in accordance with current soil tests and nutrient management plan recommendations.

No till drill grass seedings have less competition at the critical time of germination and tend to have less competition the entire establishment year. If desirable plants make up less than 50% of the stand, it is worth the effort to completely reestablish the pasture. Broadcasting grass seed into a worn out pasture is an expensive venture with usually only a limited amount of success. A grass seeding has little chance of survival against any type of established vegetation. Success is much greater with a field that has been cleaned of vegetation with the use of herbicides being far more successful than tillage. Lightly incorporated broadcast and Brillion seedings are next best if any type of a drilled seeding cannot be done. Constant management of weeds during the establishment year is essential.

Overseeding with legumes should be done late in the winter on pastures that have been heavily grazed, and still have a good stand of desirable grazing grasses or are declining. This will cut fertilizer needs and increase the grazing period and extend the life of the stand. A stand of 40-50% legumes is optimal for pasture management, but practice bloat prevention by feeding mature grass hay during transitioning while to high legume fields and limiting access times during the transition.

If no options for drilling seed exist heavily graze in late summer, broadcast seed at double the drilled seeding rates incorporate by dragging or animal activity and let the field recover till plants mature and flower next year.

For Cool Season Grasses; late summer seedings are far better than spring seedings, since grass plants get two periods of growth and weed competition is not nearly as much of a problem. Grass need to be given a period of about a year to fully establish itself from seed before normal grazing pressure is applied. If possible hay the field the first time forage production occurs. This will seat the plants for actual animal grazing which cuts pulls and rips up young plants if they are not fully established and also help initiate later bud growth and tillering which additionally helps anchor that plant in place and increases total forage production.

Exclude or Eliminate any Hazard from a Pasture that may injure livestock, such as loose wire, other hardware, old post holes or animal burrows and downed trees or heavy limbs. Precaution should be exercised when working with animals and equipment.

C-GRAZ Assumes that any surplus showing for a particular month will be harvested or stockpiled and used in the grazing system during a month where there are deficits. It is expected that forage surplus exceeding a 2-week demand during the months of April through August would be harvested and stored as hay or silage to be fed back during months of deficits. During the September through October period any surplus, especially if it is cool season forage would be accumulated (stockpiled) in the field and grazed from November through February; this is the most practical management strategy since it is difficult to make hay during the autumn and early winter. In addition, it may cost two to three times as much to harvest and feed stored forage, as it will to graze it, and tall fescue especially will hold up well during this period. This plan assumes that the manager can harvest surplus growth on time and store it and feed it during times of projected deficits. If that is not possible additional forage will be need to replace these lost forage harvest opportunities.

Recordkeeping/Monitoring

The following information should be kept as part of the producer's grazing records (Prescribed Grazing Worksheet 5):

- Number and Type of Livestock
- Dates Grazed (In/Out)
- Beginning and Ending Grazing Heights
- Supplemented Feed (if applicable)

Attached Documents/Reports (please be sure that all documents listed are attached):

- Plan Map
- Soils Map & Descriptions
- Grazing Guidance
- Forage Balance (LBS or tons)
- Forage Production (LBS or tons)
- Animal Requirements (LBS or tons)
- Pasture Condition Score (PCS) Total

WORKSHEET 5
PRESCRIBED GRAZING (CODE 528)

Name:	**Farm No./Tract No.:**
Address:	**Field Number(s):**
Cost-Share Program:	**Contract Number:**

Grazing Schedule

☐ **Planned** ☐ **Applied**

Document Livestock Grazing Activity Thorough the Year

Dates Grazed		Days Grazed	Livestock		Field No.	Forage Species	Avg. Stubble Height (inches)		Other Food Provided
In	Out		Type	No.			Out	In	