

Instructions

Forage Inventory Based on Current Stocking Rate, Trend, Health, and Utilization

NE-ECS-50

Instructions for use of NE-ECS-50

Instructions for NE-ECS-50, Forage Inventory Based on Current Stocking Rate, Trend, Health, and Utilization

1	Enter the name or number of the pastures or fields inventoried
2	Enter the acres in each pasture or field inventoried
3	Record the number of animals stocked in each pasture in the current year
4	Enter a symbol for the kind of animals stocked in each pasture in the current year

Symbols	
C	Dry Cows
P	Pairs
S	Stockers
R	Replacement Heifers
B	Bulls
H	Horses
Sh	Sheep
G	Goats
Bi	Bison

5	Enter the average weight of the animals stocked in the pasture during the current year
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The animal unit equivalent is the amount of forage consumed by the different kind and class of animals expressed as a portion of an animal unit. This figure is approximately equal to .1 animal units per 100 pounds of body weight or a consumption rate roughly equal to 2.6% of body weight. The following table lists some animal-unit equivalent guides for various kinds and classes of animals if average weights are not known:

Kinds/classes of animals	Animal Unit Equivalent (AUE)
Cow, dry	0.92
Cow, with calf	1
Bull, mature	1.35
Cattle, 1 year old	0.6
Cattle, 2 year old	0.8
Horse, mature	1.25
Sheep, mature	0.2
Lamb, 1 year	0.15
Goat, mature	0.15
Kid, 1 year	0.1
Deer, white-tailed, mature	0.15
Deer, mule, mature	0.2
Elk, mature	0.6
Antelope, mature	0.2
Bison, mature	1

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Animal-unit (AU) is one mature cow of approximately 1,000 pounds and a calf up to weaning, usually 6 months of age, or their equivalent. Animal Units, (AU) are expressed by multiplying the number of animals times their Animal Unit Equivalent, (AUE) to give a total number of animal units consuming forage in the pasture.

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Enter the cumulative number of days grazed by the same kind of animals for the entire grazing season. If a pasture is grazed by dry cows for 30 days in the spring, then followed by stockers for 40 days in the fall, then record the use by these separate classes of animals on separate lines, indicating the same pasture name or number. Remember to add the total of the AUMs used when making adjustments to recommended stocking rates.

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Animal-unit-month is the amount of forage required by an animal unit for 1 month. Animal Units, (AUM) are expressed by multiplying the number of animals times their Animal Unit Equivalent, (AUE) to give a total number of animal units consuming forage in the pasture and dividing by the number of days in a month.

10	Record the apparent trend of the key species or other general vegetation either as positive (+), negative, (-), or static, (=).
11	Record the percent of grazing use observed on key plant species.
12	After evaluating the apparent trend, and percent utilization with the land manager, record the number of animal unit equivalents recommended to meet the resource objective, including ensuring proper management of the key species and maintaining or moving toward an upward trend.
13	Record the number of days the animal will graze the pasture
14	Multiply the recommended number of Animal Units, (AUs) by the recommended number of days of grazing for the pasture, divided by 30.4 days in a month and record the new recommended stocking rate for the pasture in Animal Unit Months, (AUMs).

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