

Grazing Management

Key Facts for Canadian Beef Producers

Proper grazing management leads to enhanced cattle health and performance, improved pasture productivity and long-term grazing sustainability.

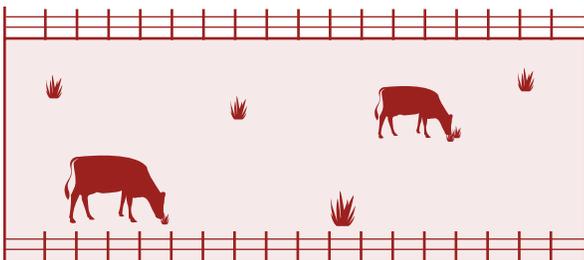
Basic Principles of Grazing Management

- 1 Balance forage supply and demand
- 2 Provide rest for pasture plants during the growing season
- 3 Defer grazing during sensitive periods
- 4 Manage pastures for uniform livestock distribution

Grazing Systems Vary by Design and Complexity

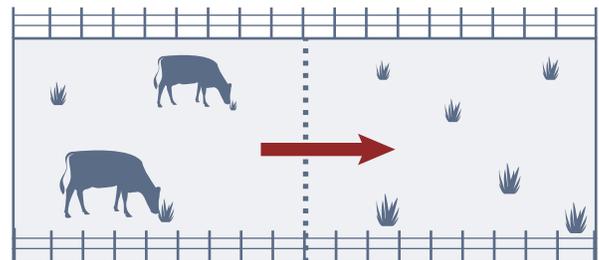
Continuous Grazing

- Cattle graze one paddock for the entire grazing season
- No opportunity for plant recovery leading to reduced pasture productivity
- Requires minimal cost and effort



Rotational Grazing

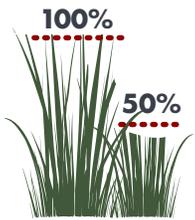
- Two or more paddocks that cattle rotate through during the growing season
- Allows plant recovery, increasing pasture productivity and grazing season length
- Requires additional management, fencing and water



For optimum health, cattle need a consistent source and adequate supply of clean water on a daily basis.

Grazing Management

Key Facts for Canadian Beef Producers



A general guideline for forage stand management is the “**take half, leave half**” rule or 50% utilization by weight (biomass) of the key available forage species in a stand. This may not be applicable to Eastern Canada or areas under irrigation.



Varieties of **bloat-safe legumes** like sainfoin have improved in yield and persistence. When a minimum of 15% sainfoin is included in a stand with alfalfa, bloat risk is reduced.



Carrying capacity is the average number of animals that a pasture can support for a grazing season. **Scan the QR code and enter your numbers to calculate a pasture's carrying capacity.**



Test stock water quality regularly as the grazing season progresses. Hot and dry weather, or heavy rainfall or runoff events, can affect water quality and cause herd health problems or even death.



Salt and mineral should be placed **away from water** and used to distribute animals more uniformly.



Calves with access to pumped water have the potential to gain **16-18 lbs more** during the grazing season than calves watering directly from a dugout. **Scan the QR code to evaluate potential costs and benefits of a stock water system.**



It is recommended that pasture systems be designed to provide water sources within **600 to 800 feet** of all areas of a paddock for optimum grazing uniformity.

