



Calves with access to pumped water have the potential to gain 16-18 more pounds during the grazing season than calves watering directly from a dugout.<sup>1</sup>



Cattle can passively re-seed pastures when fed legume seeds like cicer milkvetch or sainfoin through their mineral supplements.<sup>2</sup>



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.<sup>3</sup>



The Beef Cattle Research Council has a calculator designed to help producers determine the cost and potential benefits of setting up different water systems. Visit the site at [www.beefresearch.ca/research/water-systems-calculator.cfm](http://www.beefresearch.ca/research/water-systems-calculator.cfm)



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, the risk of bloat is reduced.<sup>4</sup>



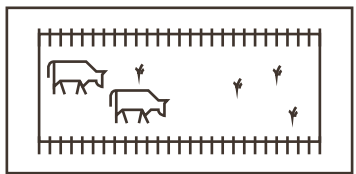
Cattle grazing in the winter must be checked daily, have a “hands-on” body condition score of at least 2.5, and have access to shelter and plenty of clean, loose snow.<sup>5</sup> If conditions are right, cattle can graze in up to 25cm of snow but producers must have a backup plan to care for their cattle if weather changes.<sup>6</sup>

Extending the grazing season by allowing cows to graze stockpiled forage through the fall and winter can reduce a farmer's cost per cow by 41-48%<sup>5</sup>

## Grazing systems can vary in design and complexity.<sup>7</sup>

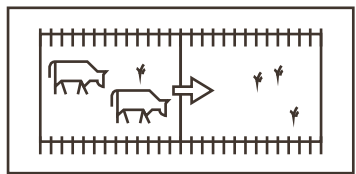
### *Continuous*

- One paddock that cattle graze for the entire growing season
- No opportunity for pasture plant recovery
- Requires minimal cost and effort



### *Rotational*

- Two or more paddocks that cattle rotate through during the growing season
- Allows for plant recovery, leading to improved pasture productivity and a longer grazing season
- Requires additional management, fence and water



## *The Basic Principles of Grazing Management<sup>8</sup>*

Balance forage supply  
and demand

Defer grazing during  
sensitive periods

Provide rest for pasture plants  
during the growing season

Manage for uniform livestock  
distribution in the pasture

*Cattle need a lot of water to meet their daily requirements.*

<sup>1</sup> Lardner, et. al. 2005. The effect of water quality on cattle performance on pasture. Australian Journal of Agricultural Research, Volume 56, pages 97-104. Available at: [http://www1.foragebeef.ca/\\$foragebeef/frgebeef.nsf/e5ae854df3230ce787256a3300724e1d/0b716d9f08b58ccd87256d9d0072e579/\\$FILE/waterqualityperformancepasture.pdf](http://www1.foragebeef.ca/$foragebeef/frgebeef.nsf/e5ae854df3230ce787256a3300724e1d/0b716d9f08b58ccd87256d9d0072e579/$FILE/waterqualityperformancepasture.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Beef Cattle Research Council. 2016. Let cattle do the seeding. Available at: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/let-cattle-do-the-seeding/>

<sup>3</sup> Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. Livestock Water Quality. Available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/livestock/livestock-and-water-quality/livestock-water-quality>

<sup>4</sup> Beef Cattle Research Council. 2013. Grazing alfalfa more safely. Available at: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/factsheet.cfm/grazing-alfalfa-more-safely-54>

<sup>5</sup> Beef Cattle Research Council. 2012. Tips for successful extended grazing to reduce winter feeding costs. Available at: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/extended-grazing-tips/>

<sup>6</sup> Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. 2010. Fall graze to stretch the grass season. Available at: [http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/beef/news/info\\_vbn0103a2.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/beef/news/info_vbn0103a2.htm)

<sup>7</sup> Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. 2012. Rotational Grazing in Extensive Pastures. Available at: [http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/rotational\\_grazing\\_in\\_extensive\\_pastures.sm\\_.pdf](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/rotational_grazing_in_extensive_pastures.sm_.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. 2013. The Four Principles of Range Management. Available at: [https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Publications/brochures/Rangeland\\_Health\\_Brochure\\_13.pdf](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Publications/brochures/Rangeland_Health_Brochure_13.pdf)