



Prescribed Grazing Plan – Landowner Interview

Wisconsin Job Sheet 529

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wisconsin

Client Name: _____ Tract #: _____

Location: _____

Planner: _____ Plan Date: _____

Has the client attended the Wisconsin Grazing School, a pasture walk, a grazing workshop or meeting, or grazing conference? Yes No

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Why does the client want to graze?
- How much capital is available for investment?
- What are the feed requirements of the animals?
- Is there a shortage/abundance of forage from the pastures?
- What is the fencing condition?
- How will the animals be watered?

CLIENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- What is the landscape goal?
- Does the client want to maintain a herd, maximize production per acre or per animal, clear the land, other?
- How “intensive” does the client want the management to be?
- Is the client willing to fertilize? Apply chemicals?
- Will supplemental hay and/or grain be fed?
- How much time should be allowed to reach the goals?
- Is there a severe weed problem in the pastures?

Notes: _____

DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING TERMS WITH THE CLIENT

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuous Grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Carrying Capacity | <input type="checkbox"/> Pugging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rotational Grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Matter | <input type="checkbox"/> Residual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Management-Intensive Grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing Pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Stocking Rate/Density |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Unit | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader-Follower | <input type="checkbox"/> Stockpiling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body Condition Score | <input type="checkbox"/> Mob Grazing/Stocking | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breaks | <input type="checkbox"/> Outwintering | |

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Available pasture acres: _____ Cropland acres: _____ Total farm acres: _____
- Is a pasturing system being used now? Yes No
- If yes, what?
 - Continuous
 - Rotational Occupancy: less than ½ day 1 to 3 days 3 to 7 days more than 7 days

PRESCRIBED GRAZING PLAN WORKSHEET INFORMATION

- Does the client know that management-intensive grazing starts with a lifestyle goal? Yes No
- Has the client estimated livestock forage demand or estimated forage dry matter supply? Yes No
- Does the client understand the concept behind pasture-paddock rest and rotation? Yes No
- Can the client calculate the paddock size (acres) for a management-intensive grazing? Yes No
- Does the client know the system will be ineffective if forages are not managed properly? Yes No
- Is the client aware that the expense of a fence and watering system will not provide a return to investment if the forages are not managed well? Yes No

GRAZING LIVESTOCK

Kind ¹	Class ² /Breed	No. of Head	Weight	Total Weight

¹Kind = beef, dairy, sheep, bison, goats, hogs, poultry, etc.
²Class = cows, cow-calf pairs, heifers, stockers, dairy sheep, ewe-lamb pairs, bulls, etc.

- Discuss Stocking Rates and Forage-Animal Balance.
- Average Herd Weight: _____ (Total Herd Weight ÷ Total Herd Number)
- How often is the client willing to move the livestock?
 - less than ½ day 1 to 3 days 3 to 7 days more than 7 days Not at all

FEED MANAGEMENT

- What additional feedstuffs are fed? Hay Grain Silage Corn silage TMR _____ lbs.
- Is a feed consultant used? Yes No

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

- Do the bulls run with the cows/heifers? Yes No When? _____
- How many herds does the client have? _____
- When does the client prefer to calve, lamb, or foal? _____ Wean? _____
- Is the livestock conception rate acceptable? Yes No N/A

SOILS

- Are there any sensitive areas (wet or droughty sites)? Yes No N/A
- Is the client familiar with the soil types on the farm? Yes No
- Has there been a soil test? Yes No
Year of last soil test: _____ Overall pH levels: _____
- Has the soil been tested for micro-nutrients? Yes No
- Does the client lime and fertilize according to soil test levels? Yes No
- Does the client apply commercial fertilizers? Yes No
If yes, when (year)? _____

FORAGES**Cool Season Grasses In Pastures**

Identify species the client is aware of:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bluegrass | <input type="checkbox"/> Quackgrass | <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth bromegrass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Festulolium | <input type="checkbox"/> Redtop | <input type="checkbox"/> Tall Fescue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meadow Fescue | <input type="checkbox"/> Reed Canary Grass | <input type="checkbox"/> Timothy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orchardgrass | <input type="checkbox"/> Ryegrass | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Legumes

Identify species the client is aware of:

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alfalfa | <input type="checkbox"/> Dutch White Clover | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alsike Clover | <input type="checkbox"/> Ladino Clover | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdsfoot Trefoil | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Clover | _____ |

- Estimated grass-legume mix: _____ % legumes.
- Summer annuals used? Yes No If yes, when and what? _____
- Is the client planning changes or additions in forage/vegetative cover? Yes No Maybe
- If yes, what? _____

FENCING CONCERNS

- Will the condition and location of the existing fence meet the needs of the grazing system? Yes No
- Should the client plan to improve or change the location of any of the fences? (Do not be locked in on the location of existing fences.) Yes No
- Are there other livestock handling facilities available such as corrals, dry lots, barns, or sheds that are part of the pasture or grazing system? Yes No

The kind of fence to be installed depends upon:

- Purpose of the fence
- Kind and class of livestock to be contained
- Operator preference
- Predator control
- Cost

WATER CONCERNS

- Types of drinking facilities, water tanks, etc.: _____
- Are there seasonal changes in the water supply? Yes No
- If water is being hauled to the animals, how much storage is available? _____
- Is a nearby source of electricity available? Yes No
- Will the existing water sources be able to accommodate a pumping system that does not require electricity? Yes No
- Are there other potential water sources that could be available to the pasture?..... Yes No
- Is there a need to drill a new well?..... Yes No
- Where is the best site for a new well? _____
- Is there a water source nearby where water can be obtained by constructing a pipeline system?..... Yes No

HEAVY USE AREA PLANNING

Please address the following:

- Permanent livestock lanes Permanent water facilities Permanent feeding areas

Notes: _____

FACILITATING PRACTICES

Locate and label resource concerns on a map.

382 Fence

Existing fences

- Perimeter Fence – type: _____
- Interior Fence – type: _____
- Temporary – type: _____

Planned Fence (**Table 1; Fence Selection Criteria**)

- Perimeter – type: _____
- Interior – type: _____
- Temporary – type: _____

614 Water Facility

- Existing facility (being used).
Is the water pressure adequate? Yes No
- Planned new (describe): _____
Year: _____

516 Pipeline N/A

- Existing lines – diameter: _____ inches
- Planned lines – diameter: _____ inches
Year: _____

642 Well

- Locate on map.
- Planned well - Year: _____

575 Animal Trials and Walkways N/A

- Existing lanes.
- Planned lanes – Year: _____
- Temporary lanes (does not meet Standard 575)

OPTIONAL - RESOURCE CONCERNS OBSERVED IN PASTURES

Assist the client in recognizing resource problems and causes in order to recommend solutions.

Check all that apply.

Soil Erosion

- Classic Gully
- Ephemeral Gully
- Sheet and Rill
- Shoreline
- Streambank
- Wind
- Road, Road Sides

Soil Condition

- Compaction
- Damage from Sediment Deposition
- Organic Matter Depletion
- Contaminants-Animal Waste and Other Organics: N-P-K

Water Quality

- Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding
- Excessive Seepage
- Insufficient Flows in Water Courses
- Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
- Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water

Air Quality

- Objectionable Odors

Plant Condition

- Forage Quality and Palatability
- Noxious and Invasive Plants
- Plants not Adapted or Suited
- Productivity, Health and Vigor
- Threatened and Endangered Plant Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern

Fish and Wildlife

- Inadequate Cover/Shelter
- Habitat Fragmentation
- Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern

Domestic Animals

- Inadequate Stock Water
- Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage
- Stress and Mortality