

B. 528 PRESCRIBED GRAZING PLAN WORKSHEET (Continuous Stocking)

Step 1. Estimate the Forage Demand:

The forage demand is the amount of forage dry matter (DM) required to feed the herd/flock for one day. It is based on the rule of thumb that grazing animals require an amount of forage dry matter equal to about 2.5% of their body weight per day.

$$\frac{\text{Avg Animal Wt}}{\text{Avg Animal Wt}} \times .025 \times \frac{\text{\% feed from pasture}}{\text{\% feed from pasture}} \times \frac{\text{\# Animals}}{\text{\# Animals}} = \frac{\text{Total Forage Demand Per day}}{\text{Total Forage Demand Per day}}$$

Step 2. Estimate the Forage Supply:

The amount of forage available for grazing with the continuous stocking method is based on the total hay yield in tons/acre/year minus 60% for losses due to trampling, fouling with manure and urine, and reduced growth.

Unless actual measured yields are available, use estimated yields for grass-legume hay and use the following table to convert forage availability on a season-long basis.

Forage Availability Estimates

Hay Yield Tons/Acre/Year	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5
Forage Availability Pounds/Acre/Year	4400	4000	3600	3200	2800	2400	2000	1600	1200

Forage Supply _____
Pounds/Acre/Year

Step 3. Determine the Grazing Period:

In southern Wisconsin, the average grazing period will be approximately 180 days. However, it may range between 120 and 180 days.

Grazing period _____ Days

Step 4. Calculate the Number of Acres Required:

The acres required for a continuous stocking grazing management plan is based on having enough forage available to meet the season long forage requirement.

$$\frac{\text{Forage Demand}}{\text{Forage Demand}} \times \frac{\text{Grazing Period}}{\text{Grazing Period}} = \text{_____}$$

$$\div \frac{\text{Forage Supply}}{\text{Forage Supply}} = \text{Number of Acres Required}$$