

# GRAZING PLAN CHECKLIST



A grazing system plan will include the following items:

- Introduction**
  - Farm/Farmer specific grazing goals
  - Total livestock by type, class, number and weights
  - Field inventory: estimate of acres available, broken into zones/areas if applicable
  - Estimated grazing season duration
  - Any buildings/infrastructure in place relating to the grazing plan
  
- Soils information** – document expected or known limitations
  - Soils map, soil fact sheets
  - Current soil tests
  
- Livestock exclusion sites** – summary of riparian and/or sensitive areas with map
  
- Forage inventory** – list/description of forage species present. Note as desirable and undesirable and how to use animal impact to accomplish desired outcome. Include need for any overseeding, re-seeding or establishment
  
- Pasture math**
  - Herd/flock dry matter demand
  - Estimated dry matter from pasture measurements
  - Paddock size and overall acreage calculations
  - Non-grazing season forage need calculations
  
- Fencing** – assessment of current system (if any) and overall needs for both permanent and temporary materials.
  
- Water system** – livestock water analysis/demand, source, capacity, delivery system, layout, power
  
- Other infrastructure** - laneways, heavy use area, or stream crossing needs
  
- Grazing plan practice map** for planned/new practices such as fence, water, trails, etc

## GRAZING PLAN CHECKLIST *(continued)*

- Winter plans** – stockpiled feed, bale grazing, confinement
- Manure and nutrient management**
- Contingency information**
  - Management of excess or mature pasture
  - Weed control
  - Mud/wet weather
  - Dry conditions or drought
  - Hot weather/shade options
- Implementation schedule** (for NRCS or state funded projects)
- Monitoring plan information**
  - Troubleshooting pasture problems
  - Using the grazer's toolbox – stocking rate, stock density, residual/trampling, clipping, etc
  - Re-planning as needed
  - Record keeping with holistic planned grazing charts

