

GRAZING SYSTEM PLAN CHECKLIST

by Cheryl Cesario, 802-388-4969 ext. 346, cheryl.cesario@uvm.edu

November 2018

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

[More On Reverse Side →](#)



Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team | uvm.edu/extension/cvcrops

Grazing plan checklist continued:

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

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



Project Leader

Jeff Carter, Agronomist

Agronomy Outreach

Cheryl Cesario

Merritt Gleason

Jonas Hastings

Rachel Orr

Nate Severy

Kristin Williams

Kirsten Workman

Administration

Karen Gallott

Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team | 23 Pond Lane, Suite 300 | Middlebury, VT 05753-1189

802-388-4969 or 1-800-956-1125 (toll-free in Vt.) | cvcrops@uvm.edu

uvm.edu/extension/cvcrops