

Fertilization

When a site is managed for introduced forage species, fertilization may be warranted. Considerations should be made for runoff and percolation of these elements. Contact the county Cooperative Extension Service for site-specific information on soil analysis and fertilization recommendations.

Decisions in these six areas are noted by the Forest Stewardship Management team and are incorporated in the Forest Stewardship Plan and SCS Conservation Plan of Operations. An important part of implementation is record keeping. In order to effectively monitor and revise the plan when deemed necessary, a record must be kept detailing the dates livestock are grazing each pasture, how many cattle are in each herd, and any management treatments performed.

The effectiveness of the grazing portion of the Forest Stewardship Plan can be measured in terms of plant composition and vigor, as well as quantity of forage available for grazing. Due to uncontrollable situations such as severe weather, wildfire, disease or pest outbreaks, portions of the planning process must be periodically repeated if the plan is to remain a useful, dynamic tool for the landowner. It is recommended that the landowner contact the lead agency representative if major reconstruction of the plan is needed. Suggested stocking rates and a livestock grazing synopsis will provide a basis for evaluation of the plan's effectiveness (Table 1 and Figure 14).

Table 1. Suggested stocking rates for woodland grazing on a Stewardship Forest.

<u>Forage per acre (lbs-dry weight)</u>	<u>Acres per cow month</u>
100	30.0
150	20.0
200	14.9
300	10.0
400	7.6
500	6.0
600	4.9
700	4.3
800	3.7
900	3.3
1000	3.1
1200	2.5
1400	2.1
1600	1.9
1800	1.6
2000	1.4

Livestock Grazing Synopsis

1. Do animal stocking rates allow 50 percent of the current year's growth on key grazing species to be left at the end of the grazing season? (Y/N)
2. Are newly planted pine stands protected from grazing? (Y/N)
3. Has competing vegetation been controlled to acceptable levels? (Y/N)
4. Is significant damage from livestock grazing evident on newly-planted pines? (Y/N)
5. Are mineral feeders/supplemental feed facilities located away from newly-planted pines? (Y/N)
6. Additional comments: _____

Figure 14. A livestock grazing synopsis provides a basis for evaluation of the program's success.

Grazing management in action

A hypothetical situation is described below of a landowner who owns 3000 acres in a slash pine flatwoods area. This property is divided into five pastures of differing age stands of timber and a bahia grass pasture. Detailed management plans for grazing and timber management of this property by 87 brood cows and 5 bulls are further outlined below. Also included is an example of the annual grazing plan (Figure 15) associated with this property. Please note: the values presented in this example are based on estimated annual forage production and should not be used to establish stocking rates for other situations.

Pasture 1. This 940-acre pasture is stocked with 8- to 12-year old stands of slash pine originally planted at about 700 trees/acre. Current cattle stocking rate is 18 acre/animal and should not decline greatly for the next 3 to 4 years. This pasture alone would support 52 cows for 1 year.

Pasture 2. This 109-acre pasture is planted bahia grass that receives low to moderate rates of fertilization each year. Current cattle stocking rate is 2.5 acre/animal, and the pasture could support 22 cows for 1 year.

Pasture 3. This 849-acre pasture is stocked with 12- to 16-year old stands of slash pine originally