

SW Center Forage Grazing Protocol

January

- 1) Plate meter entire farm by January 20 to determine average cover.
- 2) Have average cover near 1,200 lb/acre by February 1.

February

- 1) Plant oats if needed by February 20 if stand failure of established forages from fall planting.
- 2) Plate meter farm by February 20 to determine growth.

March

- 1) Apply 50 lbs. actual nitrogen to all fields and other amendments based on soil test from fall. To be applied by March 1.
- 2) Apply 20 lbs. actual nitrogen every 30 days until June 15.
- 3) Plate meter weekly beginning March 1.
- 4) Record and submit plate meter readings on grazing wedge web site.
- 5) Begin to graze oats (if planted) when reaches 1,800 lb/acre.
- 6) Begin to graze other annuals and perennials when average cover of farm reaches 1,600 lb/acre and growth rate
- 7) Calculate daily feed demand for farm
 - a. $\text{Stocking rate} * \text{dry matter intake/cow/day} * \text{estimated round length}$
(1.5 cows/acre * (38 total pound DMI-12 pounds grain = 26 pounds forage) * 20 days = xxxx #/day)
- 8) Calculate daily feed demand weekly to determine if farm is in surplus/deficit forage production status; report feed demand on grazing wedge web site.
- 9) When growth rate exceeds feed demand, determine potential paddocks to remove from system. Recalculate new growth rate based on reduced paddocks to determine if meets feed demand,
- 10) When paddocks are determined to be removed from system for harvest (1-2 weeks prior), contact SW Center foreman to schedule harvest.

April

- 1) Plate meter weekly.
- 2) Continue calculating feed demand and growth rates.
- 3) Apply 20 lbs. actual nitrogen on April 1.

May

- 1) Apply 20 lbs. actual nitrogen on May 11.

June

- 1) Apply 20 lbs. actual nitrogen on June 1.

July

- 1)

August

- 1) Apply 40-50 lbs nitrogen/acre by August 30 if moisture is available.
- 2) Spray for insects/grubs if regressing.

September

- 1) Apply 40-50 lbs. nitrogen/acre by September 15 if no application prior.

October

- 1)

November

- 1)

December

- 1) Graze paddocks to 1100 lb./acre as needed with milking herd (by December 15) or dry cows. Set paddock for spring freshening.
- 2)