

Rotational Pasture Feeding Program

Step 1: Develop a Plan

Set Goals:

- Maintain or maximize production
- Maximize production per animal or per acre
- Amount of intensive management
- Fertilization/seeding schedule • Amount of supplementation

Look at Existing Resources:

- How many acres can be utilized for pasture-thumb rule is 3 acres per animal for full feed
- What is the layout and condition of the existing pastures o What is the forage species already available o Is there water or shade available

Write a Plan out-include a progression for 1-5 years

Step 2: Getting Started

Prepare the land

- Take a soil sample and apply fertilizer accordingly o Plant seed according to current plan
- Do not move cattle out on pastures until forage is at least 6 inches high ' Take a scissor clipping to provide a base for supplementation

Preparing the cows

- Start on a good parasite control program
- Start with the pasture as a supplement-fill with forage before moving to fresh pasture and gradually decrease supplemental forages.
- Make changes between "confinement" feeding program to new recommended program-10 to 14 days.
- Use additives to help prevent fat test depression
- Make sure the cows have easy access to water and shade.

Step 3: Maintaining

Pasture Maintenance

- Let pasture rest between grazing: 18 days May, June and early July-36 days afterward ● Clip pasture after grazed to provide weed control

' At the end of the season, seed and fertilize according to the plan.

Cow Maintenance

- Use plate method to determine dry matter intake
- Scissor clip between moving into new pastures for new base nutrient level
- Supplement according to nutritionist's recommendations
- Put out salt blocks in the summer for extra supplementation