



Grazing Management and Tactics

Makayla Getz
Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Educator
(307) 754-8836 | mgetz@uwyo.edu




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Common problems

- Is your pasture understocked?
- Are you over-grazing unintentionally?
- Do you not know how to manage the seasonality of Wyoming?




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Questions to ask:

- How much do my animals need to remain healthy?
- How much forage does my land provide while also remaining healthy?
- Are there grazing strategies that will allow me to utilize the forage while keeping plants and animals healthy?



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How much do my animals need to remain healthy?

- One mature 1,200lb pleasure horse will eat approximately 32 pounds of grass or hay per day (1.25 AU).
- A 1,000lb cow not lactating will require approximately 25 pounds of grass or hay per day (1.00 AU).
- A mature ewe or doe goat will eat 4 to 5 pounds of grass or hay per day (0.2 AU).



*AU = animal units, 1 AU = ~25lbs of feed/day

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Putting that into context

- 32lbs of grass/hay = 1.8 feedings from 60lb square bales or 37 1/2 feedings from 1200lb round bale
- **Stocking rate** = animals per acre per season/year
- **Stocking density** = animals per acre at a point in time



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How much do my animals need to remain healthy?

- Remember: forage may lose nutritional value during winter/early fall months.

Table 2. Animal Unit Equivalents based on animal weights and pounds of forage consumed on average each day.

Animal	Weight	AU Equivalent	# Animals per AU	Pounds of forage per day
Cow	1,000	1	1	25
Cow	1,500	1.5	0.66	37.5
Yearling Cow	700	0.66	1.25	21.25
Mature Bull	1,700	1.5	0.67	37.5
Milking Cow		1.5	0.67	37.5
Working Horse		2	0.5	50
Saddle Horse		1.25	0.8	31.25
Cat < 2 yrs.		0.5	2	12.5
Sheep	120	0.2	5	5
Goat		0.17	5.9	4.25
Elk	600	0.66	1.5	16.5
Mule Deer	125	0.22	4.5	5.5
Pronghorn	90	0.17	5.9	4.25

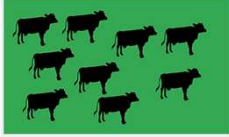
*2-3 % of the animals' body weight



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Different Grazing Systems

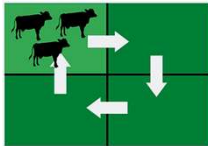
• **Continuous Grazing:** one-pasture system that allows livestock to continually graze one large section of land.



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Different Grazing Systems

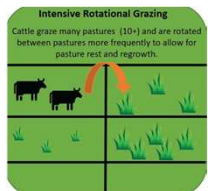
• **Rotational Grazing:** uses more than one pasture and rotates cattle from one pasture to the next at varying intervals.



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Different Grazing Systems

• **Intensive Rotational Grazing:** rotation between pastures frequently allowing for pasture regrowth.



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What do my animals need?

- **Cattle = grass**
- **Horses = grass**
- **Sheep = grass and forbs**
- **Goats = browse**



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Uncontrollable Factors

- **Other consumers**
- **Trash**
- **Weather**



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Takeaways/Things to keep in mind:

- Grasses have sugar in it.
- Rotate your pastures/let your field grow.
- If you have questions, ask.

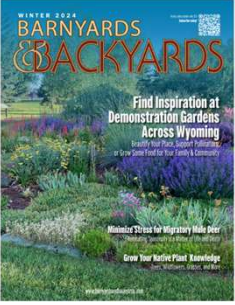

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Resources:

Barnyards & Backyards on UWE's site

barnyardsbackyards@uwyo.edu

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Thank you for your time!

Makayla Getz
Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Educator
(307) 527-8560 | mgetz@uwyo.edu



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