

# Completing Noble's Grazing Plan Template for Your Ranch



## Why should you use a grazing plan?

A grazing management plan serves as a roadmap for improving ranch productivity and helps producers efficiently allocate forage across their land. Grazing plans help producers anticipate and prepare for risks, take advantage of market opportunities, coordinate grazing with family schedules and ranch operations, and make efficient use of every acre of the ranch.

## Essential components of a grazing plan include:

- Detailed map of pastures with information including pasture names, forage types, total acres and grazeable acres (accounting for brush, water bodies and infrastructure).
- Documentation of current livestock enterprises, including herd sizes, animal weights and animal unit calculations.
- Important dates and events (like vacations, weaning periods or maintenance projects) marked with color coding.
- Decision points for both risk management (like drought responses) and opportunity taking (like favorable market conditions).

## Useful grazing calculations:



$$\text{TOTAL UNITS} = \frac{\text{AVERAGE WEIGHT}}{1 \text{ ANIMAL UNIT (1,000 lbs.)}}$$



HERD DAYS PER PASTURE

$$\text{HERD DAYS PER PASTURE} = \frac{\text{GRAZEABLE ACRES} \times \text{FORAGE PRODUCTION (lbs./acre)} \times \text{ANNUAL UTILIZATION RATE (\%)}}{\text{LIVESTOCK DAILY INTAKE (lbs./hd/day)} \times \text{\# OF ANIMALS}}$$



## Josh's tips for completing your grazing chart template:

- Use color coding to track different livestock types (e.g., blue for cattle, green for goats).
- Calculate "herd days per pasture" to determine how long livestock can graze each area.
- Consider leader-follower grazing scenarios when managing multiple species of livestock.
- Account for seasonal variations and infrastructure projects that might affect grazing practices.

