Grazing Management Parameters



"Grazing" and "No Grazing"

 Grazing parameters are used to describe and define the type of grazing





Low Density
Long Duration
Extensive





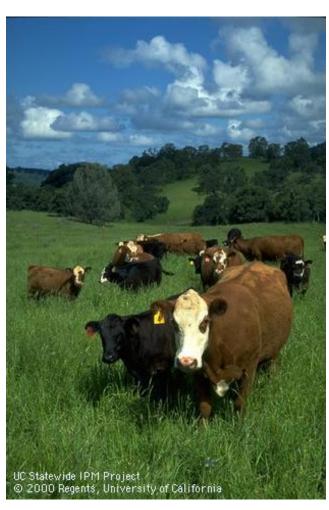
Low Density
Long Duration
Extensive

High Density Short Duration Intensive





- Grazing Parameters
 - Livestock Density
 - Number of animals per acre
 - Animal Units (AU)/acre
 - 1 AU = 1 cow that weighs 1,000 lbs. and consumes about 26 lbs. of dry matter per day
 - 1 AU = 5 mature sheep
 - Grazing Duration
 - Number of days or months
 - Animal Unit Day (AUD), Animal Unit Month (AUM)





Winter and Spring Grazing





Winter and Spring Grazing



Summer Grazing

- Grazing Parameters
 - Timing of Grazing
 - Season
 - Plant's phenological stage
 - Bolting stage
 - Boot stage



Type of Animal



- Grazing Parameters
 - Livestock Density
 - Grazing Duration
 - Timing of Grazing
 - Type of Animal

Manipulated to achieve desired results.

A Closer Look At...

Livestock Density

- Low Density results in:
 - High selectivity
 - Uneven grazing/utilization
- High Density results in:
 - Low selectivity
 - Even grazing/utilization

A Closer Look At...

Grazing Duration

- Will depend on:
 - Amount of vegetation
 - Livestock density
 - Window of opportunity

A Closer Look At...

Timing of Grazing

- For weed control grazing must occur when:
 - The target plant is vulnerable to grazing
 - The target plant is palatable to livestock
- For riparian areas grazing should occur when:
 - Water runoff is minimal
 - Stream flow is minimal
 - Ground is not wet and vulnerable to damage

Stocking Rate & Carrying Capacity



Stocking Rate

- The number of specific kinds and classes of animals grazing or using a unit of land for a specified time period.
- May be expressed as animal-unit-months or animal-unit-days per acre, hectare, or section, or the reciprocal (area of land/animal-unitmonth or day)

Stocking Density

- The relationship between number of animals and area of land at any instant of time.
- It may be expressed as animal-units per acre, animal-units per section or AU/hectare.

Carrying Capacity

- The maximum stocking rate possible that is consistent with maintaining or improving vegetation or related resources.
- It may vary from year to year on the same area because of fluctuating forage production.

<u>Animal Unit</u>

- Considered to be one mature cow of approximately 1,000 pounds, either dry or with a calf up to 6 months of age, or their equivalent based on a standardized amount of forage consumed.
- Animal-unit-day (AUD) = an allowance of 26 pounds dry matter consumed
- Animal-unit-month (AUM) = 30 days x 1 animal-unitday