



PASTURE MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE

Why Manage Pastures?

When livestock are allowed to continuously graze pastures, grass plants don't have a chance to adequately rest and recover. As a result, the quality and amount of forage you gain from your pastures will decline over time. If grazing goes unmanaged, livestock will overgraze the preferred grasses until only the less desirable grasses and weeds remain.

Growing more grass for your livestock will lower your annual feed bills. One acre of productive pasture can provide two tons of feed over a growing season!

Seasonal Management Calendar

January	February	March	April
Restrict animals from wet pastures and surface waters; Collect manure daily from confinement areas and keep covered; Hang bird, bat, and mason bee boxes	Restrict animals from wet pastures and surface waters; Collect manure daily from confinement areas and keep covered; Sample soils and have analyzed	Restrict animals from wet pastures and surface waters; Collect manure daily from confinement areas and keep covered; Plant native trees and shrubs	April 1st, Clip weeds and tall grasses, harrow manure; Reseed or overseed pastures if needed; Pull emerging weeds; Begin rotational grazing of pastures April 15th, Apply 35% of annual compost or commercial fertilizer requirement
May	June	July	August
May 1st, Clip weeds and tall grasses, harrow manure in grazed pastures after moving livestock to new one May 15th, Apply 40% of annual compost or commercial fertilizer requirement	Clip weeds and tall grasses, harrow manure in grazed pastures after moving livestock to new one	Clip weeds and tall grasses, harrow manure in grazed pastures after moving livestock to new one; Repair or construct winter confinement area; Pull tansy, wearing gloves for protection	August 1st, Clip weeds and tall grasses, harrow manure in grazed pastures after moving livestock to new one; Repair or construct manure storage bins August 15th, Apply 25% of annual compost or commercial fertilizer requirement
September	October	November	December
Clip weeds and tall grasses, harrow manure in grazed pastures after moving livestock to new one; Reseed or overseed pastures if needed; Repair or install gutters, downspouts, and outlets; Apply lime as recommended on a soil test analysis; Cut blackberries to ground for control	Restrict animals from wet pastures and surface waters; Collect manure daily from confinement areas and keep covered	Restrict animals from wet pastures and surface waters; Collect manure daily from confinement areas and keep covered	Restrict animals from wet pastures and surface waters; Collect manure daily from confinement areas and keep covered