

Mob Grazing on Large Landscapes

North Dakota Couple Adapts This Practice to Their 2700-Acre Ranch

OnPasture.com

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Jay and Krista Reiser took over a ranch with some issues. Their financial advisor told them that if they continued managing the ranch as it always had been, with continuous set stocking and lots of winter feeding, they'd lose \$38,000 a year.

They thought mob grazing could help them extend their grazing season, reinvigorate the soil, and increase forage production - and make money. Thinking that others might benefit from what they learned by trying, they applied for a SARE grant and got to work. They share their lessons learned in this series of articles:

bit.ly/mobgrazinglarge

A Typical Day

- 4 moves
 - Take down yesterday's
 - Set up first cell
 - Let cows in
 - Set up for today's moves
 - Go about the other projects you may have for the day!



Here's What You'll Find....

What Does Mob Grazing Look Like?

Stocking density is what makes mob grazing different. It's the concentration of animals in one location. Instead of letting cattle roam at will, eating whatever they like, Jay and Krista fence cattle into smaller pastures. Plants are grazed more evenly and animal impact, and manure benefit soil health. It also allows other pastures to get more rest, so forage recovers. The Reisers found they had less bare ground and forage was healthier and more diverse.

Fence and Water Set Up

The series includes tips to make fencing and watering easier and

more efficient, including automatic gates that turn cattle into the next pasture without anyone having to be there.



How to Adjust for Different Vegetation and Pastures

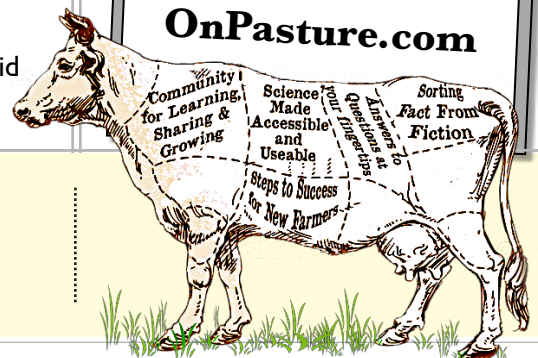
Plant responses to trampling vary, and topography can affect the results of your grazing management. Jay and Krista paid attention to what happened in

different circumstances so that you can have an idea what to expect.

Results and Recommendations

The Reiser's got more grazing days, grazed more cows per acre, and developed a new respect for the power of rest to improve pastures. In the final article in the series they share some frustrations, and their recommendations for others trying this new tool.

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