

Crop/Grazing Planning Chart Set-up, Keys, Questions, Considerations and Decision Points

- * **Set Goals:** What are you doing and why are you doing it?
Financial, environmental & family/community objectives
- * Look to conservation plan to delineate field and paddock acreages; record field numbers; get a good map
- * Consult nutrient management plan, soil test or biological monitoring chart to assess fertility levels
- * What are the species, weight and number grazing?
- * What are the daily dry matter requirements?
- * One herd, multi-herd, multi-species, leader-follower?
- * Estimate forage production per acre?
- * Estimate paddocks and number of acres needed
- * Paddock time, density and recovery periods you want
- * Employing grazing impact strategies to certain fields?
- * What is your average killing frost date?
- * What is your typical grazing start date?
- * What is your general stockpiling timeframe?
- * Typical drought prone times? Pugging times?
- * What fields are being deferred for haying or emergencies?
- * What paddocks are used for sacrifice or emergencies?
- * What paddocks may you want to winter on?
- * When are you birthing, breeding? What fields?
- * How are you adjusting to animal bodyweight increases?
- * When are you planning a vacation, 4-H trip, concerts, etc?
- * Do you have hunting season timeframes?
- * What are your wildlife needs?
- * Is a bird fledging date important to you?
- * What fields may need renovation, frost-seeding etc.
- * Any fields weakened by armyworms, overgrazing etc.
- * Move animals off farm for crop residue
- * Silvo-pasturing opportunities on the farm?
- * How will you track rainfall, temperatures, snowfall?
- * Graze riparian areas when or if?
- * Infrastructure or conservation construction projects?
- * Tree planting? Hedgerow building?
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Critical Decision Points

- * Haying when and how much
- * Clipping?
- * When to supplement when things go awry
- * Vacation
- * Processing times and loading out animals
- * Drought recognition timing
- * When to pull animals off pasture
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Weak Links, Bottlenecks

- * Infrastructure
- * Labor
- * Capital
- * Time to manage
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Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District
6503 Wes Rd. Hamilton, NY 13346

(315) 824-9849 | Troy-Bishopp@verizon.net
www.madcoswcd.com | www.onpasture.com