**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 weaken 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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**Weak Links, Bottlenecks**

* Infrastructure
* Labor
* Capital
* Time to manage

**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