Pasture Walks for Profit

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Pasture Walks for Profit

- **Bahiagrass**
- **Hybrid Bermudagrass**
- **Common Bermudagrass**
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Bahiagrass Hay

Over grazed
Bahiagrass field
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Red River Crabgrass

Red River Crabgrass is a reseeding warm season annual grass released by the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation of Ardmore, Oklahoma. It is the first known proven crabgrass variety and it provides for the first time, a crabgrass forage of known type and potential.
Figure 1 - Grazing Method Options

Continuous grazing

Continuous grazing with fenced off area during surplus growth period

Controlled rotational grazing

Strip grazing

Creep grazing

Forward creep grazing

Creep gate

Greenchop

Limit Grazing

High-quality pasture grazed periodically; usually a few hours every day or two

Low-quality pasture and/or hay

Grazing management options diagrams from the book *Southern Forages.*
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OVERGRAZING IS A FUNCTION OF TIME

Overgrazing is grazing a plant before it has recovered from the previous grazing.

- Overgrazing occurs in two ways:
  - leaving stock in a pasture too long
  - bringing them back too soon.
OVERGRAZING IS A FUNCTION OF TIME
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Managed Grazing Systems and Fencing for Distribution of Beef Manure

Intensively managed grazing systems can be a win-win situation, increasing productivity and profits for the operator and improving water quality for all citizens.
Conventional Grazing
Conventional Grazing

Benefits of Conventional Grazing

- Low Labor Cost
- Lowest Fencing Cost
- 30% Efficiency Rate
Rotational Grazing
Rotational Grazing

Benefits of Rotational Grazing

- Increased Forage Quantity
- Increased Forage Quality
- Low Labor Cost
- Low Fence Cost
Rotational Grazing

Two Pasture System (35-38%)  
Four Pasture System (50%)
Cell Grazing
Cell Grazing

Benefits of Cell Grazing

• Increased Forage Quantity
• Increased Forage Quality
• Higher Weight Gains
• Increased Total Stocking
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Stan Pace
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CIAP GOALS

Goal: Improve water quality in the Jourdan River Watershed (Hancock County, MS)

- How (Reduce non-point source pollution)
- $100,000. Cost share 60/40 match

Actual: increased fencing and forage production in the JR Watershed

- $115,000. Spent on overall program
Performance Against Schedule

Plan: 3 years 2 field days per year / 2 year signup for cost share funds

Actual: 4 years – program delays allowed for a one year continuance / 2 field days per year (except for 2005 – Katrina, Pasture walk canceled)
Project Planning
How Was the Project Planned?

EPA – Gulf of Mexico Program Office – Stennis Space Center – 3 counties, 5 plus municipalities, Numerous Agencies (1 Plan)

Plan was accepted by NOAA, MDEQ and State Government.

Was project well defined from beginning?

- Written plan – 10% pasture to be cross fenced (2500 acres) (25 troughs)
Project Planning
Was the Plan the Right One?

Was the plan a good one? YES
What was good? UNITY
Was the plan realistic? Yes
Project Management
How Was the Project Managed?

Meetings: who/when/how often
- SWCD, MS S & W, Ext., Landowners
- Spring & Fall / 2 times per year

Local Soil and Water Personnel continually met with landowners for project approval and guidelines
What Went Right

- Field Days
- Cost share dollars
- Beneficial Practices
Questions?