

### **III. Maryland Grazing Plan Template      Helpful Hints**

1. Follow the steps in the "Grazing Management Plan Templates Installation and Use" to assemble an unedited grazing plan.
2. Begin to fill in the "Summary of Planned Actions- What, Where and When - This serves three purposes:
  1. A quick place for the farmer to see in one place what he is to do in what field and when. Include all important activities.
  2. A summary of actions for contracting purposes
  3. A place for reviewers to see what you plan to do.
3. Part 2 WHAT A GRAZING PLAN CAN DO FOR YOU - gives essential guidance and the intent of a grazing plan. Do not edit.
4. Part 3 YOUR GOALS - Give the goals of the farmer both for production and environmental goals. Provide details and specifics if possible.
5. Tables 1-4 are the various analysis tools from C-Graz for the existing or benchmark scenario.
6. At the end of Table 4 identify present supplemental feed provided in the existing or benchmark scenario under Additional Feed Provided.
7. Part 4 Evaluation of Your Natural Resources - Identify Dominate soils, Texture, Drainage Class and available water holding capacity to four feet. You may also look up the soils productivity index in the Reference section CD in your Counties summary table in the LISA folder to determine to what extent this soil will limit production. Remember the LISA numbers are based on corn yields and may not have the same effect on forage production due to rooting and growing times of forages. Other information in the Reference section of this Handbook, such as soil pH yields will help determine average likely yields. If available use the landowners yield information as a starting point and convert to grazing yields. This process is essential in selecting the best forages for each field and determining long

term yield potential to get the most productive and low maintenance plantings possible with good management. Use the 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting Standard and some of the tools in the reference section to help make the best selections.

8. Table 4.1 Forage and Animal Inventory explains information found in Tables 1-4 and its value to managing a grazing system.
9. Part 5 "Recommended Steps To Better Grazing" Lists things to consider in improving the grazing plan and needs to be let as is to give the farmer a number of possible future improvements he could decide to do on his own or in future plans.
10. Part 6 "Grazing Plan and Grazing Alternatives" cover an explanation of the actual grazing system.
11. The General Grazing System Design needs to be kept in all plans.
12. Determine the Acres / Animal Unit ratio to help determine which basic type of grazing system is present. Types 1-4 (See each description to understand what each is intended for.) Select the type of system using this ratio and if it is continuous grazing or a system for peak performance. A farm may have several levels of grazing management. Delete out the systems that are not present.
13. In the "Details of Your Grazing System" explain the grazing system and how the animals will move through the fields and identify the Type of system (s) (1-4) used and by what herd. Identify fields to be hayed and stockpiled. Add details as appropriate.
14. Part 7 "C-Graz Selected Management Plan" is the improved grazing system's calculations from C-Graz. This is the system the farmer has agreed to try. Be sure to add supplemental feed provided under the bullet for this issue and discuss with landowner. This is to make-up for negative forage balance issues.

You can run other scenarios and save as a complete separate plan and then cut and paste these conservation alternatives in after the last table for selected scenario and label it as a Conservation Alternative Scenario.

Additional scenarios can be added to the plan in the same way, just identify what they are about with an introductory paragraph before each one. The benefit of doing this is to give the farmer other improvements to consider at a later time. Just be certain the farmer understands why they are there and what they are about.

15. Table 9: Grazing Guidance - If you have fields with no rest or regrowth times- "No times while growing that animals are not in a field" keep Table 2. "Recommended Residual Heights Under Continuous Grazing Systems." Otherwise delete this table.

16. The next part needs to be identified as "FOR ALL FORAGE SPECIES IN ANY TYPE OF ROTATIONAL GRAZING SYSTEM" Correct if necessary. Delete if no fields are rotated otherwise edit out the species blocks that you are not using or may plan to use in this system.

17. In Part 8 "Recommended Actions in a Drought or Other Disaster" keep as is for future guidance.

18. Part 9 "Follow-up / Operation and Maintenance" keep as is for future guidance.

19. Delete "End of Template"