#### 

# ART & SCIENCE OF GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Doug Spencer Rangeland Management Specialist Marion, Kansas douglas.spencer@ks.usda.gov

Helping People Help the Land





# Why Management-intensive Grazing (MiG)?

• Only you can "intensively MANAGE"







### **Grazing Management**

- Why consider MiG or prescribed grazing?
  - Relative Cost of Feed for Ruminants (cost per lb of gain)
    - Feed Lot \$0.70-\$0.80
    - Pasture \$0.40-\$0.45
  - Eliminate or at least minimize the tires and iron that come between the feed and the livestock
  - Cows have 4 legs and a rumen for a reason

# Fundamentals of Successful Grazing Management

- Meet the nutritional needs of the livestock from standing pasture
- Optimize pasture yield, quality, and persistence
- · Maintain or enhance the natural resource base
- Integrate appropriate technology and knowledge into a practical/profitable system

### Fundamentals of Successful Grazing Management

- Meet the nutritional needs of the livestock from standing pasture
  - Availability
  - Proper stocking rates
  - Plant recovery and grazing system design
  - Quality
    - Proper management
    - Matching the grazer to the resource
    - Time of Use



# 





Fundamentals of Successful Grazing Management						
Proper Stocking Rate						
Carrying = Capacity	Annual Forage Production	Х	Seasonal Utilization Rate			
	Average Daily Intake	Х	Length of Grazing Season			

#### Fundamentals of Successful Grazing Management Forage Production Seasonal Annual Forage Production Х Utilization Rate Carrying Average Daily Х Length of Capacity Grazing Season Intake · Total available forage for the grazing unit Plant species/diversity • Fertility - healthy soil Soils/suitability Pasture condition/health • Complementary forage systems • Weather







### Fundamentals of Successful Grazing Management

Daily Intake – 3% of Body Weight



undamentals of Successful Grazing Management						
<ul> <li>Length of Grazing Season</li> </ul>						
Carrying = Capacity	Annual Forage Production	х	Seasonal Utilization Rate			
	Average Daily Intake	Х	Length of Grazing Season			
Cow-calf	, sheep, goats, ho	orses	- think 365 days			
Grass-ba	ased dairy - 240-	•270 c	lays			
<ul> <li>Short coason stockore</li> <li>00.240 days (flavibility)</li> </ul>						

















### **Fundamentals of Successful Grazing Management**

 Integrate appropriate technology and knowledge into a practical/profitable system



### Fundamentals of Successful Grazing Management

- Meet the nutritional needs of the livestock from standing pasture
- Optimize pasture yield, quality, and persistence
- · Maintain or enhance the natural resource base
- Integrate appropriate technology and knowledge into a practical/profitable system

### Goals of the Workshop:

- Provide Ideas on Inventorying Your Current System
- Offer Realistic Ways of Intensifying your MANAGEMENT
- Network & Answer Questions

## NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policiss, the USDA is bayenized, officer, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminaring based on rate, color, national origin, religion, sec, gender identity (including gender syntesion), stando intension, discability, expression, and and and an expension of the programs program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (for all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and compilaint fing deadlines way by program or inclender.

Persona util dabilities who negulae alemative parent of communication for program information (e.g. Banila, large pering auxidinger, Americah Signi, Langer, etc.) (haldo comerte the moreovante Agency or UGN) (1) AFGET Conter al (202) 720-2500 (voice and TTV) of control LIGDA through the Faderal Relay Service at (800) 977-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages of ther than English. To file a program discrimination complete the USDA Program Discrimination Completer Form, AD-3027, found online at (Prov File al Provem Discrimination completer and any USDA office or vite altert addressed USDA relation and the effect of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the compliant form, (Perin 63-020)

Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

- 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or