Using The Grazing Wedge
Grazing Wedge

Grazing Wedge
Edgewood Dairy
04/25/2009

Lbs. of Dry Matter Per Acre

Paddock Number or Name

Too Mature
>2400

Grazing Wedge

Overgrazed
<1300

Target Cover Line
Bird’s Eye View
Available Pasture

- Test 1
- Test 2
- Test 3

Grazing Wedge at Missouri Farm #7

- Too Mature
- Target Cover Line
- Grazing Wedge
- Permanent Base Growth

Paddock Identification Numbers or Names

Lbs. of Dry Matter Per Acre

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500 3,000 3,500 4,000
Too Mature

2800# >

Test 1

Test 2

Test 3

Available Pasture

1000# - 1500#

Residual

1300#
Available pasture should be no less than 1000# DM per acre and no more than 1500# DM per acre
Date paddocks measured: 6-28-06

Summary of KEY INDICATORS for Grazing Management and Animal Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Ideal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated growth rate (lbs of dry matter accumulation per acre per day)</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover when cows turned onto a paddock (lbs DM/Acre)</td>
<td>2,820</td>
<td>2,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover when cows removed from paddock (lbs DM/Acre)</td>
<td>1,158</td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average pasture cover (lbs DM/Acre)</td>
<td>1,902</td>
<td>1,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotation length current (days till cows return to given paddock)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk production (lbs per day)</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lbs of hay currently being fed (per cow per day)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lbs of grain currently being fed (per cow per day)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Critical issues right now
Rain 6/17/06 .10, 6/22/06 .60, 6/25/06 .30
Rotation is 30 days but if we receive some rain in the near future we will speed back up.
Pre grazing cover
Pre grazing cover

- Test 1
- Test 2
- Test 3

Grazing Wedge at Missouri Farm #7

- Too Mature
- Target Cover Line
- Permanent Base Growth

Lbs. of Dry Matter Per Acre

Paddock Identification Numbers or Names
Post grazing residual
Grazing Wedge at Missouri Farm #7

- Test 1
- Test 2
- Test 3

Post grazing residual

Paddock Identification Numbers or Names

Lbs. of Dry Matter Per Acre

Permanent Base Growth

Grazing Wedge

Too Mature

Target Cover Line
Post grazing residual

Pre grazing cover
Examining “Wedges”

Growth rate is limiting factor here

At current usage, forage will run out if growth rate does not improve

Options:
- Feed more supplements
- Decrease stocking rate
- Take some condition off of livestock
- Fertilize to improve growth rate

Growth rate is 33 lb/a/day
What about this one?

Nearly perfect balance – a few paddocks getting ahead

At current usage, forage growth rate is nearly ideal

Options:
- Not much to do, except harvest a few paddocks
- Beware that growth rates change quickly sometimes – don’t get complacent

Growth rate is 61 lb/a/day
What do you do about this?

Too much forage – If some paddocks are not harvested then all of the forage in the system will be of low quality

Options:
- Harvest paddocks in red
- Graze the paddock with the tallest green bar
- Reduce or eliminate supplements so that stock will harvest forage

Growth rate is 63 lb/a/day
Autumn growth

Many paddocks available for grazing but rotation length will be short

Growth rate low, but unlikely to improve much due to time of year

Options:
- Graze what you can but it won’t last long
- Consider giving growing livestock priority access to pasture
- Could increase supplements if you want to continue on pasture

Growth rate is 16 lb/a/day
Use the grazing wedge to manage for top quality pasture
Harvest all the top quality pasture you can grow