



Get Started On Your Written Grazing Management Plan Today

Whether you are managing a rotational grazing free-for-all, or analyzing every inch of your forage and pastureland, there is room to grow in honing a grazing strategy that maximizes your land and resources and turns them into a bottom-line success for your operation and the environment.

Today, 44 million acres of America's grazing lands are estimated to be managed under written grazing management plans, representing 10% of all ranchers. Another 372 million acres (40% of ranchers) is reported to be managed under grazing management plans that have not yet been written down or documented.

In 2024, U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef worked with Trust In Food, a Farm Journal initiative, to understand where ranchers are today in written grazing management planning and what is needed to take the next step toward their goal of having 385 acres managed under written plans by 2050.

In that study, we found some interesting insights into grazing planning, including:

- » **When ranchers have put in the effort of establishing a plan, the value is clear**
Nearly 9 in 10 ranchers refer to their grazing management plan (written or unwritten) when making operational decisions. 1 in 3 checked their plan once a week or more.
- » **Resource management is a key driver in developing management plans.** Producers with written GMPs are often located in areas that demand rigor around grassland management, water resources and forage maintenance to ensure a healthy herd.
- » **Grazing planning and legacy planning go hand-in-hand.** We found that ranchers with written plans were also likely to have succession plans as well, which implies the close relationship between stewardship and legacy.

“Writing down the plan helps you remember it and gets everybody engaged with it. Everybody has a say in it and you're more apt to hold those trigger points.”

– Steve Wooten, Beatty Canyon Ranch



Read their story
from Drovers





Resources to Level Up Your Grazing Management

No matter where you are on your grazing planning journey, there is room to grow. There are a host of opportunities available for you to learn more about grazing opportunity and get the technical assistance, and sometimes financial assistance, that you need to take the next step. Check out these tips and resources to get started on your change today:

Think Big but Start Small

Start with stocking rates and grazing management as a foundation, but don't forget to scale your plan to include resource management that achieves other operational goals.

Just Write It Down

Making sure your plan is written down ensures that it will help achieve goals that are both short and long term for your operation.

Factor In Your Whole Operation

Don't assume that your plan is limited to only grazing. Make your plan work for your whole operation to ensure its maximum impact for your ranch.

Take Advantage of Resources

A number of resources are available to help get you started on a new plan or help you maximize the efficacy of your existing plan, including:



U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef GMP Module and Producer Toolkit
<https://www.usrsb.org/learning-center>



Noble Research Institute Courses
<https://www.noble.org/find-a-course/>



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov>



National Grazing Lands Coalition
<https://www.grazinglands.org>



Powerflex Ranchers Success Program
<https://powerflexfence.com>



Ducks Unlimited
<https://ag.ducks.org>