

“Saving Your Grass”

Grazing Management Strategies for
Horse Pasture

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OVERGRAZED



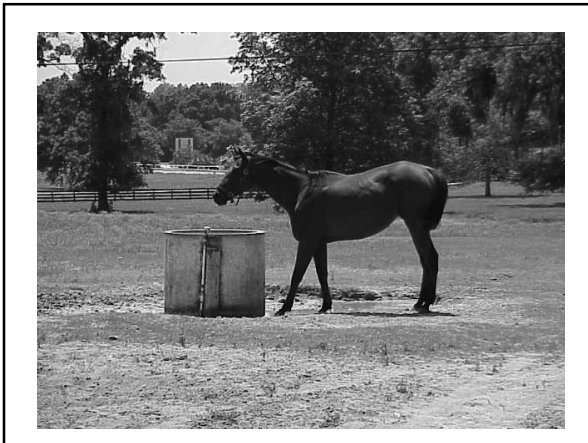
NOT
OVERGRAZED



DRY LOT



High Traffic Areas



Problems

- Too Many Horses
- Not enough acreage
- Drought or Too much rain
- Too much shade
- Selective or Spot Grazing
- Lack of fertilization and/or liming
- Lack of mowing and maintenance

Strategies

Continuous Grazing

- 24/7 access to pasture
- All season long or All year long
- Selective or Spot Grazing
- Usually requires a significant amount of acreage
- Stocking rate is extremely critical

Strategies

Partial-season Grazing

Grazing pasture for only part of the year

- During times of rapid plant growth (spring & summer) then moved to Stall or Sacrifice Area
- Stockpile grass through the growing season (graze late summer, early fall)

Strategies

Partial-season Grazing

Reduces risk of overgrazing

IF: Grazing Rules

Grass is 6"-8" (bush hog height) before grazing

AND

Horses are removed when grass is 3"- 4"

Strategies

Limited Turnout

- Allow access to pasture ½ to 12 hours a day
- Ideal for small acreage
- Follow grazing rules
6 – 8 inches before grazing
remove horses when grass is 3 – 4 inches
- Provides exercise and reduces feed cost

Strategies

Rotational Grazing

Divide pasture into sections

Rotate use of each section

Follow Grazing Rules:

Grass is 6"-8" (bush hog height) before grazing

AND

Horses are removed when grass is 3"- 4"

Rotational Grazing



Strategies

Rotational Grazing

- Each section should have enough forage for 4 – 7 days
- Allows for more complete use of forage (reduces spot grazing)
- Allow previously used sections to recover
- MONITOR progress and move horses to another section or sacrifice area as needed

Rotational Grazing



How Much Grass Do You Have?

