

Paddock/Pasture Size & Acreage Needed – Calculation Worksheet

This worksheet will help you calculate how large a paddock needs to be for one grazing group for one day and the total acres you will need to practice well managed grazing to produce high quality livestock feed.

To use this worksheet, you need to know:

- The number of animals in the grazing group.
- How much pasture dry matter per animal you plan to provide.

Grazing Guidelines:

- Allow plants enough time to fully regrow and recover after each grazing.
- Graze livestock in each area for a relatively short time (short period of occupation) to prevent “re-grazing” of plants that are starting to regrow.

1	Type of livestock (example: sheep, dairy cows, heifers)	
2	Number of animals in group	
3	Estimated total daily dry matter requirement per animal	
4	If supplemental feed is fed, how much dry matter per animal is fed from hay, silage, grain or other non-pasture feeds?	
5	Dry matter to be provided from pasture per animal (total intake required less non-pasture feed fed) Line 3 – Line 4 = <i>If nothing other than pasture is fed, line 5 and line 3 will be the same</i>	
6	Calculated total dry matter intake for Group Line 2 x Line 5 =	
7	Estimated forage dry matter available per acre	
8	Calculated paddock size required for 24 hours (required amount divided by total available per acre) Line 6/Line 7 =	
9	Planned occupancy period (# of days the herd is left in the paddock)	
10	Calculate paddock size needed for full planned occupancy period. Line 8 x Line 9 =	

		May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
11	Estimated pasture recovery period						
12	Calculate number of paddocks needed (Line 11/ Line 9) + 1 =						
13	Calculated total number of acres needed for the grazing rotation Line 10 x Line 12 =						

Do you have enough land?

If not, what is your plan to avoid rotating back to paddocks that are not fully recovered?

Sarah Flack is a consultant specializing in grass based and organic livestock farming.
Information on where to buy her book *The Art and Science of Grazing*, is available on her website
www.sarahflackconsulting.com, from bookstores or directly from the publisher at www.chelseagreen.com