

# *Introduction to* **Livestock**



**Pennsylvania  
Grazing Lands  
Coalition**



# Glossary *of Grazing Terms*

# Grazing Management Methods

## *Alternate Stocking*

The repeated alternation of two paddocks, resting one paddock while grazing the other.

## *Continuous Grazing*

Animals are stocked on a single, continuous pasture, for the length of the grazing season. Grazing is unrestricted and uninterrupted throughout the whole pasture for the season.

## *Creep Grazing*

Juvenile livestock are allowed to graze high quality forage areas that their mothers cannot access. This can be achieved by providing fences the smaller animals can get under but their mothers cannot.

## *Deferred Grazing*

Also known as stockpiling. Forage production is deferred from grazing until later in the season. Usually used in the fall in order to decrease hay needs for early winter.

## *First-Last Grazing*

Also known as leader-follower grazing, and forward grazing. The herd is sorted into nutrient requirement groups. The higher nutrient requirement groups are rotated through the paddocks before the lower ones. An

example is with growing calves in front of cow-calf pairs.

## *Forward Creep*

See First-Last Grazing and Creep Grazing.

## *Frontal Grazing*

A grazing method that allocates forage within a land area by means of a sliding fence that the animals can advance themselves.

## *Intensive Grazing Management*

Grazing management that aims to increase production or efficiency through a relative increase in stocking rates, forage utilization, labor, resources, or capital. Can be achieved using grazing methods that utilize a greater amount of labor or capital resources.

## *Intermittent Grazing*

An irregular system where livestock are grazed for indefinite times at random intervals.

## *Mixed Grazing*

A system that grazes two or more species of animals on the same land unit within the same season. Can graze together or separately.

## *Mob Grazing*

A rotational system that maintains a high stocking rate on a small paddock for a very short period of time.

## *Prescribed Grazing*

Describes any grazing system that has a prescribed plan to improve production through efficiency, forage production, animal productivity, or pasture improvements.

## *Rotational Grazing*

Also known as Rotational Stocking. Animals are concentrated in small paddocks for relatively short periods of time and rotate through the paddock cycle. The ultimate goal is uniform and efficient utilization of forage. Grazing period varies according to number of livestock, paddocks, and management goals.

## *Seasonal Grazing*

Grazing restricted to one or more specific seasons of the year.

## *Sequence Grazing*

Grazing multiple land units with different forage species compositions. Takes advantage of the life-cycles, nutrient differences, and pairings between forage species.

## *Set Stocking*

Allowing a fixed number of animals to graze a fixed area of land when grazing is allowed there.

## *Strip Grazing*

Animals are held in small areas by a moveable electric fence. Each strip provides one or two days of grazing, then the fence is moved forward. A back fence may or may not follow.

# More Info?

## *Breeds?*

Looking for more information about specific livestock breeds? Go to the Oklahoma State University Dept. of Animal Science Breeds of Livestock database:

[www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds](http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds)

## *Pennsylvania Grazing Lands Coalition*

For more information about the newest grazing technology and methods visit our website:

[www.paglc.org](http://www.paglc.org)



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*Cover Photo:*

Sheep grazes at PaSu Farms, *Heidi Schuyt Photography, 2014 (flickr) CC 2.0*