

A SYSTEM OF GRAZING DESIGNED TO EFFECT IMPROVEMENT OF  
BUNCHGRASS RANGES THROUGH TIMELY RESTING

The following grazing system is based on the growth requirements of Idaho fescue (Festuca idahoensis). It also satisfies the growth requirements of the other important forage species associated with it.

The range is divided into five pastures of equal grazing capacity. Each pasture is given five basic grazing treatments during a 5-year cycle, as outlined in table A. Heavy grazing (60 to 70 percent forage use) is employed the first year to insure full use of the available forage. Rest is provided the entire second year and half of the third to permit the grazed plants to recover their vigor and produce seed. Heavy grazing during the latter half of the third year is needed to get as much seed as possible trampled into the soil. Complete rest the fourth year gives the young seedlings a chance to become established. Moderate grazing (30 to 35 percent forage use) is provided during the first half of the fifth season to give the young plants further opportunity to become established. Resting during the second half of the fifth season is necessary to make the plan work; that is, to make it possible to stock the pastures at given intensities and move the livestock about as required. The grazing schedule for all five pastures for a 5-year cycle is outlined in table B.

6 c. to ALH

**Table A.--Schedule of grazing for any one pasture during a 5-year cycle.**

Year	No.	Treatment	
		Character	Main purpose
1st	A	Heavy use season-long	Maximum forage utilization
2nd	B	Rest season-long	Recovery of plant vigor
3rd	C	Rest until mid-season.	Permit plants to ripen seed.
		Graze heavily second half of season.	Effect planting of seed by heavy trampling.
4th	D	Rest season-long	Aids establishment of new reproduction
5th	E	Graze moderately until mid-season.	Aids establishment of new reproduction.
		Rest second half of season.	Permits completion of grazing schedule.

**Table B.--Schedule of grazing of all five pastures during 5-year cycle.**

Year	Pasture				
	1	2	3	4	5
(1951) 1st	A	B	C	D	E
(1952) 2nd	B	C	D	E	A
(1953) 3rd	C	D	E	A	B
(1954) 4th	D	E	A	B	C
(1955) 5th	E	A	B	C	D

<sup>1/</sup> See table A.

The grazing intensity desired in each pasture in a given season is obtained as follows (refer to first year in table 3). At the beginning of the grazing season, 60 percent of the animal units to be grazed on the entire range are placed in pasture 1 and the remaining 40 percent are placed in pasture 5. In midseason two-thirds of the animals in pasture 1 and all of those in pasture 5 are moved to pasture 3. In this way pastures 1 and 3 are grazed heavily, pasture 5 moderately, and pastures 2 and 4 are rested completely.