

Rotational Grazing

Farmers often have problems providing quality pasture for their livestock. One way to solve this problem is by using rotational grazing. Rotational grazing is defined as moving livestock to another portioned area to let the previous area the livestock has been in to regrow. Some advantages to rotational grazing are management of aggressive foliage and plants, limiting soil compaction, reducing soil erosion, and longer grazing periods.

First, rotational grazing keeps pastures healthy and free of nuisance or aggressive plants. Rotational grazing is important in our agriculture because it keeps our states aggressive plants down and the unwanted plants don't grow as fast and aggressively as if it were left alone. Some of the most known nuisance plants that grow in pastures are the autumn olive, ironweed, and multiflorarose.

Second, by using rotational grazing you have limited soil compaction. Soil compaction is where livestock stand in one place or area and it compacts or presses down the soil. Soil compaction prevents water from penetrating into the soil. This causes excessive mud and destroys better grazing grass.

In addition, rotational grazing limits soil erosion. If you overgraze an area the good topsoil can wash away easily in a heavy rain. Rotational grazing enables you to leave your livestock longer in an area providing longer grazing periods.

In conclusion, I have recently started my own lamb business. I have grown interest in the topic after I raised a 4-H market lamb. I have used the profit to buy another lamb for my business. I have just put both of the lambs together to pasture. I can use rotational grazing for my business to grow better grass, keep mud levels down, and keep my lambs healthier.