

How to Create a Grazing Plan



Why Do We Need a Grazing Plan?

A grazing plan is a strategic approach to managing **when** and **where** livestock graze. Its primary goal is to provide a period of plant rest during the growing season, ensuring healthier pastures and sustainable forage production.

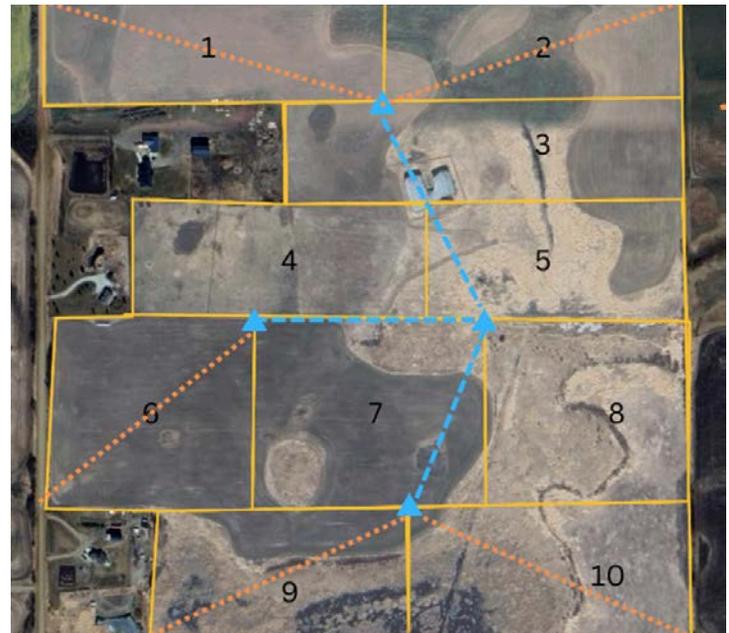
Additionally, a well-designed plan helps align the nutritional needs of cattle with the maturity of the grass. By using grazing animals to prevent plants from reaching their reproductive stage, continued growth is encouraged throughout the grazing season.

Graze Time & Rest Time

The purpose of '**graze time**' and '**rest time**' is to prevent plants from being grazed before they have a chance to regrow. While these durations can be adjusted based on pasture condition and size, the general guidelines for this program are as follows:

- **Graze Time: 3–5 days**
- **Rest Time: 45–60 days**

These time frames may vary depending on factors such as geography, seasonality and weather. If you have questions about planned grazing times in your location, please contact your provincial partner for further clarification.



Orange: electric fence
Blue: pipeline
Yellow: 2 wire barbwire

What comes next?

Maps and legends provide additional details and help both the producer and the review committee visualize the proposed project. Ensure all current, and proposed, fence lines and watering areas are clearly indicated. Other important features or characteristics, such as treed or low-lying areas, gravel pits, or water bodies, should be included as well.

Cattle movement can be indicated either through the numbering of paddocks or with the use of another colour, as described in the legend.

Grazing Plan Considerations

Seeding

Perennial seeding into an established forage stand or pasture is an eligible project option, provided a few simple guidelines are followed. The perennial seed mix must contain at least **25% legumes**, and the seed blend and seeding rate must be included in the application.

A copy of the seed tags will be required for claim purposes; both certified seed and Common #1 seed are accepted.

A variety of seeding options, including broadcast and livestock distribution, are eligible, provided the reseeded area will be grazed in the application year. Spray, fertilizer, and inoculant costs are not eligible.

Other Considerations

Ensure all project expenses have been confirmed, as application dollar amounts cannot be amended once the application is approved. Accurate project location is also crucial for tracking OFCAF funds across various programs.

If you need any assistance, don't hesitate to reach out. Additionally, every part of the application is important—be sure to complete it in full to avoid delays in the approval process.

Your provincial partner can help with submitting your application and claim along the way.

For Purpose of Review

Grazing plans submitted to the CFGA-OFCAF program are reviewed by a committee of Professional Agrologists who are also experienced grazers and program representatives. Applicants must ensure livestock's nutritional and watering needs are met, and clearly shown in the grazing plan or on the project area map for the application to be fully reviewed.

- **Project Area:** clearly indicate the application area.
- **Paddocks:** Number and approximate size (ac or ha).
- **Water:** Mark all sources; specify if multiple surface sources (e.g., creek, dugout).
- **Livestock Rotation:** Outline timing, direction, and criteria (e.g., rest period, forage height).
- **Infrastructure Map:** Show existing and proposed fences, gates, water points, and handling areas.

These details help the review committee gain a complete understanding of the proposed application and ensure its effectiveness. Follow-up questions regarding implementation are sometimes needed; they may delay application progress.

The project review rubric is available on the CFGA website.

Applying for CFGA-OFCAF funding?

A grazing plan is required as part of your application. Support is available—your provincial CFGA partner can connect you with a mentor or direct you to helpful online resources. Reach out to get started.



Canadian Forage & Grassland Association
Association Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères



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