

# The Buckle Demo



## About the Location

- The Buckle demonstration site is located south of Grenfell, Saskatchewan, within the Aspen Parkland ecoregion.
- Rich, black Chernozemic soil and level topography make this area productive annual cropland.
- Few areas of native grassland exist; most are found surrounding wetlands and aspen bluffs.
- The Buckles began farming in this location in 2020.

## Land Use Changes

After one year of conventional cropping, the Buckles became frustrated with the demanding input needs and dependence on synthetic fertilizers. They began converting the 160-acre land base to a multi-species blend of perennial grasses and legumes. Annual cover crops were also used in some areas to create a variety of forage.



**Electric page wire for the Mangalita pigs.**

## Rotational Grazing

In 2022, the Buckles introduced Blackbelly sheep and Mangalita pigs to their new grazing operation in addition to the cattle they were backgrounding. After networking with other farmers and exploring regenerative ag practices, they decided to implement rotational grazing in 2024. Fencing remained a challenge. Attending a CFGA-led grazing workshop introduced them to opportunities for funding and innovative strategies to reach their management goals.

## The Grazing Plan

- Create paddocks using both panels and hotwire
- The plan must be adaptable to accommodate multiple species
- Minimum 45-day rest
- Paddock sizes 0.5-9 acres

Visit [HERE](#) for more demo site information and videos



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**A combination of electric netting and permanent panels keep the sheep where intended.**



**A portable tank provides 3-5 days of water depending on which animals are grazing.**



**The Buckles grazing plan map shows paddocks for pigs, sheep and cattle.**

The Buckles continue to adapt their operation, looking to nature for cues. They feel they have made huge strides towards healthier soil and a more vibrant, natural ecosystem in a short period of time. The land's response has been rewarding and is the result of thoughtful planning and careful management.

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## What is AGS?

An advanced grazing system (AGS) uses rotational grazing practices adapted to the landscape.

AGS can help livestock producers by:

- Extending their grazing period
- Increasing the yield of pastures
- Improving the forage quality
- Reducing weed pressure
- Improving nutrient cycling
- Helping to build soil resiliency

## Why a Grazing plan?

A grazing plan is an important part of your business, tailored to your own unique farm operation. A well thought-out plan takes the guesswork out of resource and livestock management decisions.

### Developing a Grazing Plan

There are Mentors across the province and funding to help! Follow the QR code or visit [canadianfga.ca](http://canadianfga.ca) for more details.



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