



# Hadwin Demo Site



## About the Location

- Owned by Erica and Rick Hadwin, Hadwin Cattle Co. is a third generation, 114-year-old farm. The farm has 300 head of cattle.
- The Hadwin demo site is located on 400ac in Special Area 4, SE of the town of Consort, AB.
- The dominant native vegetation is plains rough fescue on medium textured, clay loam and loam soil. The landscape has floodplain landforms with slopes ranging from 1-5%, up to 35% slope on the steeper hills.

## Challenges to Grazing

- While rotational grazing has been a regular practice for the Hadwins, the paddocks were large. Cattle could still selectively graze and animal distribution was very uneven.
- The site is prone to drought; rest and recovery time for vegetation becomes even more critical.
- The Monitor Creek runs through the pasture and livestock had direct access. The creek bank is degrading and water quality is affected.



Controlled cattle movement and creek access using Razer Grazer electric fencing unit



## The Grazing Plan

- A self-contained electric fencing unit is used to restrict livestock access to the creek and develop smaller additional grazing paddocks.
- These paddocks control animal distribution, encourage non-selective grazing and provide planned rest and recovery for the range. The producers used a portable offsite water system for the livestock.

## Long Term Goals

- As the majority of the pasture is native grasslands, rest is essential to longevity of their operation.
- The Hadwin's want to encourage natural restoration of riparian area at the creek, improve water quality and reduce animal impact.
- Another goal is to improve soil organic matter and water holding capacity to build a more resilient range.

For more information on this project, click the QR code.





**Oct 2022- The creek channel prior to the use of the Razer Grazer fencing unit. Livestock caused lots of disturbance to the area while watering.**



**Aug 2023-Regrowth of vegetation one year after restricting creek access. The banks are stabilizing thanks to the plant growth opportunity.**

In 2025, the Hadwins grazed 90 pair on the site following some much welcomed precipitation. They already noted increased plant growth in areas rested from grazing the season prior. They know recovery of the grazing system will take place over many years. However in the short-term the Hadwins are satisfied knowing their management is playing a part.

## 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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