

# Yellowhead Grazing Project



## About the Location

- The home site for this operation sits on 65 acres of tame pasture in the Aspen Parkland within the Black Soil Zone.
- Yellowhead Grazing in Vermillion, AB is owned by Marisa and Kolter Schuebel.
- The operation involves a herd of 75 Boer/Kiko mix goats. Along with the goats, the Schuebels have 5 horses and both guardian and herding dogs.
- This operation custom grazes their goat herd in nearby urban areas and acreage sites.

## Effective Target Grazing

Goats are effective at eating a wide variety of plants, and can significantly reduce unwanted weeds. They maintain firebreaks by removing excess vegetation that acts as fuel, reducing the risk of wildfires. Agile and lightweight, goats graze in areas that are unsuitable for cattle or machinery, such as steep slopes or near water sources. Using goats provides an alternative to herbicides and mechanical clearing, especially near urban areas where those methods are not feasible or desirable.



## The Grazing Plan

The Schuebel's began custom grazing small areas to manage vegetation while gaining valuable herding experience. When they were ready to expand their operation, Marisa worked with the Town of Vermillion. The council had identified several areas requiring vegetation management. Yellowhead Grazing developed a grazing plan with small paddocks moving animals every 2-3 days. They use electric net fence to contain the goats with their guardian dogs. On steep slopes the Schuebels' will herd goats along sensitive areas to prevent soil exposure and erosion.

## Lessons So Far

- It is important to prioritize locations as plants are often vulnerable to grazing across multiple sites at same time.
- Public perception is very important to project success. Engage and inform the neighbourhood to the grazing process.
- Wind and wildlife can take down fences, be prepared to take emergency action.

For more information on this project, click the QR code





**Grazing plan on 9 acres at water treatment plant in 2024. Some areas were crumbled pavement with vegetation coming through.**



**The Schuebels haul water for their grazing locations. They use portable shelters for shade for the goats.**



**The solar powered electric pagewire fence is controlled by remote to help with quick adjustments.**

The intensity of grazing depends on the targeted grazing goal. For firebreaks, 90% of vegetation is removed, in weedy areas, the goal is to remove 90% of the undesirable plants while mostly trampling the grass, stimulating its regrowth. Each grazing plan is very specific and tailored to each unique project. When the goats return home, the Schuebels have implemented a rotational system that includes utilizing crop residues in the fall to rest their kidding pastures for spring use. Their home grazing plan includes 16 paddocks for their goats and 28 paddocks for their horses demonstrating their dedication to grazing principles.

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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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