How do you define Mob Grazing?

**Mob grazing**, a holistic management principle, is a technique of using the animals to maximize herd effect. This herd effect is the only known method that can heal the land.

Herd effect is the result of a change in animal behavior and usually has to be brought about by some actual management action.
Ultra high stock density is a principle of holistic management first suggested by Allan Savory.

The stocking rates are equal. Stock density is 12 times greater in Cell B.

“Ultra high stock density or Mob Grazing is just one tool in the toolbox

• Holistic Planned Grazing is the planning that simultaneously covers many variables.

• The Big Picture.

• The purpose of such planning is to use livestock to bring about a future landscape described in a holistic goal.

What are the benefits of Mob Grazing?

• More water infiltration
• Increased drought tolerance
• Land better covered
• More plant diversity and biodiversity
• Increased soil health and life (weed control)
• Increased net production and resiliency
Some Points of Mob Grazing Include:

- Graze Tall
- Trample a large percent of forage (feed the land too)
- Use long recovery periods
- Disturb the sword and land with herd impact and well distribute the manures

Noted with Mob Grazing

- Longer rest periods
- Graze a more mature condition
- Trample more

What are you trying to do?

- Balance land and animal goals.
- Are the animals lactating, breeding or just on maintenance mode?
- Do we want to do major landscaping or just skim the cream?
- Animal performance.

Animal Performance

Let’s say we have 100hd of 1000# animals. We want them to eat 3% of their body weight or 30# daily.

If the land has 3000# of forage per acre on a D/M basis and we want to trample 60% (1800#) and have the cow eat 40% (1200#), we better make sure the herd has access to at least 3 acres a day.

(This needs to be monitored.)

40,000 pound stock density per acre (representing high stock density)

1,000,000 pound stock density per acre (representing ultra high stock density)
Utilization | Approximate
---|---
Continuous | 20-40%
Simple Rotation | 25-30%
MiG | 40-80%
Strip Grazing | 50% or more
Mob Grazing | 20-70%

* More trampled grass leads to more production.

**Signs of too low stock density**

- Trails
- Non uniform grazing
- Bare ground
- Standing oxidized grass
- Erosion
- Monocultures
- Invasive Plants
- Soil Capping
- Over grazed plants

Time is more important than numbers. Severely grazed plants with adequate recovery time is not Overgrazing.

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