Decision Making Using Monitoring

Rod Christen, Steinauer, NE

Ten Key Points of Monitoring

1) Invasives
   a. Clearing
   b. Spraying

2) Timing/Plant Growth Stage
   a. Solar panel (credit to Jim Gerrish)
   b. Don’t graze immature plants (credit to Greg Judy)

3) Growing Season Grazing – Using Monitoring to Manipulate Desired Production & Timing
   a. Early Spring
   b. Summer
   c. Fall

4) Dormant Grazing
   a. Easier to manage grass (credit to Jim Gerrish)
   b. Feeding areas
   c. Animal impact

5) Hay Production
   a. Monitoring for best usage depending on weather
   b. Winter graze on regrowth with hay supplement

6) Deferred Grazing
   a. Rest & rebuild root system
   b. Fuel to burn

7) Controlled Burn
   a. Cedar tree control
   b. If Sericea Lespedeza Present Follow-up With Chemical Control

8) Calving Acres
   a. Allow enough cover for calving
   b. Emergency grazing area

9) CSP – NRCS
   a. Photo Point – discussion of required monitoring
10) Wildlife/Hunting
   a. Family recreation
   b. Alternative source of income

Conclusion – My Traditional Baseline for Grazing in southeast Nebraska:
   a. On average, figure 4½-5 acres per cow/calf pair for 5½-6 months
   b. On average, prairie hay production is 1-3 bales/acre (averaging 1600# bales)
   c. Discussion of make-up of herd