

# Decision Making Using Monitoring

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## 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